

**THE ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NOAH AND
ALLIE REFLECTED IN *THE NOTEBOOK* NOVEL BY
NICHOLAS SPARKS (1996):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Getting Bachelor
Degree of Education in English Department**

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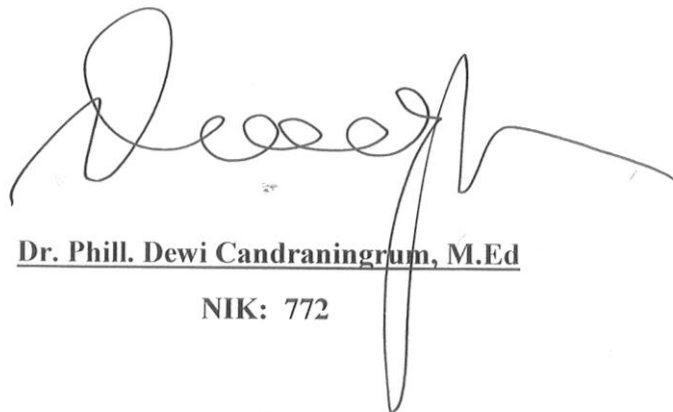
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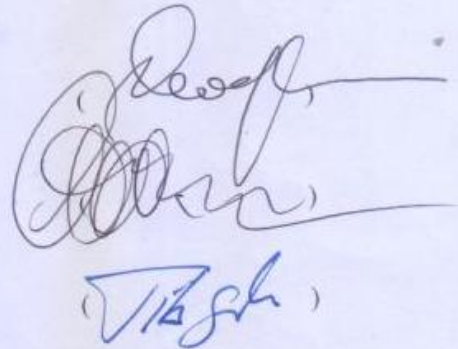
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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan tentang hubungan romantis dari karakter utama yang tercermin dalam Novel *The Notebook* dari Nicholas Sparks. Penelitian ini mengkorelasikan elemen struktural dan perspektif sosiologi yang dikemukakan oleh Renne Wellek dan Austin Warren. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan beberapa indikator adanya hubungan romantis yang ada di dalam novel dan bagaimana hubungan romantis tergambar dalam novel. Sementara itu, teori sosiologis untuk menemukan aspek sosial dari karakter utama dalam novel *The Notebook*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Pengambilan sumber data dari metode ini mengambil data dari data primer dan sekunder. Pengambilan sumber data primer terdapat dalam novel *The Notebook* yang di tulis oleh Nicholas Sparks berdasarkan permasalahan dan kejadian di dalam novel. Sementara itu, pengambilan sumber data sekunder terdapat dalam sumber utama yang terkait di dalam novel *The Notebook* karya Nicholas Sparks. Pengumpulan data ini menggunakan teknik penelitian kepustakaan. Analisis yang digunakan peneliti untuk menganalisis data tersebut adalah Analisis Deskriptif.

Keyword : sosiologis, the notebook, cinta, hubungan romantis

Abstract

This study aims to find out about the romantic relationship of the main characters which are reflected in *The Notebook* novel by Nicholas Sparks. This research correlates structural elements and sociological perspectives put forward by Renne Wellek and Austin Warren. The result of this study indicate several indicators of romantic relationship that exist in the novel and how romantic relationship are reflected in the novel. Meanwhile, sociological theories to find the social aspects of the main characters in *The Notebook* novel. This study uses a qualitative method. Retrieval of data sources from this method takes data from primary and secondary data. Retrieval of primary data sources contained in the *The Notebook* novel written by Nicholas Sparks based on problems and events in the novel. Meanwhile, the retrieval of secondary data sources is contained in the primary source that is related in *The Notebook* novel by Nicholas Sparks. This data collection uses library research techniques. The analysis used by researchers to analyze the data is Descriptive Analysis.

Keyword : sociological, the notebook, love, romantic relationship

1. INTRODUCTION

Understanding a literature work may not be as easy as many people think. Each person may have different perspectives or thoughts once they've read literature works. As Rene Wellek and Austin Warren stated in their book *Theory of Literature* (1948:44), "Literature represents life, and life is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner of subjective world of the individual has also been object of literary imitation". Literature is about presentation of human life. Literature is reflection of the social realities in their life. "Literature and sociology are not wholly distinct disciplines but, on the contrary, complement each other in our understanding of society (Laurenson and Swingewood, 1972: 13). It means literary and sociology have a close relationship.

The terms of Sociology comes from Latin and Greek, the word is "socius and logos", socius in Greek which means friend, friendship or community. While the logos incomes science or also talk about anything. Thus literally the term "sociology can mean the science of society (Abdulsyani, 1987). Literature is a work of works of fiction that is the outcome of construction design by additional natural emotion that is able to expose the skill of beauty are both based aspects of language as well as aspects of meaning (Fananie, 2000).

Love is a feeling that is especially expressed by the people involved in romantic relationships and is considered, along with a number of other factors (such as intimacy, commitment, and affection), one of the most significant components for a satisfying relationship and for its duration (O'Leary et al. 2012: 241-249).

The Notebook novel was written by Nicholas Sparks, an American author. This novel was first published by Warner Books on October 1, 1996 in United States. In *The Notebook* novel contains of 214 pages. The Notebook is a romantic novel based on true story. The novel was later adapted into a popular film of the same name, in 2004. The Notebook was a hardcover best seller for more than a year. In interviews, Sparks said he was inspired to write the novel by the grandparents of his wife, who had been married for more than 60 years and yet

still loved each other. He wished that by writing down this love story, his readers could really walk away with a renewed spirit of hope.

There are three reasons why the writer is interested to study this novel. First, this novel tells about the story of first love, which turns into true love. The novel conveys about how Noah the major character can maintain his first love, though many obstacles face him. Noah never turned away from Allie and kept waiting for her until she was back to him again. Second, the setting of place in *The Notebook* novel takes place in a small southern town. That is New Bern, North Carolina. The writer concerns with that town because small towns feed into a nostalgia that people have for the way things used to be. The last is *The Notebook* has some crucial message inside its story.

Based on this explanation, the writer can observe *The Notebook* novel by using the Sociological Approach “How is the romantic relationship between Noah and Allie reflected in *The Notebook* novel?”. In this study, the writer will focus on the analysis of the romantic relationship of the main characters (Noah and Allie) using a sociological approach.

There are two benefits expected from this research. First, the theoretical benefit expected to give additional information, particularly to the further studies of *The Notebook* novel by using Sociological Approach. Second, the practical benefit that can be expected by this research is to be able to understand more about novels, especially the romantic relationship in *The Notebook* novel from a sociological approach.

In this study, researcher used several underlying theories to analyze a *The Notebook* novel. The theory taken from books directly related to the research to support data and help researcher to analyze *The Notebook* novel. In this study, researcher tried to use a sociological approach consisting of the idea of sociology of literature and the romantic relationship.

One primary feature distinct between friendships and romantic relationships is a marked difference in intimacy (Moss & Schwebel, 1993). While close friends share intimate details of their lives, the role of intimacy involved in romantic relationships is typically deeper and more pervasive. Combined with intimacy,

passion, and commitment are three additional features central to romantic relationships (Sternberg, 1986). Further, all three components (i.e., intimacy, passion, and commitment) are associated with relationship satisfaction and their links to satisfaction vary over time as relationships evolve. All three components increase over time as couples transition from casual dating to monogamous dating to engagement (Gao, 2001).

To analyze this research paper the writer uses sociological approach. It is a science which is studies of human being in a social environment and all aspects of human life. Swingewood and Laursen (1972: 11) state that “Sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study about social institutions and social processes”. Sociology of literature is a science which is related to the society. It is a science which is studies of human being in a social environment and all aspects of human life. There are many concepts of sociology of literature that can used to study the correlation between literary work and the society. Wellek and Warren (1993: 111) suggest there are three major principles, in the sociology of literature, namely, Sociology of Authors, Sociology of literature work, Sociology of Readers.

2. METHOD

In this study, researcher implement qualitative research. There are two data sources needed to conduct this research, they are: the primary data source and secondary data source. Primary data sources are *The Notebook* novel made by Nicholas Sparks. While, secondary data sources are taken from other data, which has a relationship with the research.

This study uses a literature study data collection technique, the steps are : reading novels repeatedly, looking for some important notes, browsing the internet to get several information, and drawing conclusion based on the analysis of the data. The technique used in analyzing data is descriptive analysis.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this research finding, researcher determined several points for analyze *The Notebook* novel (1996) as follows: The first research finding are based on the romantic relationship of the novel, the reseacher analyze the indicator of romantic relationship, the character of figures, setting of the story, and events that happened in the story. From the research finding, the researcher divides into four types of characters that are related to the issue. There are faithful, poetic, always struggling to get Allie back and Willing to do an efforts.

3.1 Faithful

Noah wants to have Allie and make her happy live with him. Although they have separated for fourteen years, but both of them still have the feeling of love. Noah never has relationship with the other women. He keeps his feeling to Allie. Although Noah knows that Allie has been engaged, he tries to make her believe Noah's true love. He has no reason to leave Allie. He will always wait for Allie although she has engaged. To make Allie recover from her disease and then make her remember about him, her family, and her past, Noah tries hard every day to make her recall her memory. Noah never hopes more, but he always waits the miracle to come to him. He hopes he will live happily with Allie and his children.

3.2 Poetic

In this story, Noah is a poetic character. His ability to make and read poetry come hereditary from his father. As long as Noah's father still alive, he really loves poetry. He reads poetry, and he also likes painting. He reads poetry for Allie. Noah also has a harmonious voice. He likes music, he sings a song, and he plays guitar to remind him about his father.

3.3 Always Struggling To Get Allie Back

Noah as a person who never gives up, Noah tries to send a letter in once a month to Allie. When in first letter from Noah to Allie, she does not reply his letter. But in here Noah always tries to send letter to Allie, but Allie never replied his letter.

3.4 Willing to do an Efforts

Noah never stopped to do an efforts even he knows that Allie might not be back to him. But during his loneliness, he still tried to embody Allie's dream to have a house that has been dreamed by her since they were together.

After looking for some findings above, the researcher try to analyze those findings using sosiological approach by Renne Wellek and Austin Warren. The researcher found that from the three of major principles of sociological theory which di proposed by Renne Wellek and Austin Warren, the researcher conclude that the sociology of the literary work become the one of principles which most leaning with the issue. The sociology of the literary work become the most suitable principle if it relate with the problem that being discussed in this research, because basically literature itself used as social document where it can be made to yield the outlines of social history and also the things contained in it is the social reality that happened in society.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the previous chapter, the researcher finds out that *The Notebook* is the best romantic novel by Nicholas Sparks. This story of the novel teach us about the true love. True love is a strong and lasting affection between spouses or lovers who are in a happy, passionate and fulfilling relationship. No matter time, distance or age separate two person, but true love can drive them come together as one. When we talk about time, this novel also shows us, there is never too late to apologize, to forgive, and to tell someone that you love them.

Based on sociological approach, *The Notebook* novel represents Noah who loves Allie devotedly. Noah's inferiors when Allie's parents disapprove of their relationship because of difference social class. Then he strives to be better and shows to her parents that he will make her daughter happy with him. Noah has goal of life ; he wants live with Allie and makes her day full of pleasure. Although Noah is an ordinary person, but in different way, he is a romantic person. He is a kind man, he loves and cares about his family, his friends, and other people. He will fight hard to get his dream comes true. Finally, through the explanation

above, it can be concluded that his feeling to Allie is too deep. And their love will not destroy by the time.

This novel is the romantic novels, *The Notebook* tells about the true love of Noah and Allie's gathering who got a lot of trials so they could live together. The researcher invites other researcher to study this novel and she suggests using the other approaches such as genetic structuralism analysis because this novel contains all the elements of genetic structuralism.

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