

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Romance is an expressive and pleasant feeling of emotional attraction towards others related to love. In the context of romantic relationships, love usually implies a strong expression of romantic love or a deep and strong desire for an emotional or romantic relationship. A romantic is a relationship that will cause love. Love is one of the most valuable things that anyone can get from God. When love has arisen, it will be deep and cannot be understood and understood because love arises by itself. The meaning of love is a feeling that can make us feel happy, sad, safe, and comfortable. Love, of course, can make people feel joy and sorrow at the same time when we try to get happy together. Feelings of love can make us realize how valuable we are and that someone is precious to protect us. Love is not just a word because love is far more valuable than the most expensive treasure in the world.

The emergence of love for a woman and a relationship will appear. A relationship and a basis of love experienced by women and men will create a romantic relationship. Romantic relationships can be caused in a relationship that we walk. Romantic relationships that sometimes include children's characteristics to add food commonly called adolescents and can also be experienced by people who are already growing up. Romantic relationships can start from a friendship. It becomes a higher level by building a love relationship between one party and another because feelings of love arise from mutual attention and high interaction with others. (Collins 2003, Furman & Collins 2008, Furman & Shaffer 2003). Romantic relationships, many writers write about it including Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, Sense and Sensibility and Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen, Outlander by Diana Gabaldon, Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bront, Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell, Withney, My Love by Judith Mcnaught, A Knight in Shining Armor by Jude Deveraux, The Prince Bright by Willian Goldman and The Best of Me by Nicholas Sparks.

Nicholas Sparks is one of the world's most beloved storytellers. All of his books have been *New York Times* bestsellers, with over 105 million copies sold worldwide in more than 50 languages, including over 75 million copies in the United States alone. Sparks wrote one of his best-known stories, *The Notebook*, over six

months at age 28. It was published in 1996, and he followed with the novels *Message in a Bottle* (1998), *A Walk to Remember* (1999), *The Rescue* (2000), *A Bend in the Road* (2001), *Nights in Rodanthe* (2002), *The Guardian* (2003), *The Wedding* (2003), *True Believer* (2005) and its sequel, *At First Sight* (2005), *Dear John* (2006), *The Choice* (2007), *The Lucky One* (2008), *The Last Song* (2009), *Safe Haven* (2010), *The Best of Me* (2011), *The Longest Ride* (2013), *See Me* (2015), and *Two by Two* (2016) as well as the 2004 non-fiction memoir *Three Weeks With My Brother*, co-written with his brother Micah. His twentieth novel, *Every Breath*, was published on October 16, 2018.

In 1992 with their lives now separately, the novel showed Dawson Cole and Amanda Collier's story. Dawson Cole works in an oil rig off the coast of Louisiana. An explosion at the job almost killed him, throwing him into the water, but miraculously he survived. A few months later, after recovering, Dawson learned that his close friend and surrogate father, Tuck Hostetler, had died and returned home for the first time in nearly twenty years to carry out Tuck's last wishes. When he arrived at his home, Dawson was surprised to find that Tuck also arranged for Dawson Cole's high school girlfriend Amanda Collier to join him. Tuck intended that Dawson and Amanda might reignite their romance. However, Amanda is now married.

Dawson was born into a famous criminal village with a cruel father. In a flashback, it was revealed that he left his father's house and stayed in the Tuck Hostetler garage as a teenager. Tuck is a local mechanic who recently lost his wife, going to Dawson to live with him, and finally considers him his son. Dawson and Amanda attend the same high school and start dating, immediately falling in love. Before prom, Dawson's father and brother beat Tuck. Dawson was angry and immediately went to his father's house, intending to kill him with a Tuck rifle. However, they clash, and Dawson's cousin, a teenage father who has a pregnant wife, is accidentally killed. In exchange for a lighter sentence, Dawson testified against his father and brothers. Because Dawson would not be released on parole for another four years, he cut ties with Amanda, forcing him to choose college instead of staying with him.

After Tuck's death, Amanda and Dawson met with Tuck's lawyer and learned that they had to sprinkle Tuck's ashes in a cabin he had with his wife. Later, Dawson and Amanda spent a passionate night together. They had lunch and discussed their

plans, where Dawson learned that Amanda continued to try to visit him in prison. The next day, Amanda decides to return to her family and her tense marriage to fulfill her family's commitments.

When Amanda returned, Dawson remained at Tuck's to restore the garden. However, she later decided to part with her husband, and she left a voice message to express her love for Dawson. Before anything else happened to them, Dawson was attacked and almost killed by his brothers, who were practically pushed in front of a moving train. Dawson knocked on his brothers, but after calling 911, his father was found across the railroad tracks and shot dead.

Meanwhile, Amanda gets a call that her son had a car accident. When he arrived at the hospital, the doctor told him he needed a new heart. That same night, the doctors told him that they had found a donor. While sleeping, Amanda dreamed Dawson was sitting by her bedside when a doorbell awakened her that her mother rang, who came to tell her that Dawson had been shot and killed by her father.

One year later, Amanda got a call from her son and told him that he knew who his donor was, and maybe he knew him: Dawson Cole. Surprised and pleased after hearing this, he drove back to the house Tuck had left. It was there that he read the letter Dawson had left him, saying how much he loved him. He began to walk in the park that Dawson arranged beautifully for him before he died.

The Best of Me novel by Nicholas Sparks' got responses from the readers. Goodreaders.com gets 3.92/5 ranting from 135.805 ratings. According to amazon.com, it got 4.156 ratings. *The Best of Me* novel was adapted into the movie on October 17, 2014, in the United States.

The Best of Me by Nicholas Spark's novel is published in 2011. *The Best of Me* novel talking about romantic love. This novel was ranked 2 in the top 10 overall from published *Publishers Weekly*.

This novel tells about the relationship between the main characters, namely Dawson Cole and Amanda Collier, and some other figures complement the novel. This novel's plot is fascinating because it tells about the main character's youth and old age.

According to those reasons, the writer is interested in analyzing the romantic love between Dawson Cole and Amanda Collier in *The Best of Me* novel based on a

Psychological study. The title is **ROMANTIC LOVE IN NICHOLAS SPRAKS' THE BEST OF ME NOVEL 2011: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.**

B. Problem Statements

Based on the study, the researchers study some research question of this study as stated below:

1. What is the characteristic of romantic love in *The Best of Me* novel?
2. How is the romantic love depicted in the novel *The Best of Me* novel?
3. Why is romantic love specifically addressed by Nicholas Sparks' in the novel?

C. Objectives

Based on the research question above, there is the objectives study:

1. To identify the characteristic of romantic love in *The Best of Me* novel.
2. To describe how romantic love is depicted in *The Best of Me* novel.
3. To reveal the underlying reasons why the author explicitly addresses romantic love in *The Best of Me* novel.

D. Benefit/Advantage

The result of the study is expected to be used theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically

Researchers expect this study's results to accumulate and contribute knowledge about the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks. By doing this, we can get many perspectives on the study of literature.

2. Practically

This research can provide many benefits for readers and understand the true meaning of romantic relationships because romantic relationships can bring happiness to every human being.