

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Nicholas Sparks is a famous writer in New York. Almost all of his works belongs to romance and the best seller worldwide. He wrote the first novel entitled *The Notebook* which published in 1996. Nicholas Sparks' novels are in demand by the reader because almost his novels reveal the story of love or romantic. He also wrote novels by using familiar diction in order to make the readers easy to understand. Many of the producers are interest in adopting Nicholas' Works. The producer adopted Nicholas Sparks' works become film adaptation after his novels published in public. The film adaptation of Nicholas Sparks' work also attracts the attention of the audience because the narrative story was romantic and touches the audience's hearth. As cited in seventeen.com, there were eight best novels of Nicholas Sparks that successful adapted into the film adaptation namely *The Notebook*, *A Walk to Remember*, *Dear John*, *The Lucky One*, *The Last Song*, *The Best of Me*, *The Longest Ride* and the last *Saved Heaven*.

Nicholas Sparks' novels are the most awaited work by the reader. Most of his novels got a positive review whether from the readers who read his works and online site. One of Nicholas Sparks' works that get a positive review from the reader is *Dear John*. According to Linda Lou, this novel managed to make her cried. The best part of the novel that she likes was the last part or ending because the big heart of the main character that let the person that he loves be happy with someone else as cited in Amazon.com [http: https://www.amazon.com/Dear-John-](https://www.amazon.com/Dear-John-)

[Nicholas-Sparks/product_reviews/0446528056](#). Likewise, Melanie Chapin also explained that Dear John is the best novel by Nicholas Sparks because it is easy to read, the story that represented in the novel was excellent and can amuse the reader mind.

Dear John is Nicholas Sparks' romantic novel, which was published in 2006. Dear John is a novel that tells about the love story of an army, John Tree and the girl named Savannah when holidays come in Wilmington, Carolina. This novel takes place in Carolina, which has a similar setting with his other works such as *The Notebook*, *The Best of Me*, *Save Heaped* and so on. *Dear John* includes the story of happiness, struggle, and sadness that can invite tears. The core of the story narrates about the magnanimity of man's heart who gives up the girl that he loved happy with someone else.

Some previous researchers who conducted researcher to analyze the Nicholas Sparks' novel entitled *Dear John*. Those researchers are Sabrina (2012) and Ernawati (2013), Anur (2018) and Putri (2017). Sabrina (2012) analyzes on the relationship between father and son in *Dear John* by applying a library research as a method to analyze the data. The result of the study showed that there were two aspects that could maintain the relationship between father and son, namely the personality and the ability to understand each other. Ernawati (2013) analyzes the magnanimity of John using the Psychoanalytic Approach. The result showed that the structural element was important in the story in order to make the story relate each other and John Tyree's big heart in accepting and facing the fact made the story more interesting. Furthermore, Annur (2018) analyzes the heroic in Nicholas Sparks' *Dear John* (2006) by using the sociological approach. The result

found that there were three heroic that reflected in *Dear John* (2006) namely civil heroic, social heroic and military heroic. Putri (2017) conducted the study to analyze the meaning of love reflected in Nicholas Sparks' by applying the physical analysis. The result showed that there were two meaning of love reflected in the novel namely, love's component and the type of love.

Based on the research above, most of the researchers analyze the main character in *Dear John* but rare to pay attention to the female character. Whereas, the female character also has a vital role as the motivator by the main character in his life. The female character has an essential role in the story of the novel because the female character can make the story more exciting and build the interest of the reader.

The female character in *Dear John* is Savannah Lynn Curtis. Savannah is a pretty girl who has a significant role in the story. She is a female character who always looks attractive and good-looking. Savannah's character illustrated as a modern and educated woman. She is energetic and curious, who wants to be free to explore life. She is a female character who can overcome the problems that she was experiencing. However, the female character in *Dear John* also has the same role as the main character because without the female character, the story will become less attractive.

The character of Savannah in Nicholas Spark's novel entitled *Dear John* exposed the ideology about human life especially, the role of women in society. This issue could be found in Nicholas Spark's *Dear John*, which was published in 2006. In *Dear John*, Nicholas Sparks create a novel in order to shows the role of

women in society. Nicholas Sparks also illustrate the female character, Savannah Lynn Curtis as the character who has personal freedom in their life. The role of Savannah as a woman in society can be observed by analyzing her characterizations. The role of Savannah as a woman in society reflects the issue which is called feminism. This issue can be found by presenting the characterizations of the female character.

Many researchers had conducted a study to analyze the feminism issue reflected in novel. Sari (2016) was done research in order to find of the liberal feminism issue in the novel entitled *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*. In this study, the researcher tried to find out the liberal feminism issue by analyzing the female character named Jane Smith. The study found that the characterizations of Mrs. Jane Smith belonged to Liberal feminism because she gets an equal position in economics and also has the same liberty with his husband. Whereas, Meinawati, and Dewi (2017) conducted a research to analyze the *Mirror Mirror* movie. In this research, the researcher tried to find out the role of liberal feminism, the rise of gender equality and also the liberal feminism reflected in the movie by using the sociological approach. The result showed that the movie contains the role of a natural biological trait between women and men; the gender quality appears in the movie because of the behavior, mentality, and emotions of women and men. Meanwhile, the liberal feminism reflects in the movie is the symbol of interaction, functionalism, and conflict. There was also a research conducted by Fahmi (2015) analyzed liberal feminism reflected by the character of Aung San Suu Kyi. The result of the study showed that San Suu Kyu struggles to equalize her status and become the women prime Minister in Asia. Therefore, this study will analyze the

characterization of Savannah as liberal feminism in Nicholas Spark's work entitled *Dear John* which has a different subject with three of the research above as well as applying the interactive model of Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014).

Based on the background above, it is important to analyze Nicholas Spark's *Dear John* Novel in order to show how the female character Savannah Lynn Curtis portrayed as a liberal feminist. This novel is interesting to be analyzed because the story reflects the situation in society; especially the popular issue, which is the role of women in society. Moreover, this analysis also tried to identify the characterizations of Savannah Lynn Curtis that reflect liberal feminism.

1.2 Problem Identification

The women's role is a popular issue that always arises in society. This issue has always controverted some people from day to day, especially in the 18 centuries. This issue affects the writer to make literary work. This issue has influenced the literary work at that time. Some writers make literary work about women's role that lead to the inequality gender in order to make the readers aware of the importance gender equality in society. This issue should be introduced for every people as well as children in order to make the women achieve their freedom in society. That is way in the field of education, the literature is very important for students in order to make the students understand the role of literature in their life especially about feminism. Moreover, students also become understand both men and women have equal rights, and there is no assumption that women's position is always under the men. Furthermore, this

study focused on analyzing feminism reflects by Savannah in Nicholas Sparks' work entitled *Dear John* which was published in 2006.

1.3 The Limitations of the Problem

The analysis of this study is limited by representing the characterizations of the female character which is Savannah Lynn Curtis in Nicholas Sparks' *Dear John* (2006). Moreover, this study also focused in analyzing Savannah's characterizations using perspective liberal feminist in Nicholas Spark's *Dear John* which was published in 2006.

1.4 Statement of the Problem

Related to the background of the study the problem can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the characterizations of Savannah in Nicholas Spark's work *Dear John* (2006)?
2. What are the characterizations of Savannah as liberal feminism in Nicholas Spark's work *Dear John* (2006)?

1.5 Purpose of The Study

Related to the research problem, the purposes of this study are:

1. To identify the characterizations of Savannah in Nicholas Spark's work *Dear John* (2006).
2. To identify the characterizations of Savannah as liberal feminism in Nicholas Spark's work *Dear John* (2006).

1.6 Research Significance

The significance of this study divided into two, namely theoretical and practical significance.

1.6.1 Theoretical significance

1.6.1.1 Literature learning

The significance of the study in literature learning is expected to improve the knowledge about literary work and understanding all aspects of it. Additionally, this study is expected to contribute in providing the additional knowledge especially for novel as the focus of this study such as understanding other culture, and the information about linguistic form (Hişmanoğlu, 2005).

1.6.1.2 Language learning

Literature can be used in language teaching in order to teach basic language skills such as writing, speaking, listening, and reading and language area (vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation) (Hişmanoğlu, 2005, p. 60). Therefore, through reading any form of literature, the learner could improve their language skill as well as language area.

1.6.1.3 Society

The result of this study is expected to help humans in understanding the theory of feminism in society. By understanding the theory of feminism, people are expected to be aware of women' individually freedom and the suppression to the women in society does not happen. Therefore between men and women have the same opportunity in their life. Moreover, the

society get the information about other culture reflect in the literary work especially novel without visited the placed or setting in the story.

1.6.2 Practical Significance

1.6.2.1 For students of English as Foreign Language (EFL)

This research is expected would help EFL students in understanding the language element and the feature of the literary work especially for novel as focused of this study. The students could learn the language feature such as get new vocabulary and idiom, so students 'English skill are improved. This research is also expected to be used as a reference for the EFL students who will conduct the same research with the same approach in the field of literature. Moreover, this research also expected to give some information about the value of liberal feminism in order to build the students awareness to appreciate each other.

1.6.2.2 For EFL Teacher

Practically, novel is useful for EFL teachers as a media in teaching English. As MC Murrām (2010, p. 27) explains that novel contains social elements and cultural elements. In this case, novel created is not only used to entertain the readers but also shows social life and also cultural elements. The social life that reflected in the novel could be used as the reference to teach the narrative text. Besides, the EFL teachers also could use novels as a medium in developing stories authentically in order to analyze moral messages in the text itself.

Additionally, the literature such as prose and poetry could be said as the great media in teaching English as foreign English because there were

many benefits could get in both teacher and students. According to Widdowson (1975, p 81), literature can be used in Teaching English as Foreign Language in any area of language because it provides the exercise of the language skill that could improve the language skill of the students. Moreover, the teacher also could use the literature as the method to teach the vocabulary and grammar in order to make the students enrich the vocabulary and able mastering the grammar structure (Bobkima & Domiguez, 2014).

1.6.2.3 For the Parents

This research is expected to give some information for the parents in order to broaden their view on feminism and how they can treat their children. The parents have an important role for their children to develop their children's behavior because children's behavior depends on how their parents treat them. In this modern era, there are some media that could be used as reference for them to treat their children at house. One of the media that can be used as a reference for the children in developing their behavior is novel. Novel is the media that contain several messages to teach the teacher about the good moral. Beside in the novel also has a feminist message in the content. However, parents are expected to introduce their children to feminist novels because it has many benefits.

Additionally, Novel is one of the media that can be used for parents to teach their children about character and the importance of gender equality. This media could teach children how to respect others and do not discriminate against others by gender. By reading a novel with a the value

of feminism, especially liberal feminism could give parents a view of how their children will be treated at home. Children cannot be differentiated based on their gender. Therefore, parents should be able to raise their children properly without differentiating them based on their gender.

1.7 Definition of Keys Term

1.7.1 Conceptual Definition

1.7.1.1 Characterization

According to Abrams (1999, p.33), characterization is the way the author shows and telling what are the character was. The author represents the characterization of character through speech, thought, action, feeling, and appearance (Abrams, 1999,p. 33).

1.7.1.2 Liberal feminism

According to Tong (2009, p.2), liberal feminism is the theory that discusses the women's movement against discrimination happen in the society, where women treat unfairly in society. This theory assumes that women could do what men could do (Tong, 2009,p. 2).

1.7.2 Operational Definition

1.7.2.1 Characterization

Characterization is the author's technique to represent what the character was. In analyzing the characterization of the story we have to pay attention to characters' speech, action thought,

costume and conversation because with those things we will be easy to analyze the characterization of the character.

1.7.2.1 Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism is the theory which explains about the women's movement to fight the inequality gender where they treat unfairly in society. In this case, women fight for inequality rights that they get in social life.

