

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, statements of the research problem, objective of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. Those subchapters are required to inform this scientific study.

1. 1 Background of the Study

As social beings, human is definitely cannot be separated from social relationship with others. Social relation is a relation with the neighborhood, teachers, schoolmate, even the government. In a plural life like this, everyone has different ways of expressing themselves to the public. The distinctiveness of each person that begins with the desire that arises in a person is called a psychological phenomenon. Psychology is the scientific study of mind (mental processes) and behavior (Lally & Valentine, 2018). Wherever we live, we have connection with others. Psychology is very necessary to learn in order to know the role of mental functions in individual and group behavior. Learning psychology creates continuity and harmony in social life which is useful for oneself and others. One of the psychological phenomena is the heroic soul that attach to the person. A heroic soul has typical of braveness character.

Everybody definitely has a different level of heroism, low or high level of heroism. For example, if there is bullying in the classroom, few students will feel

sorry for the victim. That feeling appears in their heart automatically. But because of the large number of students who do the bullying, those few students decided to keep quiet. That is in a contrast to the heroism of the firefighter. Although the magnitude of the fire defeats the size of his body, moreover the heat of the fire which exceeds the heat of coal, it does not defeat his heroic spirit to save the lives of people. Does the firefighter have fear? Everyone has fear. It depends on us how much is our courage in facing a challenge.

The spirit of heroism itself does not immediately appear, but the heroism is formed from many aspects, namely aspect of the family, neighborhood, friendship, fantasy, dream, and delusion. The archetype itself cannot be directly represented, but when activated, it expresses itself through several modes, primarily dreams, fantasies, and delusions (Feist & Gregory, 2008). Heroism is a person who has the main desire to prove himself through courageous actions and competencies. On the other hand, someone who has heroism soul also has a bad side like a rebellious, stubborn, and selfish. Those are potraited by the character of John.

The issue of heroism also appears in literary works through poetry, short stories, fairy tales, prose, novels, drama, and theater. One of the literary works that will be discussed in this study is a novel. The culture of reading is spread widely that we can see there are many bookstores and gramedia around us. Moreover, the language style in novels is very easy compared to novels in ancient times. Even we can find books and novels on the internet without coming and spending travel time to bookstores. It shows how easy it is to get a book. This is very beneficial

for people whose homes are far from bookstores. There are many kinds of novels which have different genres and important issues that are interesting to be discussed, one of which is the issue of psychology. A psychological issue that interesting to discuss is found in the *Dear John* novel by Nicholas Sparks. The success of a novel to become a best seller is certainly not separated from the background life of the author.

Nicholas Sparks is one of the most famous American writers. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska on December 31, 1965. He began writing when he was 19 years old. In the beginning, two of his novels did not qualify for publication, *The Passing* and *The Royal Murders*. After college, he spent the next three years trying other careers. In 1990, Sparks co-wrote a book with Billy Mills entitled *Wokini: A Lakota Journey to Happiness and Self-Understanding*, a nonfiction book about the influence of Lakota spiritual beliefs and practices. The book was published by Feather Publishing, Random House, and Hay House, and sales for this first book approximated 50,000 copies in its first year after release. With the success of his first novel, he moved to New Bern, North Carolina. He subsequently wrote several international bestsellers, and several of his novels have been adapted as films: *Message in a Bottle* (1999), *A Walk to Remember* (2002), *The Notebook* (2004), *Nights in Rodanthe* (2008), *Dear John* (2010), *The Last Song* (2010), *The Lucky One* (2012), *Safe Haven* (2013), *The Best of Me* (2014), *The Longest Ride* (2015), and *The Choice* (2016).

Dear John is chosen as the source of data in this study because it gives its own impression to its readers. The writer, Nicholas Sparks is famous for his works and he is known well in romantic themes, but in his work entitled *Dear John*, he adds different elements in the story. *Dear John* not only a romantic novel that tells about love stories as romantic as *Romeo and Juliet*, but also we learn about loyalty, honesty, and patience accept a bitter reality in love. This novel is very good to read because it tells a rebel of a young man about his past experiences which change him into naughty young men. However, John still felt that his life goals had not been achieved, especially the decision to study in college was based on his father's encouragement. At last, John chose to leave college and joined the United States military to run away from his boring life. Then, he was placed in Germany as a soldier.

However, that is the main plot in *Dear John* began. On a vacation, John meets Savannah Curtis. Finally, they decided to be in a relationship. Savannah wants to wait for John to complete his duty as a soldier. He promises to go home and marry her. At that time, as a soldier, John had to choose between his love for Savannah or his country. At the time he returned to his hometown, John had to face the harsh time in his life. Suddenly, his patience and optimism of his soldier's character have appeared. He was very brave to face the world after he lost his dearest person.

“But I didn’t go home, and I didn’t call. I didn’t write her back, nor did I hear from her again. My only action was to retrieve the letter I’d crumpled. I straightened it as best I could, stuffed it back in the envelope, and decided to carry

it with me like a wound I'd received in battle. Over the next few weeks, I became the consummate soldier, escaping into the only world that still seemed real to me.”

(Sparks, 2006:233-234)

Because of that, he began to get closer to his father and look after him whose condition was seriously ill. Due to that, it will be interesting to analyze this novel by using Carl Gustav Jung the archetype theory because the components of an archetype are found in this novel, especially the hero concept. Archetype theory has many concepts, namely persona, shadow, anima, animus, great mother, wise old man, self, and hero. Archetype is a tendency to experience events or circumstances in a certain way. The archetype is tendency to form such representations of a motif-representations that can vary a great deal in detail without losing their basic pattern (Jung, 1988).

Due to Jung, Archetype is the result or collection of many repetitive life experiences, for example: sunrise and sunset, season, eating, danger, and fear. Archetype is also a symbol in the form of the unconscious and conscious transformation when it becomes conscious or when it is being felt, appears in the form of images and emotions. Archetypes can be interpreted as positive, negative or neutral. For example, one of the repeated phenomena in *Dear John's* novel is when John's childhood was preoccupied with the same activities every day with his father, which is collecting coins. It made him want to get out of the recurring habit. So that is the negative interpretation of archetypes.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, this study focuses on two questions relating with theme of personality. Those are stated as follows:

- 1) What are the archetypes elements of John's personality shown in the story?
- 2) How the archetypes elements of John's personality which is developed in the story?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with question above, the purpose of this study is divided into two objectives of the study, those are:

- 1) To state the archetypes elements of John's personality shown in the story.
- 2) To describe the archetypes elements of John's personality which is developed in the story.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study aims to give a new nuance on the analysis of Nicholas Sparks' works. Thus, this study hopefully will be guidance for the next writer who uses archetypes theory for other literary works. In addition, this study is supposed to deliver theoretical and practical values. Theoretically, this study is expected to give understanding to the readers about the theory which focuses on John's personality in the story. Meanwhile, practically, this study is expected to give the

readers a knowledge about archetype which experienced by the character in the novel. Moreover, this study hopefully gives new information to the next writer who has the same literary work or theory to be analyzed, especially for the student of English Study Program of University of Trunojoyo Madura.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This novel has many things that are needed to be discussed by using an archetype theory. The focus of this study is the archetype elements which illustrate in Nicholas Sparks's *Dear John*. The discussion of the study is limited to the character John who portrait in the novel. However, the present study limits to discussion of followings: The utterances and author's narrations in novel are used by writer to show how the archetypes elements in John's personality appear in the novel.