

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters. Those are background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a reflection of human life expressed in beautiful and meaningful form. Part of the form of human experience, emotion and thought. Fiction and nonfiction are the two categories into which literature can be divided, Roberts and Jacobs (2007). Fiction is an imaginative work of literature, where the writer creates characters, plot, and settings that may be unreal or entirely imaginary. Short story, folklore, novel fall into the fiction category. However, nonfiction is a work that is grounded on reality and fact. Nonfiction includes essays, biographies, journalistic articles, and scientific writing. Connected with literature, both fiction and nonfiction have a significant part in enriching human understanding of the world.

Literature is a complex form of artistic expression that conveys meaning through various structural elements within a text. Different approaches in literary studies offer distinct ways of analyzing these elements, and one influential method is New Criticism. This approach focuses on analyzing a text's internal structure while ignoring external factors like the author's biography and historical context. It emphasizes formal elements like plot, theme, character, symbolism, and point of view, which shape the meaning of a literary work (Tyson, 2006). Since New Criticism views a text as self-contained, understanding its formal elements is essential for analysis. They also influence how a story presents itself and how readers perceive it. Point of view, in particular, plays a crucial role in shaping the reading experience by controlling how information is reveal.

In literary work, point of view is among the most important elements. Perspective serves to determine the position or point ofview from which the narrator observes events within a narrative (Griffith, 2010, p. 45). Choosing a point

of view create a unique attraction for the reader. The type of point of view used will influence other elements. Readers' can experience the internal conflict between characters and conflict of character more fully. Thus, the curiosity that arises in the minds of the reader, as well as their interpretation of the course of the story, is an indicator of the writer's success in compiling an interesting narrative. By understanding the point of view used, the reader can also glimpse inside the story's perspective.

The point of view of the reader is their perspective during the action of the story, (Rasley, 2008, p.10). This indicates that the reader's point of view is where they perceive the narrative's development. This point of view determines who tells the story and how information is conveyed to the reader. This point of view can come from a character in the story, first person point of view or from third person point of view. When writers choose a point of view, they also choose how much information to give the reader, as well as the reader's ability to relate to the characters or events in the story; readers may experience a more intimate involvement if the story is told by a live character, or they may have a more comprehensive view of all the characters if a third-person point of view is used. Point of view has a significant effect on how readers comprehend the story; selecting the appropriate point of view can improve the reading experience by offering a deeper perspective on the story world or a deeper emotional connection; it also influences how conflict is presented and how it is interpreted.

Point of view in a novel is an important element that not only shapes the way the story is told but also influences the way the reader understands the fictional world created by the writer. Point of view determines how characters and themes are told, giving different emotional and intellectual dimensions to each reader. Point of view also defines distances, both emotional and psychological, between the narrator and readers. Analysis of point of view becomes an important aspect of literary study, for it affects not only how the story develops but also how the reader processes and interprets deeper meaning. Any change in perspective has the potential to change the story's focus: From a personal and intimate perspective to a more objective and reflective point of view.

First-person, second-person, and third-person are among the various point of view categories. Writers frequently employ the first and third points of view when narrating their stories. However, because it makes the reader the protagonist, in fiction, the second-person point of view is rarely employing, experiencing and knowing nearly everything in the story as the narrator addresses them directly. This approach is based on how readers would feel and react if they were in the situation described in the story. In this way, the readers unwittingly take on the role, knowing and experiencing everything in the story at the same time. Each point of view has its own strengths and challenges. The point of view that best suits the type of tale they wish to tell and the reader's experience is chosen by writers.

To identifying the type of point of view used in a literary work, it is also essential to explore how the chosen point of view influence the reader's perception of the story. The emotional or distance established by the narrative voice directly shapes how readers engage with characters, events, and themes. First-person point of view, for instance, often provides limited but emotionally rich insights into the narrator's inner world, allowing readers to form deep personal connections. Meanwhile, a third-person omniscient point of view may offer a broader understanding of the narrative, but with less intimacy. This narrative choice is more than a technical element, it becomes a bridge between the character's inner experience and the reader's emotional response.

To analyze this interaction between narration and reader response, this study incorporates Reader-Response Criticism as introduced by Lois Tyson. Literary meaning is not fixed or inherent in the text itself, but is instead constructed through the reader's engagement with the text (Tyson, 2015, p.161). According to her, the interpretation of a narrative depends largely on the emotional and intellectual reactions that occur during the reading process. In the context of *The Fault in Our Stars*, the use of Hazel Grace's first-person perspective invites readers to not only follow the storyline but also to experience her thoughts, pain, and reflections as if they were their own. This kind of affective reading is at the core of Tyson's theory, which views the reader as an active participant in meaning-making.

Through this lens, Reader-Response Criticism is relevant to the current study because it provides a theoretical framework to examine the influence of point of view on the story narration. It allows the writer to go beyond identifying the narrative influence the reader's experience of character development, theme exploration, and emotional engagement. Tyson's theory complements Rasley's structural analysis by adding an interpretive dimension revealing not only how the story is told, but how it is felt and understood. This dual approach supports the aim of the study: to analyze the use of first-person point of view in *The Fault in Our Stars* and to investigate how this point of view shapes the reader's understanding of the narrative.

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green published in January 2012, is an intriguing topic for point-of-view study. First released by Dutton Books in the United States. This novel is included in the category of juvenile novels, namely fictional romance. This novel is the sixth author's work by John Green. Apart from that, this novel also made into a film. This novel tells the love story between Hazel Grace, a teenager suffering from cancer thyroid, and Augustus Waters, who lost his leg to osteosarcoma. Hazel meets Augustus in a cancer support group, and their friendship blossoms into love, despite Hazel's worries about hurting Augustus because of his illness. The two shared an interest in the novel "An Imperial Affliction" then made the disappointing trip to Amsterdam to meet with author Peter Van Houten. Augustus later revealed that the cancer had returned and spread. After Augustus's death, Hazel feels heartbroken but finds peace in the love letters he left behind. From their relationship, Hazel understands the meaning of life and death, and finds hope amidst adversity. This novel depicts the power of love in the face of suffering.

John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars* was examined by numerous early writers provided various interpretations. First conducted by Aziziyah (2019), the title of the study is "Hazel Grace's Character Traits and The Representation of John Green's Life Experiences in *The Fault in Our Stars*". The second by Fithroni (2017), "Psychological Relationship in *The Fault in Our Stars* Novel: An Analysis of Social Exchange". The third from Maewlyan (2024), the title of the study is

“Struggles of the Main Character against Cancer in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel by John Green: A Psychological Approach”. The fourth from Mahendra (2020), the title of the study is “Moral Values Analysis in *The Fault in Our Stars* Novel by John Green”. The last previous studies from Marzona (2023), the study is “The Man’s Struggle in Dealing with Life’s Conflict as Seen in John Green’s *The Fault in Our Stars*”.

From the previous studies that described above, it is interesting to analysis more about the point of view and its influence the whole story in *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green. The novel uses various points of view in the novel. No previous studies have addressed the point of view in the novel. To explore the use of point of view and its influence the whole story of the novel, the writer uses the theory of Rasley (2008) because this type of point of view corresponds to what the writer will be researching. Therefore, the writer will conduct study in John Green’s novel *The Fault in Our Stars*. It is hopes that this study can provide a new contribution to the study of point of view in literary works, especially in the novel. Analyzing how point of view influences story narration and reader perception. In addition, it is hopes that the results of this study will enrich reader’s understanding of how point of view influences story formation and reader perception. In addition, it is hopes this study will enrich readers understanding of how point of view is uses by writers to convey stories effectively.

1.2 Research Questions

In the background of the study, as previously described by the writer, the research questions of this study are:

1. What type of point of view does the author use in *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green?
2. How does the point of view influence the story narration?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on research questions, the researcher tries to achieve the objectives of

the study as follows:

1. To find the point of view that John Green uses in his novel *The Fault in Our Stars*.
2. To analyze how this novel's point of view influences the entire narration.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes this study provides both theoretical and practical benefits for anyone interested in analyzing point of view in novels. Theoretically, the writer aims to deepen her understanding of literature, particularly regarding the various types of point of view. Practically, the writer hopes this study to offer valuable insights for both herself and readers regarding a novel's use of point of view. This study may serve as a future reference for those everyone to explore point of view in literary works, especially novels. However, the writer hopes this study encourages more interest in learning about narrative perspective within every literary work.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study's main goal is to analyze the types of points of view that are employed in John Green's novel *The Fault in Our Stars*. Moreover, this study explores how the point of view influences the entire narration within the novel. The study is confined to an analysis of point of view based on Rasley's (2008) theoretical framework. The data utilized in this research includes dialogues, expressions, and narrative sentences found throughout *The Fault in Our Stars*. This limitation allows the writer to maintain the relevance and focus of the collected data in relation to the research objectives.