

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Everyone in the world has love. Love is an invisible thing. It is something that cannot be touched and can only be felt. Love is a universal feeling or emotion and every human on this earth should love someone. It is not necessary that love exists only between opposite sexes but love is also between human kind, between animal and things, between brothers, between sisters, between brothers and sisters, between parents and children, between husband and wife, between neighbors and between all relations. Therefore, nobody can deny the existence of love in this world. Sometimes he/she needs to describe a love that he/she has for someone in words. Love is also symbolized as a heart. Young people also celebrate love day as a Valentine's day February 14. In Greek mythology love is also illustrated as "Cupid", an angel of love. Cupid can make man love woman or woman love man with his love.

According to Catron in *What is Love* (2014), love is the most powerful emotion a human being can experience, Paul King (2011) supports by saying that love is emotional states with neurobiological and biochemical correlates in the brain. Endorphin are brain hormones that active the same receptor as opium and morphine and are connected with positive feelings such as euphoria. Oxytocin is another hormone in the brain which some have called it the love hormone because of its association with attachment and feeling of trust, safety, and protectiveness. Oxytocin is released by a mother to her child during nursing and oxytocin may also existed when somebody feels empathy towards others. Love is an important thing in human life because without love we can not know each other. Love also can make a marvel such as when someone feels sad, love can make them to feel better than before, when someone in a bad condition and give up in life, love can make them to have spirit of life again.

Love is the most important facet in human life just like how novel plays important part in literary works. A literary work contains about someone's idea and thought. It has been described through a good written and language, it also conveys a specific message to the readers. Commonly, in literary works also contain about the problem in human life, it can be occurred on himself and the people around them.

Theoretically, literature is divided into some kinds of genre such as drama, prose (Edgar, 1986). The literary works that will be discussed in this thesis is novel. Broadly defined, a novel is a book length story in process, whose author tries to create the sense that while we read, we experience actual life (Kennedy, 1987). Simply put, when we read a literary work such as a novel, we can feel that likely we were the one who acted the story due to the content of the story is quite close to our living.

Nicholas Spark's *The Best of Me* tells about the love of Amanda Collier and Dawson Cole. Their love for one another seemed to defy the reality of life in small town of Oriental, North Carolina. Amanda is the popular Southern belle of the small town of Oriental, North Carolina, raised in an elite rich family who has high expectations and overbearing opinions while Dawson comes from poor family. Therefore, their relationship was denied by their parents. After a few years, finally they meet again for the funeral of Tuck Hostetler, the mentor who once gave shelter to their high school romance. However, the situation is different, Amanda is a married woman while Dawson is still being a single man. Although one of them has already got married, they still love each other so that for many times they made up a kind of secret dating, a togetherness that happened behind Amanda's legal spouse.

The reason why the writer chooses this topic and this novel because the writer finds the kind of love inside Dawson's character. It makes the writer interested to analyses the kind of love that Dawson have. Dawson's love is when he can spend all of his time with Amanda. But after he moved there are different situation, he cannot be Amanda's boy but Dawson want to give the best of me to Amanda's life. There are the reasons why writer wants to analyze the type of love that exist inside this story through Dawson's characters.

1.2 Statement of the problem

From the novel Nicholas Sparks's *The Best of Me* and based on the background of the study, the writer finds statement of the problems which are:

1. What type of love does Dawson have?
2. How is Dawson's love portrayed in the novel?

1.3 Objective of the study

Based on the statement of the problem as mentioned above, the objective of the study is to analyze the type of love Dawson has and how it is portrayed in the novel.

1.4 Significance of the study

This study will help the readers or students to understand about analyzing novel. The writer also wishes that this study would be useful, especially for student of English Department, faculty of letters from the University of 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya. The writer also hopes that this study will help students who want to analyze love.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Considering that in novel there are many aspects to discuss, the writer thinks that it is necessary to limit the discussion. The limit of the discussion is mainly focused on Dawson's Love throughout the description of their characters.

1.6 Organization of Study

The study is organized into five chapter. The first chapter is the introduction consisting of the background of the study, statement of the problem, the objective of the study, scope, and limitation, significance of the study and organization of the study.

The second chapter is the review of related literature consisting of the previous study, new criticism, theory of character and theory of love.

The third chapter is research method. This study uses qualitative research. The writer also uses intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

The fourth chapter is the analysis of the study. It discusses the intense and intimate types of Dawson's love which is shown from the characters, and his relationship with Amanda.

The last chapter is the conclusion of the study, which contain the conclusion of the whole discussion. Then, it is followed by bibliography and appendix that consist of two parts where the writer presents the biography of the author and the synopsis of the novel.