CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Lately, heroism has become an absorbing topic in the society’s discussion. Hero is an individual or a network of people that take action on behalf of others in need, or in defense of integrity or a moral cause (http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/36080/8/08_chapter_01.pdf). For example, Kyle Hardman attempted to save three men and two children from drowning in the Mississippi River (Kafashan et al, 2016: 36). By doing such an action, he did not realize that he has become a hero. In addition, heroism may happen anytime, anywhere, in any situation, and is done by anyone. People may become a hero for various reasons and factors. Social factor is one of the most win over factors in dragging someone to be such a hero. For instance, John as the main character in Dear John being a hero because of the social factors surround him like family, love, environment, politic, etc. If there are no social influence surround John, he will not be able to do some heroic act.

The phenomena of heroism can be found in one of the most popular novel who had written by Nicholas Sparks. The novel’s title is Dear John. In Dear John, John as the main character, was described as a character who liked to sacrifice his life for his country and other people. In one event, John tried to help to save a person’s property that fell into the sea without thinking first that it would endanger his life from being attacked by wild fish there. In another event, it was told that John was moved by the situation due to the 9/11 attack in New York. He was motivated to protect his county from further terrorist attacks. For this, he sacrificed his personal life including his relationship with a girl since the girl did not want him go again as he had promised before and he reenlisted the army and was charged to go to a war in other countries to run after the terrorists. John has done those 3 types of heroism honestly and straightforward without hope for a payback/reward.

This novel is one of Sparks’ best seller novels and it has been adopted into a film in 2010. It shows that this work is popular and this has become the
writer reason to choose for her research. Furthermore, the writer found there were previous researches conducted a research on *Dear John*. There was a research entitled *An Analysis of John’s Regret in Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John* written by Nurul Hidayah (2014). Another research entitled *John’s Big Heart in Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John Novel: A Psychoanalytic Approach* by Okti Ermawati from Muhammadiyah Surakarta University (2013). Another research entitled *A Study of Sacrifice As Seen Through Savannah in Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John* by Mufti Ali from State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya (2015). However, this paper is different from others which is the topic, approach and discussion are different.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background, the problem which rise in Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John* is formulated in the following questions:

1. What types of heroisms are reflected in Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John*?

1.3. Objective of the Study

Referring to the statement of the problems above, the objectives of the study is to describe what types of heroism are reflected in John’s character in Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John*.

1.4. Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that heroism found in Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John* could be accepted as a good valuable lesson to the study of literature. Furthermore, this thesis is also expected to give an understanding and encourage the students of English Department, University of 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya to analyze literary work.

1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study

There are many elements of literary work that can be analyzed in Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John*, but the writer limits the research on discussing the main character. The discussion will be limited on what kinds of heroism reflected to John in Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John*. 
1.6. Organization of the Study

The study is reported in five different chapters. The first chapter is the introduction which related to the background of the study, statements of the problem, objective of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and organization of the study. The second chapter is review of related literature which consists of theories dealing with heroism. The third chapter is research method which explains about research design, source of the data, research instrument, data collection, and data analysis procedure. The fourth chapter is the result and discussion of the data analysis. While, the fifth chapter is conclusion which contains the summary of the study.