

AFFECTION IN NICHOLAS SPARKS' *DEAR JOHN*

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Abstract: The aim of this research is to analyze the affection between John and Savannah. In this study, the writers employ qualitative research in which the data gathered in form of words and quotations. In analysing this novel, the writers apply objective approach because this analysis will be only focused on the literary work itself without looking at the external aspects of the literary work. It means that the writers only pay attention to the internal parts of the story in the novel. The result of this research will be able to enlarge the reader ability in appreciating literary works and also it can deeper the knowledge of the next researchers.

Keywords: *Affection, Love, analysis.*

Abstrak: Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis kasih sayang antara John dan Savannah. Dalam penelitian ini, para penulis menggunakan penelitian kualitatif di mana data dikumpulkan dalam bentuk kata-kata dan kutipan. Dalam menganalisis novel ini, para penulis menerapkan pendekatan objektif karena analisis ini hanya akan difokuskan pada karya sastra itu sendiri tanpa melihat aspek eksternal dari karya sastra. Ini berarti bahwa para penulis hanya memperhatikan bagian-bagian internal cerita dalam novel. Hasil penelitian ini akan mampu memperbesar kemampuan pembaca dalam menghargai karya sastra dan juga dapat memperdalam pengetahuan para peneliti berikutnya.

Kata Kunci: *Kasih sayang, cinta, analisis.*

INTRODUCTION

Literary works as drama, novels, short stories and poems express all about human life.

“Literary work is a reflection of human life, since literature can teach many things concerning human experiences in their daily life in the world. Literature can be a mirror of pain, pleasure, and human social life. Talking about human social life is also talking about affection. Thus although novel is a fiction work, it must be in line with not real life and should be

created. People are able to find the fact of life novel, such of love, adventure, egoism, and sacrifice” (Hudson, 18).

According to Wuntu, environment issues are often overlooked although the global issue is exacerbating natural phenomena (2015).

A literature work which has effective nature is a significant power to touch the deepest sense that can produce perfect consciousness as it successfully carries its mission as a form generator of human consciousness.

Dear John is a romance novel written by Nicholas Sparks released in 2006. The story is about John Tyree, who went into the army. During his holiday, he met Savannah and they were spending their time together. Angelie Aurelia Janis, Mister G. Maru, Delly Sabudu state:

“Humans are always looking for other humans to live together. Living together is a normal fact for humans, and only humans who have abnormalities are able to isolate themselves from other people. It has become the nature of nature, two human beings with different gender genes, a woman and a man; there is a power to attract one another to live together.” (2021:70)

The above quotation describes how man and woman relationship as the innate gift by God, nobody can avoid it, so when John and Savana met each other and fall in love it is also a kind of natural activity.

However Savannah has to go back to school and John has to go back to Germany to serve his country. While they are far away, they promise to write a letter for each other. When John got another break, he spent his time with Savannah. Finally when September 11 happens, John has to serve his country for two years longer. Savannah tries to understand about that and they keep writing to each other. When John is in Germany, he gets a letter from Savannah; she tells him that she is falling in love with another guy. John is very angry because of that he decided to stay longer in the army. Unfortunately he has to go home because of his father sick and then passed away. Because of that also John knew that Savannah husband is also in hospital.

Savannah's husband will die soon if he did not get the medication he needs. Nevertheless, John sells his dad's coin

collection and makes an anonymous donation for Savannah's husband. So her husband can get the medication he needs. Savannah never knows and never sees John again. Related to the explanation above, Dear John is a novel that tells about how we should love someone without expecting in return and about what sincerity is, which is related to the meaning of love.

Love is a valuable thing in human life. No one does not need love. Every person has his or her own interpretation about what love is. They have their own description about love. Every person has different understanding about love. Even so they will agree that they need to be loved or love. *“Every human being wants to be loved. This is not a wholly incomprehensible statement. With the exception of some people with personality disorders, everyone wants to be loved. The feeling that one experiences, especially when they know that they are loved, is indescribable”* (Chapman, 2011). According to Maslow's hierarchy in Chapman (2011), *“people have a need for intimate 3 relationships, love, affection, and belonging and will seek to overcome feelings of aloneness and alienation.”*

However, the writers have chosen the topic affection as the concern in this research, because it is very important to know the meaning of love in the romance between the couple. It will hopefully get the best result regarding the topic of analysis.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In literature, the reader may increase the viewpoints of lives because one can find many aspects of life like character and behavior. About Literature, Hudson states that *“Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have through*

and felt about these aspects of which have most immediate and enduring interest for a human being. It is truly fundamental and expression of life through the medium of language” (1965, 10). This quotation confirms that literature cannot be separated from what men see, think and experience in life. It usually reflects the human life whether private life or social life. “Literature is different from the other informative writing such as geography or history because it has different language in use. Literature usually uses diction or imagery, while informative language used the daily language. That is why literary language usually has implicit meaning and we need to analyse it. In the order hand, literature refers merely to imaginative works; it has identified particularly with artistic forms or verbal expression” (Komenaung, Liando, Lolowang 2021).

Elements of Novel

Novel is a media when remarkable events occur. The event happen when a certain characters meet a certain individual, which is narrated by Novel, whether the outcome of this will lead the characters to a life challenges like the positive things that come from grief, a thrilling adventure, the hardship of life with this obstacle or life lesson if you might said it, it will change the character or the main individual in to a graphic changes but represent the experience that the so called individual has been through

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The Elements of Novel

There are some of the elements of the novel. The elements consist of plot, characters, theme and setting. For the further explanation, the writers describe all of them as follows.

Plot

According to Griffith (43), plot is what happens in a narrative. Plot is a pattern of carefully selected causally related events that contains conflict.

Chalangan, P and Dobbins stated that:

“Plot is the structure of event in a story, what is included and in what order is designed to arouse expectations in readers about what will happen and how character will response”.

While Connolly states that *“Plot is the arrangement of the details and incident in a story”.*

One of the pitfalls of using up your story’s big moments too early (i.e., opening with the Inciting Event instead of allowing it to be the First Act turning point) is that you can run out of juice too soon. Here, the only possible First Plot Point in sight is John and Savannah’s first kiss and the subsequent launching of their “official” relationship as a couple. But it’s a pretty mild plot point. Not only does it fail to offer anything new or unexpected, it’s also not “big” enough to be more than a blip in the

story's pacing. Although they're completely different movies, another quick contrast with *Princess*

Mononoke is worthwhile. *Princess Mononoke* gets away with opening with its Inciting Event *because* its subsequent structural moments are all increasingly bigger. Its abrupt opening doesn't steal any of the thunder from the story that follows.

After John and Savannah's first big fight (which ends up not affecting the plot at all), we get the necessary turning point here when John ships out and Savannah returns to school. This is a good pinch point, since their forced inability to be together is a powerful antagonistic force threatening their relationship.

While John is deployed, 9/11 happens. This starts out as a relatively mild Midpoint so mild that I didn't catch it until *after* it had passed and I realized the effect it was having on the story. As it turns out, this *is* the major shift in the story and in John and Savannah's relationship, since it prompts John to extend his tour of duty abroad—thus severely taxing their relationship.

John gets his "*Dear John*" letter, in which Savannah announces she's dumping him and marrying someone else. Aside from the title and the incidental pressure on the relationship at the Midpoint, this really comes out of the blue. There's no development and no indication that Savannah is interested in someone else. It's a suitable pinch, but very poorly set up.

The rest of the Second Act is taken up by John's getting shot the scene that was teased in the very beginning. As it turns out, however, this scene has zero bearing on the plot, which is disappointing in its own right, but especially since its use as a flash forward in the beginning hinted at its great import. Years later, John returns home after his father has a stroke. His dad

subsequently dies. The structure isn't great at any point in this movie, but after the Second Pinch Point, the whole thing really falls apart. Because the latter half isn't set up well in the first half, even this plot point, which otherwise has everything going for it, ends up feeling random and disjointed. It has nothing to do with John and Savannah's relationship—the ostensible core of the story—which careens the story around into a direction that temporarily wants to make it all about John and his struggling relationship with his autistic father.

Finally, the story gets back on track, structurally speaking, when John goes to see Savannah. Turns out she's not married to the guy he always believed she was. Instead, she married an old friend (much older than her), the dying father of an autistic boy. At least the structure returns to the main story here. But, honestly, this plot development comes outta nowhere, makes no sense, and offers zero thematic resonance.

John decides to sell his father's beloved coin collection to help pay for Savannah's husband's medical bills. Why is this Climactic Moment? Mostly, because there's no other option in sight. But also because we could say this is when John symbolically surrenders his relationship with Savannah ending the main conflict.

Years later, after Savannah's husband has died, she and John meet again. Why *isn't* this Climactic Moment? You could make an argument that it is. But based on the fact that this ending was reshot to please audiences, who didn't like the idea of John and Savannah not being together, it's pretty obvious this is just a tacked on scene, an epilogue of sorts to indicate what happens to the characters after the main story ends.

Characters

Characterization is divided into two main parts; main character (central character) and supporting characters (which consist of realities, friends, and enemies). Character is different from characterization.

According to Griffith (46)

“Characters are the people in narratives. Sometimes, as in fantasy fiction, the characters are not people. They maybe animals, or robots or creatures from outer space, but the author gives them human abilities and human psychological traits”.

In the writers opinion, the major characters are the dominant characters that support the main character in the story. Flat character means the character are static and simple; round character means the character always change.

The major Character are:

John Tyree :

John is one of the main character of the book. Physically he is tall and has a muscular body. His arms are covered in tattoos; he has short and brown hair, light brown eyes and as usual he dresses with not expensive clothes. His only family was his father and the relationship with him wasn't very strong; they lived together but they rarely talk to each other. John was a trouble maker boy but when he enlisted in the army he begins to be more responsible and rarely got in trouble.

Savannah Lynn Curtis:

Savannah was one of the main characters of the book. Physically she was thin, not to tall or to short, had blonde hair and blue eyes. She was John's love. She was

Christian, friendly, good person, she liked to help homeless people; she and her church group build houses for people that had lost their homes. She wasn't a normal young girl that like parties and hang out with her friends every weekend; she liked to ride horses and she was concentrated to finish collage.

Tim

Tim was Savannah's family and her friend. Tim was also in love but Savannah didn't feel the same about him. He went to the same collage as Savannah. He was a good person; he also forms part of the church group that build houses for the needy. (he is a important character ate the climax of the book)

Mr Tyree:

Mr Tyree was John's father. He was obsessed with the coins; when John was a kid he liked to look for coins with his father but as he get older he start to avoid them because that was the only thing he could talk about with his father. Mr Tyree was the kind of people that stay at home and did not have many friends.

Randy

Randy was Savannah's friend; but not to close. He wanted to go out with Savannah but she didn't feel the same, she thought that she wasn't the kind of girl he liked; that he just thinks she was. He's not a major character in the book. Together but they rarely talk to each other. John was a trouble maker boy but when he enlisted in the army he begins to be more responsible and rarely got in

Setting

According to Griffith :

“*Setting includes several closely related aspects of a work of fiction. First, setting is the physical, sensuous world of work. Second, it is the time in which the actions of the work take place. And third, it is the social environment of the characters : the manners, customs and moral values that govern the characters’ society*”(Griffith, 52).

The setting of *Dear John* takes place in Wilmington, North Carolina. Most of the time that Savannah and John spend together their were at the beach, in a restaurant from the town and sometimes at John's house. The rest of the time tom was in Japan, Germany, etc. because of the army and Savannah was finishing College in UNC Chapel Hill.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In conducting a research, a method is needed to make a study accurately and systematically. In this research, the writers use the qualitative research design.

According to Bogdan and Biklen (30): “*Qualitative research is descriptive the data collected are in the forms of words or pictures rather than numbers. The written result of the research contains quotation from data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation*”.

Based on the explanation above, it is clear that the researchers play an important role in doing the qualitative research, because the writer is the only person to plan the research, to collect the data, and to support the writers’ analysis research.

From the statement above, we can be concluding that in doing this research, the research, the researches collect the data as many as possible from the novel.

Data Collection

In analyzing the novel, some sources dealing with the analysis will be collected. The writers collect and select sources relevant to the study. The sources are divided into two categories: primary source is *Dear John* written by Nicholas Sparks and secondary source include books explaining about research, literature, life and background of the author and some relevant books to support the data.

DATA ANALYSIS

In analyzing the data, the written applies objective approach because this research is only focused on the work.

“*Objective approach regards the work of art in isolation from all these external points of reference, analyzes it as a self sufficient entity constituted by its parts in their internal relations and sets out to judge it solely by criteria intrinsic to its own mode of being*” (Abram , 26).

This approach comes from the readers view to study the work itself. In brief, it just concentrates on the work itself without considering the outer part of the novel such as the socio-background of the novel. This approach leads the writers to analyze the work only focusing on the work itself, in which how the interrelationship of the elements of the novel have built and formed. It is then brought the writer to dig out the symbols in Spark’s *A Walk to Remember*, it is expected to have a critical analysis on the symbols and the meaning beyond the word.

In analyzing the novel, there is a formula that can be used. It will be presented through the romance. Formula which state by Cawelty (41) :

“*Romance is organizing action is the development of love, relationship, usually between a man and a woman, because this is the central line of development, the*

romance differs from the adventure story and the mystery. Adventure stories, more often than not, contain a love interest, but one distinctly subsidiary to the hero's triumph over dangers and obstacles. One might put it that in the adventure story the relation between hero and villain is really more important than the hero's involvement with a woman. Romances often contain elements of adventure, but the dangers function as a means of challenging and then cementing the relationship".

The Love Relationship

In this novel, the love relationship presented was between John and Savannah, actually they come from the different family background but it can be skipped by both of them. The evidence about the first affection comes as can be seen from the bellow quotation:

"I'm Savannah," she said. "Savannah Lynn Curtis. And these are Brad, Randy, and Susan." She held out her hand. "I'm John Tyree," I said, taking it. Her hand was warm, velvety soft in places but callused in others. I was suddenly conscious of how long it had been since I'd touched a woman." (27)

The quotation above shows that John suddenly attracts by Savannah, even he was not the right feeling about woman because he was never met with his mother but at that moment he can feel it so clearly.

"I dated dozens of women during that period. At Leroy's, there were always women. Most were forgettable relationships. I used women and allowed myself to be used and always kept my feelings to myself." (8)

John lives with his father who obsessed by the coins, his father was a coin

collectors. John was never taught about how to love and how to be loved, in his mind that people live to use each other but when she met Savannah his life turned into the different direction. People who have not resolved their affection relations with others in childhood most always feel rejected. The experiencing of rejection convinces the person that he is unwanted and unlovable. As a result, he then becomes highly cautions and distant in regard to others, or becomes overly anxious to get extremely close to others. In the first case, the person becomes either openly rejecting of people and aloof or superficially friendly to everyone. The quotation bellows shows that John was not a man who has an ability to be romantic, but he can feel affection to Savannah.

"When her eyes met mine, I felt something click, like a key turning in a lock. Believe me, I'm no romantic, and while I've heard all about love at first sight, I've never believed in it, and I still don't. But even so, there was something there, something recognizably real, and I couldn't take away. Up close, she was more beautiful than I'd first realized, but it had less to do with the way she looked than the way she was. It wasn't just her slightly gap-toothed smile; it was the casual way she swiped at a loose strand of hair, the easy way she held herself." (27)

The seeds of love keep going fertile in John's heart, when he kept to close to Savannah and keep in touch with her , his felling was groom even only a little things did by Savannah , John felt it deeply.

"She laughed, and the sound was so melodic that I knew I wanted to hear it again. We reached the end of the pier, and I grabbed my board. I tossed the empty beer bottle into the garbage can, hearing it clank

to the bottom. Stars were coming out overhead, and the lights from the houses outlined along the dunes reminded me of bright jack-o'-lanterns.” (28)

The feeling of affection cannot arrange by anyone because it actually belongs to God's authority. And the man just like John cannot control his feeling of affection toward Savannah, the quotation below describes his feeling:

“I don't know how long we stood together, but when finally began moving toward the baggage claim, I slipped my hand into hers knowing that I loved her not only more than the last time I'd see her, but more than I would ever love anyone.” (186-187).

Challenge by the Long Distance Relationship

When John's assigning in Germany, their relationship is tied by a long distance relationship. This condition forces them to send letter to each other. It is the only way to make them keep in touch. As the time passes by, letters from Savannah are not delivered routinely like it usually was.

John and Savannah are convinced they will marry and will live happily ever after, but the things written in God's destiny do not always meet expectations. John is only created to keep and make Savannah happy, through the last letter of Savannah

“You're a hero and a gentleman, you're kind and honest, but more than that, you're the first man I ever truly loved. And no matter what the future brings, you always will be, and I know that my life is better for it. I'm so sorry.” (84)

Savannah's heart is attracted to the man who had been comforting her for as long as John is not around. Eventually Savannah begins to fall in love with that man and

Savannah cannot stand the uncertainty of time from John. John can do nothing and let her do whatever she what deserves. Even though John cannot have Savannah again and has let her married with other man, John still help her willingly. Tim, Savannah's husband suffers from melanoma — a skin cancer. Tim will get his suffers going away if he gets a better hospital that have intensive care and extra hospitalization. Because John knows that Savannah does not have enough money to move Tim to better hospital, so John helps Savannah's finance secretly. He takes the responsibility of Tim's surgical treatment's cost.

Challenge by the Separation

Savannah's heart is attracted to the man who had been comforting her for as long as John is not around. Eventually Savannah begins to fall in love with that man and Savannah cannot stand the uncertainty of time from John. John can do nothing and let her do whatever she what deserves. Even though John cannot have Savannah again and has let her married with other man, John still help her willingly.

Tim, Savannah's husband suffers from melanoma a skin cancer. Tim will get his suffers going away if he gets a better hospital that have intensive care and extra hospitalization. Because John knows that Savannah does not have enough money to move Tim to better hospital, so John helps Savannah's finance secretly. He takes the responsibility of Tim's surgical treatment's cost. John calls coin dealer that he knows to sell his father's favorite coins *“Yes,” I said to the coin dealer, “actually there is. I want to sell my dad's coin collection, and I need the money as quickly as you can get it to me.” (Sparks, 2006: 119).* John sells all his father's collection coins so that he could

help Savannah who is in position that needs a lot of money for Tim's treatment cost.

I sold the collection because I finally understood what true love really meant. Tim had told-me and shown me that love meant that you care for another person's happiness more than your own, no matter how painful the choices you face might be. I wanted them to be happy. I wanted her to be happy. I know that my feeling about Savannah will never change (333-334)

John wishes that his father in the peaceful other world does not angry with what John has done because John does his best to help others John's lawyer does about what John asked to. John asks him to deposit it in the account that has been set up for Tim's treatment and to keep say nothing to anyone in town "It was important not to let Savannah know what I'd done. In any marriage, there's room for only two people." (119).

Final Resolution

God's always has his unpredictable way for all his creation, man just asked to make an effort for their expectation but the final decision was in God's hand. John and Savannah loved each other, their affection cannot be figure out by the words because they had been broken so many challenges for it. But when the time goes by they should be separated because John went to the military and Savannah back to her study. Savannah sends the last letter to John and said that John was a hero for her life but now she should be married to other man.

Affection teach about self –Introspection

After having in love with Savannah, John becomes wiser than before. It happens when Savannah gives her assumption about John's father. Savannah says that John's father has suffered from Aspreger a kind of

developmental disorder John suddenly mad to her and all of the people around him and the worst thing he breaks Tim's nose:

"One minute I was thinking that I loved her more than I'd ever imagined possible, and the next minute we were fighting. I was outraged by her subterfuge yet couldn't understand why I was this angry. It wasn't my dad and I were close; it wasn't as if I even thought I really knew him. So why had I been so angry? (146)

The quotation above shows that John still thinks about his trouble behavior, he cannot control his emotion even he knew that Savanna is his true love. Besides he thought about his father, he cannot understand why he was so angry. The John go to meet Savannah the next day for an apology.

I was wrong. I'd overreacted, and I knew it. Not just with her, but with the others on the beach. I'm sorry. I know you were just trying to help, and I took it the wrong way. And I'm sorry for what I did to Tim and Randy and the other guy too." (159-160)

John apologizes for everything he has done to Savannah and her friends. John does no violence intentionally. He can do self - Introspection.

CONCLUSION

Affectionate communication in interpersonal relationships remains an important area of study for interpersonal scholars. While results from this study were at times counterintuitive, they do indicate several important findings about the nature of affection. John and Savannah relationship establish by the strong feeling of affection but when the time goes by they have to face the challenges, the long distance relationship become the reason of their separation but after that they try to reunite their love relationship by sending the letter frequently to make their

relationship stronger. Time finally answer that they cannot survive their love relationship but it gave them a lesson to be wiser a man and did the betterment for their future.

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