STRUGGLE FOR RECONCILIATION IN *THE LAST SONG* BY NICHOLAS SPARKS

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**Abstract**: The purpose of this research is to reveal the struggle to reconcile in Nicholas Sparks *The Last Song*. In conducting this research, the writers use qualitative research because the data are collected in the form of words and quotations from the primary source which is the novel itself *The Last Song* written by Nicholas Sparks, and secondary sources are related documents such as books, journal, internet browsing, dictionary, and some materials that can support this research. In analyzing the data, the writers use objective approach to get the information about Steve Miller struggle for reconciliation. The result of research shows the struggle of Steve Miller for reconcile the relationship. In addition, in solving the struggle, the writers conclude in Steve Miller's struggle that he did several things, namely by following his daughter's wishes, believing in his daughter, and fighting to hide his illness. Steve Miller gets several effects. Steve Miller more aware of the real love of God, being his daughter aware of Steve's Miller affection, his daughter knows the reason for her parents divorce decision, Making his daughter Peace with Self, and finally they can reconcile the relationship. So, in the struggle it is not easy people need to patient and never give up in facing them. Because there is no struggle without challenges, people must disappointment and tears faced it.

**Keywords**: Struggle, Reconciliation, Patient, Love, Peace, Affection.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Nicholas Charles Sparks is an American screenwriter and novelist, was born on 31 December 1965. Sparks wrote his first novel in 1985. He has published sixteen novels and two non-fiction books. Several of his novels have becomes international bestseller, and eleven of his romantic-drama novels have been adapted to film. One of his novels is the best of published in 2009 and the genre is romance. *The Last Song* also has been adapted in the film with the same name *The Last Song*.

*The Last Song* is an American romance novel, written by Nicholas Sparks and set in North Carolina. For this research, the writers does not discuss about the love story of the novel. But the writers in this research discuss about has the struggle to reconcile one of the main characters that is a struggle from a father to repairing his relationship with his daughter.

The Last Song expresses struggle of life especially in one of the main character of Steve Miller. As quoted by Wuntu in her research: *Connecting the Vanishing Flora, Fauna,and its Relation to the Indian Removal Policy as Seen in James Fenimore Coopers’ The Leatherstocking Tales*: “Human will always be responsible for his own life. In realizing this human will always be dependent on the natural environment” (p. 4). The same situation also happened to the character of Steve Miller. His daughter mistreatment of Steve was caused by a misunderstanding his never did.

After reading the novel, the writers are interested in analyzing the struggle. Because through Steve Miller's struggle in repairing his relationship with his daughter. This novel reminds the readers of the truly important things in life and gives the readers a look at love, peace, patience and affection.

1.1 **Statement of the problem**
The Last Song tells about the struggle of the main character Steve Miller. When Steve and his wife divorced, his daughter Ronnie became a rebel against his parents. Starting with Ronnie, who did not listen, stopped playing the piano, refused a Julliard School scholarship, did not even talk to his father for three years. However, Steve continued to show unconditional love and affection to Ronnie. Steve was diagnosed with a hereditary disease of stomach cancer and the doctor sentenced that his life was not long, for that Steve struggled to improve his relationship with his daughter.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Literature

Literature is interesting to be discussed, because almost all aspects of human life can be described in form literary works like expressing human daily life, what they feel, thought, and experiencing literature also the expression of human life because it concerns with human experience, ideas, opinions, and feeling in daily life.

Literature can be true by communicating ideas about life. According to Kelley Griffith states that “There are at least three ways that literature can be true. First, literature can be true to the facts of reality, as in descriptions of real people, places, and events.” (2010:23).

Another definition is that literature is reflection of human life whether in the society or in their private life, every phenomenon that found in the society usually reflects in the literary works such as poem, novel drama or short story (Sabudu 2014:1).

People can assume that the literature from author's experience, vision and expression of ideas brings them into a literary work. It can be a media of education to transferring the message of life such as morality also the sense of humanity.

According to Mister G. Maru (2014:100) Literary work is as its object and primary sources for its analysis, it is thought to be crucial to apply literary approach it assists to reveal the meaning of the novel. For definitely novel is story regarding remarkable event or occurrence of life of someone is in it met by processing of soul altering someone chance road, it means someone which in narrated in the novel experience of life of problem in details, good in the grief, adventure, struggle, which is on finally be the figure experience of change which enough base, what experienced of that figure basically represent of top from all distortion live and life which happened.

2.2 Struggle

In a struggle there are various obstacles. The more we often experience various the stronger we are. According to Harrison state that, “Struggle is a natural life, involves a degree of pain and is a measure of the resistance, we exert against the flow or life.” (63).

Struggle is a must for the people to do in life, so that people can endure and overcome all problems of life. Without the struggle, someone cannot be strong and cannot appreciate each other existence. Another definition of struggle that is according to Collins English Dictionary “if you struggle to do something, you try hard do it, even though other people or things may be making it difficult for you to succeed”. Every struggle does not always go smoothly there are always tears, disappointment, failure but when it all passed there always must be happiness. There are various struggles in life everyone and every process there must be sacrifice. Every human should struggle to achieve what is desired.

I think most people struggle in their lives. There are various kinds of struggles that exist in every human life, depending on what problems are faced. A struggle is obtained because of a problem. Therefore, every struggle must have a process, and in each process it must not be easy. There will definitely be effort, sacrifice, disappointment and tears to achieve happiness or good things.

2.3 Reconciliation

According to Bloomfield, reconciliation is as a process through which a society
moves from a divided past to a shared future, more usefully as “a process that redesigns the relationship”. (2003:12).

Reconciliation plays an important role in a relationship, because reconciliation requires a process, struggle and sacrifice to get it. Reconciliation turns troubled relationships for good ones.

2.4 Novel

Novel is a literary work that is presented by the author or writer for readers with content reading about real events, fictional, norms, cultural values and outlook on life imagined writer or author through his observations. According to Wellek and Warren, “Novel is picture of real life and manners of the time in which it is written”. (1989:223).

Another definition is that novel is story regarding remarkable event or occurrence of life of someone is in it met by processing of soul altering someone which in narrated in the novel experience of life of problem in details, good in the form of grief, adventure, struggle, which is on finally the figure experience of change which enough base, what experienced of that figure basically represent of top from all distortion live and life which happened (Maru 2014:100).

2.5 The Element of Novel

The elements of novel provide which build up the structure of a literary works. To entire element functionally had a relation one another. The various elements of novel such as:

2.5.1 Plot

Plot is one of the elements in novel, which is important to study. Plot is all events in a story. Plot is the events that form a significant pattern of action with a beginning, a middle and an end. Plot is also a literary term defined as the events that make up a story, particularly as they relate to one another in a pattern, in a sequence, through cause and effect, how the reader views the story, or simply by coincidence. They move from one place or event to another in order to form a pattern, usually with the purpose of overcoming a conflict. The plot is more formally called a narrative. According to Griffith states that, “plot is events thing in that happen a narrative-action, statement, thoughts and feelings” (50).

2.5.2 Theme

According to Griffith, “Themes are ideas about life outside the work—about the real world, our world—that we draw from works of literature—not just from fiction but from literature in all genres.” (40).

2.5.3 Setting

Needed real information to understand the play setting is very important. It is because background information will explain us more detail about the play setting. The information of the situation in that time, social status environment and also the mindset of the people in that time. According to Griffith, “The setting refers to three aspects. First, setting is the physical. Second, it is the time in which the action 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”. (68)

2.5.4 Character

Characters are the people in the narratives, and the characterization is the author’s presentation and development of the traits of characters. (Griffith, 2010:60). Characters are the important things in a story because the characterization purpose to development the story in order the reader. Character also is a vehicle for the author in order to convey to the reader about her/his view of the world. The reader too, can learn about individual characters from their own words and action. From what other characters said about them and the way others act towards them.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The method of this study is qualitative. The writers use qualitative research because
the data in this research do not deal with numbers, diagrams, or formulas, but in form of words or quotations. Bogdan and Bicklen stated that,

“Qualitative research is descriptive, the data collected are in the form of words of the research contains quotation from the data illustrate and substantiate the presentation”. (5)

From the definition above, it can be concluded that the presentation of the study will be in descriptive form. According to the definition, qualitative research is descriptive research.

3.2 Data Collection

In analyzing the novel, some sources dealing with the analysis are used. The sources related to the study primary. Griffith states that, “Primary sources include such things statistical data, historical documents, and work of literature”.

The sources related to the study primary source is the novel itself The Last song written by Nicholas sparks, and the secondary sources are related documents such as, internet browsing, dictionary and some materials that support this research.

3.3 Data Analysis

The writers use the objective approach in analyzing the data. According to Abrams M. H stated:

“The objective principle which on principle regard of work of art isolation from the external points of reference, analysis as a self sufficient entity constituted by its parts in their internal relations and to be judge solely by criteria intrinsic to its mode of being”. (2010: 26)

Objective approach focuses on the literary work itself without look at the external aspect of the literary works. This statement does not mean that the writer does not need other material, but it means that the central points of this research are in the novel itself. The presentation focuses on revealing the objective of the study that aim to descriptively all information about the Steve Miller’s struggle.

4. FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

4.1 Steve Miller’s Struggle

Nicholas Sparks The Last Song reveals about the struggle of being Steve Miller. Steve Miller is a Ronnie and Jonah’s father. His daughter so hates him, because her parents divorce and his daughter think that he has no responsibility toward her and her brother. Have many struggles in his life, Steve struggle to reconcile his relationship with his daughter and struggle to hide the disease. He believed that his daughter does not commit theft because she is a good girl, he always tries to make his daughter summer fun. The presentation of discussion below will show the struggle of Steve Miller in his family and relationship for especially with his daughter that can be seen in the following description.

4.1.1 Struggle to Follow Her Daughters Wishes

The effort to struggle of Steve Miller in The Last Song for reconciliation the relationship with his daughter for sure is not easy. He had faced many arguments with his daughter about everything, and more than patient to faced his daughter for the first about playing the piano, she felt that Steve played the piano every day while she was there to make Ronnie play the piano again so Steve took the initiative to hide the piano by making a barrier wall to cover the piano. as seen in the quotation below:

“What you did last night was...” she stopped, unable to put all that was going on, all that had happened, into words, “I’m old enough to make my own decision. Don’t you get that? You gave up right to tell me what to do when you walked out the door. And would you
please listen to me!”. Abruptly, her dad stopped playing. “I don’t like this little game you’re playing”. He seemed confused. “what game?”.

“This! Playing the piano every minute I’m here! I don’t care how much you want me to play! I’m never going to play the piano again! Especially not for you!”. (Sparks, 75)

And another quoted Ronnie hates the piano:

“Would you just stop with that?” she snapped. He stopped playing abruptly. “What?”. “The music you’re playing! You don’t think I recognize those pieces? I know what you’re doing, and I already told you I’m not going to play.” “I believe you,” he said “.” “They why do you keep trying to get me to change my mind? Why is it that every time I see you, you’re sitting there pounding away?”. “He seemed genuinely confused. “It has nothing to do with you,” he offered. It just … make me feel better.” “Well, it make me feel sick. Don’t you get that? I hate the piano. I hated that I had to play every single day! And I hate that I even have to see the damn thing anymore!”. (Sparks, 108)

From the quote above, you can see Ronnie’s hatred of Steve and piano, therefore Steve did something, so Ronnie did not see the piano at home and to avoid further arguments between them, As quoted:

“ What do you think? He asked Jonah

Jonah wrinkled his nose. “it looks like we built an ugly plywood wall and hung a picture on it. And you can’t play the piano anymore, either,”

“Ronnie said she didn’t want to see the piano.”

“So?”

“there’s no place to hide the piano, so I put a wall up instead. Now she doesn’t have to see it”. (Sparks, 113)

Steve loves his daughter very much, even though he has to stop playing the piano for while Ronnie still lives with him because Steve understands the reason why Ronnie hates the piano, he feels it is because he is too and he does it, in order to avoid arguing with his daughter.

4.1.2 Struggle to Believe His Daughter

One day Ronnie was surprised by Steve unexpected attitude. Because Steve should be angry at the incident, but quite the opposite. He tried to believe in his daughter. Namely, when Steve was called to the police station on charge of theft by Ronnie, that if Ronnie is found guilty she will be jailed even though she was not old enough. It is all because she had done same case when she was in New York. And if she does or is proven to have committed another case, she will be immediately jailed and that will ruin her future.

It was hard for Steve to believe at first, because with the changes Ronnie had shown during his time with him and the information her mother had told him beforehand made Steve hesitate to believe. But seeing the depressed look on his daughter's face made Steve sure that in Ronnie’s little heart there was still kindness. and Ronnie needs defence and truth. As quoted follow:

“I didn’t do it, Dad,” she repeated. “I swear to God I didn’t. you have to believe me.”

He heard the desperation in her tone but couldn’t help remembering Kim’s despair when they’d talked about Ronnie’s history.

He thought about the way she’d acted since she’d been here and considered the kinds of people she’d chosen to befriend.

Sighing, he felt what little energy he had left dissipate. Ahead, the sun was a hot and furious orange ball, and more than anything, he knew his daughter needed the truth.

“I believe you, “He said”.(118)
From the quotation above, Ronnie is grateful and relieved, because there was no nagging. Different from the way her mother would have scolded, punished her by locking her in the room. However, Steve's actions make Ronnie curious and ask why Steve would believe her. Because Steve's love of his daughter makes him do many things that Ronnie did not even expect. And the following quote below makes Ronnie slowly begin to realize Steve's kindness.

“Ronnie tucked a strand of hair behind her ear. “Dad? Can I ask you something?”

“Anything.”

“Why did you say you believed me?”. In profile, he cold see both the young woman she was becoming and the little girl he remembered.

“Because I trust you.”

“Is that why you built the wall to hide the piano?” She looked at him only indirectly. “When I went inside, it wasn’t that hard to miss.”

Steve shook his head. “No. I did that because I love you”.

Ronnie flashed a brief smile, hesitating before taking a seat beside him. (120)

From the quotation above, we can see Steve does not show his affection just with his words, but with his actions. Steve even defended Ronnie when she was in trouble. With the things Steve did make Ronnie slowly realize of his love and affection again and slowly begin to melt away.

4.1.3 Struggle to Hide the Disease

Someone must have had problems in his life, including Steve. Not only in the relationship with his daughter have problem but his body too. After his father’s death 6 years ago Steve changed, and after his father's funeral Steve felt like he was timing. Steve always had problems with his stomach; in his 20s he suffered from ulcers in his stomach and was hospitalized for diverticulation, in his 30s his appendix was removed after rupturing when Kim was pregnant with Jonah. And it turned out that what he felt that he was right, he had a hereditary disease, namely stomach cancer like his father. And doctors say that his life is only a few months less than a year.

Knowing that his life will not be long, Steve decides to use the remaining time to pass the time and hopes to be closer to his children. Steve calls Kim and tells her about his illness, and Steve also asked that their children could spend the summer with him. He hopes too Kim does not tell their children about his condition. Because Steve has no other choice, even though he knows there will be a lot of lies this summer. As the quote below:

“A day later, he called Kim. When he told her the news, she broke down on the phone, weeping into the receiver. Steve felt tightness in the back of his throat, but he didn’t cry with her, and somehow he knew he would never cry about his diagnosis again.

Later, he called her again to ask whether the kids could spend the summer with him. Though the idea frightened her, she consented. At his request, she agreed not to tell them about his condition. It would be a summer filled with lies, but what choice did he have if he wanted to get to know them again”. (363)

The reason Steve did not tell his children about his illness, so they would not worry. But the more days, Steve’s illness is getting worse. The pain that sometimes does not know the place makes Steve have to be good at lying when his with their children. Just like when he is at church with Ronnie, which makes Ronnie worry. As in the following quote :

As he played, he coughed once, then again, before stopping the song. He coughed some more, the sound thick and mucousy, and when it continued unabated, she broke into a run to reach him.

“Dad?” she cried. “Are you okay?”

He looked up, and for some reason, the coughing began to subside. By the time
she bent down next to him, he was only wheezing slightly.

“I’m okay,” he said, his voice weak. “There’s so much dust in here... it just gets to me after a while. It happens every time.”

She stared at him, thinking he looked a little pale. “Are you sure that’s it?”

“Yeah, I’m sure.” He patted her hand.

In the quote above, we can see that Steve is really making the best of his time with his children. Steve desperately endures and hides his pain by making excuses in hopes that Ronnie can trust him so Ronnie does not worry.

4.2 Effect of The Struggle

Have many effects of struggle. But for sure, sometimes the struggle can change that things to be better. Struggle can make the bad people to become good people, bad relationship to good relationship, changes the situation and making realize people to each other on their live. The effect struggle from Steve Miller makes Steve aware of the real love of God in his life, made Ronnie aware of Steve's affection and love for her, find out the causes of her parent’s divorce and makes Ronnie at peace with his daughter. From his struggles, he can reconcile the relationship with his daughter until his die and dedicates a song for his daughter.

4.2.1 Aware Of the Real Love of God

The effects of the struggles that Steve did, made him aware of God’s presence in his life. He realized the life was much like a song. Because in the beginning there is mystery, in the end there is confirmation, but it is the middle where all the emotion reside to make the whole thing worthwhile. And for the first time he realized and felt God’s blessings, love and he knew his questions had answer in his life. As in the quote below:

“For the first time in months, he felt no pain at all; for the first time in years, he knew his questions had answers. As he listened to the song that Ronnie had finished, the song that Ronnie had perfected, he closed his eyes in the knowledge that his research for God’s presence had been fulfilled”.

He finally understood that God’s presence was everywhere, at all times, and was experienced by everyone at one time, and was experienced by everyone at one time or another. It had been with him in the workshop as he’d labored over the window with Jonah; it had been present in the weeks he’d spent with Ronnie. It was present here and now as his daughter played their song, the last song they would ever share. In retrospect, he wondered how he could have missed something so incredibly obvious.

God, he suddenly understood., was love in its purest form, and in these last months with his children, he had felt His touch as surely as he had heard the music spilling from Ronnie’s hands”. (Sparks, 446)

Steve has realized the existence of God and felt the divine compassion he has been looking for. It is along with a form of love and affection for their children, as well as their children's existence for the rest of their lives.

4.2.2 Being Aware of Steve's Affection

One of the effects of Steve struggles, makes Ronnie aware of Steve love and sacrifice for her to reconcile the relationship. That struggle makes Ronnie regret and realized her mistake against Steve, namely by taking something valuable from Steve, by prohibiting Steve from playing the piano. As in the following quote:

“...”.

He started over again, making further changes, and as she watched him, she knew he was happy. Though music wasn’t part of her life anymore, it had always been part of his, and she suddenly felt guilty for taking that away from him. Looking back, she remembered being angry at the thought that he was trying to get her to play, but had he really been trying to do that? Had it really been about her? Or had he played because it was an essential aspect of who he was?
She wasn’t sure, but watching him, she felt moved by what he’d done. The serious way he considered every note and the ease with which he made changes made her realize how much he’d given up as a result of her childish demand. (Sparks, 282)

In other quotes that make Ronnie regret because her forbade Steve to play the piano. Out of Steve's affection for Ronnie and to avoid arguments between them, Steve followed his daughter's wishes to stop playing the piano. Finally Ronnie regretted what he had done to Steve and find out the reason, why Steve always played the piano when Ronnie and his sister were at home. It is all Steve done, because only by playing the piano he could divert the pain that came suddenly. It is proved as the following:

“Do you remember when you said that playing the piano made you feel better?”

Her dad nodded. He could see what was coming, and she was sure he wouldn’t wait to answer. But she had to know.

‘Did you mean that you didn’t feel the pain as much? And please tell me the truth. I’ll know if you’re lying.” Ronnie would not be deflected, not this time.

He closed his eyes briefly, then met her gaze, “Yes.”

“But you built the wall around the piano anyway?”

“Yes,” he said again.

With that, she felt her fragile composure give way. Her jaw began to quiver as she lowered her head to her head to her dad’s chest.

Her dad reached out to her. “Don’t cry,” he said. “Please don’t cry...”. (Sparks, 396)

From the quote above, we can see that Steve does not want to make Ronnie feel guilty about what she has done to Steve, because Steve did not want Ronnie to be sad. Furthermore, Steve are willing to do anything so that Ronnie can feel comfortable and happy in this summer. Although Steve had to stop playing the piano while Ronnie was inside the House, and hid the piano by building a wall so that Ronnie would not see it.

4.2.3 The Cause Of Her Parents’ Divorce

Since her parents divorced, Ronnie lives with her mother and brother. At her young age at that time she still could not accept the divorce of her parents. She thinks that her parents no longer love him and decides to become a rebel because of her disappointment. Ronnie hated her parents, especially Steve. Ronnie had thought that the divorce had happened because of Steve, and did not talk to him for three years, until finally Ronnie found out the real cause when she was arguing with her mother. As in the following quote:

For the first time, her mom seemed genuinely taken aback. When she spoken again, her voice was soft. “What exactly did your dad tell you?”

Ronnie was about to protest that it didn’t matter, but something stopped her. Her mother’s expression was so strange, almost...guilty... as if...

She stared at her mom, recognition dawning even as she spoken. “It wasn’t Dad who had the affair, was it?” she said slowly. “It was you.”

Her mother’s posture didn’t change, but she looked stricken. The realization hit Ronnie with an almost physical force.

Her mom had the affair, ot her dad. And...

The room suddenly felt suffocating as the implications became clear. “Thats why he left, isn’t it? Because he found out. But you let me believe all along that it was all his fault, that he walked out for no good reason. You pretended it was him, when it was you all along. How could you do that?” Ronnie could barely breathe.

Her mom seemed unable to speak, and Ronnie found herself wondering whether she’d ever known her mom at all.
“Was it Brian?” she suddenly demanded. “Were you cheating on Dad with Brian?”

Her mom stayed silent, and again Ronnie knew she was right. (401)

From the quote above, it can be seen Ronnie’s disappointment and annoyance towards her mother. and regretted what she had done to her father. Turns out it was not his father who left her mother but her mother who had an affair. For years she blamed her father for the mistakes her mother made.

4.2.4 Making Peace With self

A lot of things that happen in summer make Ronnie understand many things because previously Ronnie was no longer certain of anything. She had been wrong about so many things: her dad, Blaze, her mother, even Will. Ronnie thinks life is so complicated than she ever imagined as a sullen teenager in New York. But the most important thing is to be able to make Ronnie peace with himself. As in the following quote:

“She shook her head as she moved around the house, turning out the lights one by one. That life ___parade of parties and high school gossip and squabbles with her mom ___felt like another world, an existence she had only dreamed. Today there was only this: her walk on the beach with her dad, the ceaseless sound of the ocean waves, the smell of winter approaching. And the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, ad self-control”. (Sparks, 430)

From the explanation above, with all that has happened it can be understood that Ronnie has been able to accept and understand the circumstances that have occurred, change her bad attitude and the most importantly can make peace with himself.

4.2.5 Reconciliation of Relationship

Finally from the struggles, Steve was able to reconcile the relationship with his daughter. After knowing Steve's condition and the little time left, Ronnie decided to take care of Steve and felt responsible for that, even though his mother did not allow her. Ronnie felt he was old enough to decide something one of them decided not to return to New York.

As in the following quote:

“Have you finished packing yet?”. She fixed her mom with a calm but determined stare. “I’m not going back to New York with you.”

Kim put her hands on her hips. “I thought we discussed this.” ‘No,” Ronnie said evenly. “You discussed this. But I’m not coming with you.”

Her mom ignored her comment. “Ronnie crossed her of course you’re coming home,”. “I’m not going back to New York.” Ronnie crossed her arms but didn’t raise her voice.

“Ronnie . . .”. She shook her head, knowing she’d never been more serious in her life. “I’m staying and I’m not going to to discuss it. I’m eighteen now and you can’t force me to go back with you. I’m an adult and I can do what I want.”(399)

From the explanation above, we can see that Ronnie’s care for Steve has returned, and Ronnie also decided to stay and not come back to New York just to take care of Steve. When Ronnie decided to live with Steve, she simply continued on as she had before. She helped her dad when he needed help, let him be when he did not, and tried to make the most of the remaining time the had together. And when Steve felt he was stronger, they spent the weekend walking around and had dinner at one of the small restaurants overlooking the harbor.

5. CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

After having finished this research, the writers come to the conclusion that every human being in this world has his/her own
struggle to be faced. There are so many various struggles in life, in every struggle does not always go smoothly there are always tears, disappointment and failure, and it all depends on us whether to face it or to give up and avoid the struggle in our life. In Nicholas Sparks’ The Last Song expresses the struggle of life especially in one of the main character of Steve Miller.

Steve Miller describes how struggle, patient, love and affection. He is to face all the struggles in his life, more importantly struggle with his daughter for reconciliation relationship. Even though Steve has been through so many struggles in his life that make him feel guilt and sad he does not give up, he just faces all of those struggles. Struggle changes Steve to become a better person for his daughter and finally, they can have better relationship. The struggles bring good impact to them.

5.2 Suggestion

From this research, the writers have suggestions to readers:

1. To keep about literary works, because literary works deal with everything seen in real life, so it is important to read or analyse also literary works that have so many interesting part that we can find and analyze especially in a novel.

2. People should struggle in their life, and every struggle needs patience to face it. And also never give up is the key of human struggle and self-confidence is the one important thing that has to belong by the people.

3. This research can give knowledge and experience to the next researcher who interested in literature. This result of this study is also inspiring the writers to suggest the reader to get the moral lesson of human to loving the people around before becoming late and forgiving the mistakes another people or itself.

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