CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

In this chapter, firstly the writer analyzes Allie's character in this Novel *The Notebook*. By examining her character, the writer tries to gain profound knowledge about the character of Allie clearly. The writer uses New Criticism theory to analyze Allie's character. After having the fundamental background of Allie's character through studying her characterization more intensely, then this study intended to reveal why Allie's change. The second, the writer analyzes Allie's absurdism in this Novel *The Notebook*. The writer used Absurdism theory specifically Nagel's concept to guide the analysis in exposing the cause that leads Allie's changes.

3.1 Allie's characterization in Nicholas Spark's *The Notebook*

This part will explain character of Allie. As Robert states that round characters are usually the major figures in a story. The authors portrayed a major character in greater depth and more generous detail. In the novel *The Notebook*, Allie is a one of main character. It can be seen by the domination of Allie's characters in the whole story from the beginning, middle, and in the end of the story. Additionally, Allie has influenced the whole plot of the story because the story tells about everything related with Allie.

As Nurgiyantoro states that the main character in the story may be more than one person, although its superiority level is not the same. Their superiority is determined by dominance, mostly appearance and influence toward the whole development in the story. We know that the main character is not only one in this novel because this novel tells about romantic love between one woman and two men. There are two others characters as a main character in the novel that supports Allie in the whole plot; they are Noah Calhoun and Lon Hammond. In other word, they contribute completely from the beginning up to the end of the story.

The author has some various techniques to know Allie's character in the story. As Perrine says that there are two methods that often used by author to portray the character in literary work, those are direct and indirect characterization. Direct presentation tells us straight out, by exposition or analysis, what the character are like, or have someone else in the story tells us what they are like. In indirect presentation the authors shows us the characters in action; what they are like from what they think or say or do.

Allie Nelson is also seen as round character because she shows some changes in significant way throughout of the work. The story cannot be understood without presentation of the character Allie. As Abraham stated that round character is complex in temperament and motivation and it is represented with subtle particularity; such as character is as difficult to describe with any adequacy as a person in real life, and like real persons, is capable of surprising us.

The author describes in the story that Allie is a perfect woman who comes from an upper-class. She is twenty nine years old and she is the only child of her parents in family. She has perfect body, smart, intelligent, and beautiful. She had

been called beautiful since she was a young girl, and once she was naked, she looked at herself in the mirror.(48)

Her father works in Tobaco firm. As the daughter of well-to-do parents, Allie's primary responsibility is to be prim and proper. Every day, she practices piano, studies French, and does all the other activities becoming of a well-off young lady.

She was pretty still, with thick hair and soft eyes, and she moved so gracefully that it almost seemed as though she were gliding. He'd seen beautiful women before, though, women who caught his eye, but to his mind they usually lacked the traits he found most desirable. Traits like intelligence, confidence, strength of spirit, passion, traits that inspired others to greatness, traits he aspired to himself (93). Fin told him she was spending the summer in New Bern with her family because her father worked for R. J. Reynolds, and though he only nodded. (36)

Furthermore, Allie is portrayed as a woman who is more concerned with the family name in marriage, because she lives in a society that has the same view.

She understood his vigorous pursuit of success, for her father and most of the men she met in her social circle were the same way. Like them, he'd been raised that way, and in the caste system of the South, family name and accomplishments were often the most important consideration in marriage. In some cases, they were the only consideration (46).

From the quotation above, she chooses a husband who is successful and comes from upper-class. She understands that love in marriage is not important; she considers that family name is most important. She knows it from her father and some men from her society that they try hard to make their name become respectable.

The author portrays Allie as a painter. She has learned painting since a child. When she was young, she began to study more deeply in painting.

"I remember being unable to stop painting after I went home that summer. I think it was my way of avoiding the pain I was going through. Anyway, I ended up majoring in art in college because it was something I had to do; I remember spending hours in the studio all by myself and enjoying every minute. I loved the freedom I felt when I created, the way it made me feel inside to make something beautiful. Just before I graduated, my professor, who happened to also be the critic for the paper, told me I had a lot of talent. He told me I should try my luck as an artist. But I didn't listen to him." (133)

From the quotation above, it is clear that she likes painting very much. She feels free when she creates some sketch. She spent hours in the studio and she feels very joyfully with it. Moreover, her professor said that she has talented to become an artist.

She leaves the activities that are considered inappropriate for a woman from upper-class even though she has talented. That activity is painting.

"My parents didn't think it was proper for someone like me to paint for a living. I just stopped after a while. I haven't touched a brush in years." (134).

From the quotation above, her mother considers that painting is not proper for her. Although she likes painting very much, but when her mother said this is inappropriate for her, she just stops after a while. Now, she is not sure if she can paint anymore because it's been a long time. Her mother also prohibits her daughter to have relationship with man from lower-class. When she knows her daughter has relationship with Noah from lower-class, she was angry.

Her mother had never really accepted what had happened the summer they'd spent here and wouldn't accept it now, no matter what reason she gave. (50)

She has no choice except to return with her family to Winston-Salem. Noah writes a letter to Allie every day. But the letter he wrote when unanswered. In fact, her mother keeps Noah's letter because she does not want Allie has relationship again with him.

The author portrays Allie as a sociable woman. She likes become a popular. She likes to become a center of attention.

Allison Nelson, twenty-nine years old and engaged, a socialite, searching for answers she needed to know, (81)

Occasionally she felt like running away with Lon to get married without the fuss. But she knew he wouldn't agree; like the aspiring politician she was, she loved being the center of attention (73).

It was Wednesday, which meant bridge at the country club, then on to the Junior Women's League, where they would probably be arranging another fund-raiser for the private school or hospital. After that, a visit with her mother, then home to get ready for dinner with Lon, because he made it a point to leave work by seven. (181).

Although she is a woman from upper-class, she still cares with other people. She and her friends make some agenda of charities that can help other people. Allie volunteers as a nurse to help wounded World War II veterans.

Allie talked about going to college, painting, and her hours spent volunteering at the hospital. She talked about her family and friends and the charities she was involved with. Neither of them brought up anybody they had dated since they'd last seen each other (144).

The author portrayed her as the romantic woman. She likes a quiet atmosphere, warm with a beautiful view and it makes her comfortable.

She always loved evenings like this, evenings where the faint aroma of autumn leaves rode on the backs of soft southern winds. She loved the trees and the sounds they made. Listening to them helped her relax even more (104).

She wanted something else, something different, and something more. Passion and romance, perhaps, or maybe quiet conversations in candlelit rooms, or perhaps something as simple as not being second. (150)

She wants to make their relationship become romantic. She hopes that her fiance can make their relationship more romantic. She likes candlelit dinner, passion, a good quality time without disturb from his works and something simple that can make a situation to be romantic.

Based on the explanation about the characterization of Allie above, it discloses how Allie's personality and behavior is. This study of main character's characterization can lead to disclose Allie's personality and behavior. It shows the alteration of Allie's behavior throughout the story.

Allie is perfect woman who comes from upper-class. She is high-class, socialite, and romantic. In the beginning of story, she feels insecure with her felling. She is type of women who considers family name in marriage. Meanwhile, when the story comes near its ending, it is detected that Allie is such kind woman who has good manner, and charitable. It is provide when she makes some agenda of charities, and she also becomes a volunteer in the hospital.

3.2 Absurdity in love

Based on the discussion of Allie's characterization above, Allie is a sociable woman who is more concerned with the upper-class life. Allie's life is like most other women. Unfortunately, love story of Allie becomes absurd because her choice is not normally like another woman. In the following analysis, this study will discuss about absurdity in love of Allie by using absurdity theory of Nagel.

Nagel argued that there are grounds for supposing that there is a general and inevitable discrepancy between pretension and aspiration (what we think should be happening) and reality (what really is happening), and thus that our lives are absurd. The pretension of main character, Allie, is to have a perfect husband. She wants to have a husband from upper-class, and has a prestigious Job. Allie's character is sociable, she didn't want her husband have different class with her.

She takes a choice to engage with Lon. She meets with Lon when she becomes a volunteer at the hospital downtown.

He was handsome, intelligent, and driven, a successful lawyer eight years older than she, and he pursued his job with passion, not only winning cases, but also making a name for himself (44). He was a gentleman, both mature and responsible, and during those terrible periods of the war when she needed someone to hold her, he never once turned her away. She felt secure with him; and knew he loved her as well, and that was why she had accepted his proposal (45).

From the quotation above, Lon is a perfect as a man. He is gentleman, responsible, and has a good job. Not only that, he also comes from upper-class. He can make himself to be a successful man. The most important he loves Allie very much. From all of this, Allie agrees to engage with him.

Her family also likes him and treats him well as their daughter's future husband. Lon can convince Allie's family by his appearance and social status. Lon can make successful himself, from this her parents think that he can make her daughter be a good wife and can fulfill her needs.

Allie's think Lon is a man that she wants. She thinks that all of her pretension of love is Lon. Allie is also sure that she will be his wife someday. She believes that Lon becomes a good husband, good father for her child. She is also certain that Lon can fulfill all she needs and their life will be perfect.

He would be a kind husband to her, and she would be a good wife. She would have a home near friends and family, children, a respectable place in society. It was the kind of life she'd always expected to live, the kind of life she wanted to live (208).

From the quotation above, when she would be her wife, she would have a home near from her family, her friends, respectable place in society. We can see that all of this is that she wants to her life. So, she tries to make them become a real.

There is no barrier between Allie and Lon. They also do not have any problem. Their family of both supports them. Their relationship runs like most other couples. They love each other. They keep in touch after they finished work. Moreover, Allie is the first to be on the phone with Lon if he has finished his work.

He thought about her then. He loved her, he was sure of that. Not only was she beautiful and charming, but she'd become his source of stability and best friend as well. After a hard day at work, she was the first person he would call. She would listen to him, laugh at the right moments, and had a sixth sense about what he needed to hear (163).

Allie and Lon come from a family of upper-class so they will make a lavish wedding.

Almost five hundred people were invited, including the governor, one senator, and the ambassador to Peru. It was too much, in her opinion, but their engagement was news and had dominated the social pages since they had announced their plans six months ago (73).

From the quotation above, she loves the lavish wedding. Although she feels that it was too much. Moreover their engagement has become hot news in the newspapers and magazine and this is not surprising to Allie because Lon's family is one of the most powerful and influential families in the state. Their marriage preparation had prepared six months before the wedding.

Unfortunately, their pretension is not as expected. Her first trouble happens when she go to New Barn to see Noah. When she reads in the newspaper about Noah, Allie decided to meet with him. Allie feels her relationship with him is unfinished. Allie needs Noah to know about her engagement, to understand, and to finish her problem with him at the past. Three days after she reads this news, she goes to the Noah's house.

Allison Nelson, twenty-nine years old and engaged, a socialite, searching for answers she needed to know, and Noah Calhoun, the dreamer, thirty-one, visited by the ghost that had come to dominate his life (81). A compulsion had driven her here, and for the first time in three weeks the feeling was gone. She'd needed Noah to know about her engagement, to understand, to accept it—she was sure of that now (107).

Allie does not want Lon to know about Noah. Allie is lying with Lon, she said that she wants to go to New Barn because she wants to visit some antique shops and she needs a break from planning the wedding because she feels

nervous. In this moment it is the right way to lie with Lon because she feels afraid to say the reality. She feels bad about the lie with Lon, she thinks that it is not fair to ask him to understand.

Lon didn't know the real reason she left the following morning. The week before, she'd hinted to him that she might want to visit some antique shops near the coast. "It's just a couple of days," she said, "and besides, I need a break from planning the wedding." She felt bad about the lie but knew there was no way she could tell him the truth. Her leaving had nothing to do with him, and it wouldn't be fair of her to ask him to understand (43).

Noah is her ex-boyfriend. In the past, they met in the Tobaco Firm in the opening night of Neusal River Festival. At that time, Allie was spending the summer with his family. He liked Allie when he first saw her. Unfortunately, Allie ignored Noah's attention. She looked unpleasant with Noah's presence. It was a kind of challenge for Noah to be closer to Allie. Noah is very successful. Just in a day, they finally have relationship. They even spend their summers together.

It was just after graduation 1932, the opening night of the Neuse River Festival. The town was out in full, enjoying barbecue and games of chance. It was humid that night—for some reason he remembered that clearly. He arrived alone, and as he strolled through the crowd, looking for friends, he saw Fin and Sarah, two people he'd grown up with, talking to a girl he'd never seen before. She was pretty, he remembered thinking, and when he finally joined them, she looked his way with a pair of hazy eyes that kept on coming. "Hi," she'd said simply as she offered her hand, "Finley's told me a lot about you." (36)

Noah is common man from lower class. Unlike Allie, Noah is from in completed family. His mother passed away when he was a child. It makes his life to become different.

After his mother died, he could remember spending his days in a dozen different homes, and for one reason or another, he stuttered badly as a child and was teased for it. He began to speak less and less, and by the age of five, he wouldn't speak at all (56).

Within a few months Noah was speaking again, though not well, and his father decided to teach him to read with books of poetry. "Learn to read this aloud and you'll be able to say anything you want to." His father had been right again, and by the following year, Noah had losthis stutter (57).

From the quotation above, Noah cannot speak because his trauma with her mother dies. When he was in the school, his teacher thought he was retarded and recommended that he be pulled out of the school. Instead, his father took matters into his own hands. He teaches him to read poetry. By the following years Noah can speak again. He has been reading poetry ever since.

He does not have a prestigious job. He works as a labor on the wooden fence in property. When he was twenty-six, the war began, and he becomes an army.

The home sat on twelve acres adjacent to Brices Creek, and he'd worked on the wooden fence that lined the other three sides of the property, checking for dry rot or termites, replacing posts when he had to. He still had more work to do on it, especially on the west side, and as he'd put the tools away earlier he'd made a mental note to call and have some more lumber delivered. (25)

He spent his next three years with Patton's Third Army, tramping through deserts in North Africa and forests in Europe with thirty pounds on his back, his infantry unit never far from action. (67)

After he spent three years in the Patton's Third Army, he returns to New Bern. Noah worries about her father, but his father tells him not to worry, assuring him that he has flu. Less than one month later his father was died of pneumonia and was buried next to his wife in the local cemetery.

In there she became remember their relationship in the past. Noah can make Allie feel comfortable with him. He brings Allie to the beautiful place and he reads a poem for her.

"Poets often describe love as an motion that we can't control, one that verwhelms logic and common sense. That's what it was like for me. I didn't an on falling in love with you, and I doubt if you planned on falling in love with me. But once we met, it was clear that neither of us could control what was happening to us. We fell in love, despite our differences, and once we did, something rare and beautiful was created. For me, love like that has happened only once, and that's why every minute we spent together has been seared in my memory. I'll never forget a single moment of it"

Allie stared at him. No one had ever said anything like that to her before. Ever. She didn't know what to say and stayed silent, her face hot. (202)

From this poet, He can make Allie falls in love again with him. With Noah by her side, she can forget Lon for a while. She just lets the moment like the water flows. She feels relax when she spends a time with Noah.

She felt strangely satisfied that she'd come, pleased that Noah had turned into the type of man she'd thought he would, pleased that she would live forever with that knowledge. She had seen too many men in the past few years destroyed by war, or time, or even money. It took strength to hold on to inner passion, and Noah had done that (205).

She felt offense when she spends a time with Noah but her mind is thinking about Lon. She convinces herself that is more proper for her.

Allie, too, was thinking. About Noah, about herself, about a lot of things. For a moment she wished she weren't engaged but then quickly cursed herself. It wasn't Noah she loved; she loved what they once had been. Besides, it was normal to feel this way. Her first real

love, the only man she'd ever been with—how could she expect to forget him? (129)

From the quotation above, Allie tries to convince her mind. She can lie with her felling that Lon and Noah is very different, Allie feels more comfortable with Noah.

We cannot live without energy and attention, without making choice which showing us to take some things more seriously than others. Allie makes choice that she will accept Lon as her husband. But, now she doubts about it and makes her love absurd. It is absurd because we ignore the doubts that we know cannot be settled, continuing to live with nearly undiminished seriousness in spite of them (Nagel, 719).

When she with Lon there would be no surprises, nothing to make her suspicious, she feels something missing in their relationship.

"Lon's handsome, charming, and successful, and most of my friends are insanely jealous. They think he's perfect, and in a lot of ways he is. He's kind to me, he makes me laugh, and I know he loves me in his own way." She paused for a moment, collecting her thoughts. "But there's always going to be something missing in our relationship." (126)

She knew this was why he was successful, and part of her respected him for that. But she also sensed it wasn't enough. She wanted something else, something different, and something more. Passion and romance, perhaps, or maybe quiet conversations in candlelit rooms, or perhaps something as simple as not being second. (150)

From the quotation above, When Allie with Lon, she does not feel something special, it looks like usual. Lon does not make she same that Noah does. Allie wants to something different from Lon, a case of something more romantic.

Allie is a type of romantic woman; she wants everything to be a romantic. But, Lon is hard worker, almost the whole day to work. Both of them are very busy with their work and they will spend time together when they have day off. Allie knew Lon worked hard to establish his name and their future, but Allie feels something missing with Lon.

But the more important part of his success came from hard work. He had always paid attention to details, especially when he'd begun his practice. Little things, obscure things, and it had become a habit now (161).

The sense that life as a whole is absurd arise when we perceive, perhaps dimly, an inflated pretension or aspiration which is inseparable from the continuation of human life and makes its absurdity inescapable, short of escape from life itself. She became flustered with her feeling. Allie's love Lon and want to be her wife, but she also loves Noah. It is not a fair if she wants Noah and Lon, she must decide to choose one of them to be her husband.

She shook her head then, knowing she wasn't being completely fair. She loved Lon, and always had, for other reasons. Though he wasn't Noah, Lon was a good man, the kind of man she'd always known she would marry (207).

Life does not consist of a sequence of activities each of which has as its purpose some late member of the sequence (Nagel, 717). What people think of well-being does not mean same in different time and space. Allie prefers to choose Noah even though he does not have good job. For upper-class perspective, Noah's job is nothing compared to Lon's position. Allie does not earn good money for her life. Allie will also be excluded from respected society.

Noah wants their relationship to be exposed. He wants to have Allie completely. So, Allie must break up with her fiancé because Noah is not like an educated person who thinking a lot to find a wise way to leave somebody. Noah just thinks about himself. Noah felt tightness in his stomach. When he finally spoke his voice was steady, but she could hear the pain in it. "You're not going to tell him about us, are you?" "I don't know. I really don't (268).

It is different with Allie. She must consider about not only about Lon's feeling but also her family. She has to find a smooth way in order to avoid hurting other people. She must try hard to convince Lon that her choice is the best for her.

"But I also want a happy ending without hurting anyone. And I know that if I stayed, people would be hurt. Especially Lon. I wasn't lying when I told you that I love him. He doesn't make me feel the same way you do, but I care for him, and this wouldn't be fair to him. But staying here would also hurt my family and friends. I would be betraying everyone I know. I don't know if I can do that. (269)

With Noah, Allie gets new experience. She feels she is treated as an important person in someone's life. She never has this experience before. So far, her relationship with Lon is like a very mature couple who trust each other. It does not need different way to say how they love each other.

She then understands that love can be expressed with various ways. Being angry is also an expression of love. Noah is anger to Allie's slow decision is also an expression of love. Noah was angry with her because she is still confused about her feeling. Allie realized that he had to take a decision.

"You can't live your life for other people. You've got to do what's right for you, even if it hurts some people you love." "I know," she said, "but no matter what I choose I have to live with it. Forever. I

have to be able to go forward and not look back anymore. Can you understand that?" (269)

Unfortunately, their relationship is not sanctioned by Allie's parents. Allie's parents feel that Noah is inappropriate with Allie.

Most of the summer, she had to make excuses to her parents whenever they wanted to see each other. It wasn't that they didn't like him—it was that he was from a different class, too poor, and they would never approve if their daughter became serious with someone like him. "I don't care what my parents think, I love you and always will," she would say. "We'll find a way to be together." (60)

Based on the quotation above, Noah came from a different class with her and to poor for them. Her parents do not want Allie to get married with him. They think that Noah would not make Allie happy. But Allie does not care about it. She loves Noah very much and wants to spend all of her time with him.

She thinks that her love is complicated. She love Lon came from upperclass Lon, and she also Noah came from lower-class. Even though she choose Noah instead of Lon, she still feel confuse of her feeling. She realizes that she make hurts Lon's feeling if she chooses Noah.

Her mother, Anne Nelson, knows that her daughter has confused with her feeling. She comes to Noah's house because she assumes her daughter in there.

"I knew you would be here," Anne Nelson said to her daughter as the three of them sat around the coffee table in the living room. "How could you be so sure?" "You're my daughter. One day when you have kids of your own, you'll know the answer." She smiled, but her manner was stiff, and Noah imagined how difficult this must be for her. "I saw the article, too, and I saw your reaction. I also saw how tense you've been during the last couple of weeks, and when you said you were going shopping near the coast, I knew exactly what you meant." (258)

Her expectation is right; she can see her daughter in there. She tells to her that Lon looking for her. He remembers her mother tells him about Noah a long time ago. He assumes that you go to the New Bern to see Noah. Her mother asks her about what she really wants to whom the one you love exactly? Allie said that she love Noah very much. She also loves Lon but in different way. Lon does not make her feels the way Noah does. Her mother suggests that she must think what exactly she wants in her love.

"I can't make this decision for you, Allie, this one's all yours. I want you to know, though, that I love you. And I always will. I know that doesn't help but it's all I can do." (263)

Love story between womenfolk from high-class and a common man from lower-class rarely happend in live. Allie is a countess from high-class and she choose Noah from Lower class to live forever with him. Their love story become absurd because is not suitable with her expectation.

Nagel stated, "Many people's lives are absurd, temporarily or permanently, for conventional reasons having to do with their particular ambitions, circumstances, and personal relations" (718). The reason of Allie in her absurdity is related to her personal relationship. She does it since she believes her life does not find the meaning so far. She thinks that her life like usual. She takes the risk by choosing Noah who has different class with her. She convinces Lon who is mad of her choice and tries to make him understand Allie's situation and feeling.

Allie tries hard not to hurt other people. She attempts to find a nice way to tell people around her that she wants to change her ambitions. She convinces her parents who are mad of her choice. She also must look for elegant way to make Lon listens to her condition.

I know you cared for him. And his reaction proves to me he cared for you as well. No, he could not understand losing you, but how could he? Even as you explained that you had always loved me, and that it wouldn't be fair to him, he did not release your hand. I know he was hurt and angry, and tried for almost an hour to change your mind, but when you stood firm and said, "I can't go back with you, I'm so sorry," he knew that your decision had been made. You said he simply nodded and the two of you sat together for a long time without speaking. And when he finally walked you to your car, you said he told you that I was a lucky man. He behaved as a gentleman would, and I understood then why your choice was so hard (328).

Allie's change is suitable with Nagel's prediction that person finds himself in absurd situation, he will usually attempt to change it, by modifying his aspirations, or by trying to bring reality into better accord with them, or by removing himself from the situation entirely. Allie does not take the last, but she takes the first and second decision. She thinks that her aspiration is not suitable with the reality.

She modifies her aspiration from a prominent man into a common man. It is not easy to Allie to change her aspiration. She knows that Noah is not from Upper-class and he does not have prestigious Job like Lon. But, Noah can make her love him very much. Noah is unpredictable. He often surprises Allie in many ways. It makes Allie's life so colorful.

Allie also tries to bring reality into better accord with her. She convinces everyone about her choice. Of course her family disagrees about her decision to marry with Noah and cancels her engagement with Lon. Allie tries to convince

her parents about her decision are a one of way how Allie keeps her relationship with Noah. She tries to convinces, and her mother can understand what her daughter feeling. Finally, her family and Lon can understand and agree with her choice. Even so, they do not run their love smoothly. They have some quarrel so then their relationship is so dynamic.

For other people, her choice seems so absurd because she bets her wellbeing future husband for a common man. But, she takes the risk of her decision to change her aspiration or pretension that is her love to a common man.

