CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Literature spring from our inborn love of telling a story, of arranging words in pleasing patterns, of expressing in words some special aspect of our human experience (Harlow and moody, 1968:2). Another expert said that literature is a kind of art, usually written which offer pleasure and illumination (Kennedy, 1987:5). Based on that definition, the similarity of the *literature* definition is the existence of a *pleasure feeling*, thus, it can be concluded that literature brings a pleasure. That is why; literature is never die to be studied or to be discussed.

The reader will get the pleasure, the greatest satisfaction in reading literature. As Harlow & Moody stated:

> ''The greatest pleasure and satisfaction to be found in literature occurs where (as it so often does) it brings us back to the realities of human situation, problems, feelings and relationship. And all of us who read   works of literature will find our knowledge of human affairs broadened and deepened, whether in the individual, the social, the racial or the international sphere: we shall understand the possibilities of human life, both for good and evil; we shall u8nderstand how we came to live at a particular time and place, with all its pleasure and vexations and problems; we shall understand the ways onwards which are open to us, and we shall perhaps be able to make right rather than wrong choices (Harlow and   moody, 1968:2)''.

From the statement above we know that by reading literature we can get the satisfaction due to it describes all aspects of human life. It happened because in

literature, an author can describe various aspects of life based on their feelings and experiences. The author expression of feelings and experiences will inspire the readers about the human life.

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

In this thesis, the novel that will be discussed is one of the novels by Nicholas Spark. Nicholas Sparks is an American novelist. He was born on December 31st, 1965 in Omaha, Nebraska. He is also a screenwriter and producer. He has published seventeen novels and a non-fiction book. He is an American best-selling writer. He published 16 novels and all of his books have been New York Times bestsellers, with over 97 million copies sold worldwide, in more than 50 languages, including over 65 million copies in the United States alone. Seven of the whole of his novels have been adapted to the big screen, including *A Walk to Remember, DearJohn, The Last Song,* and most recently*, The Lucky One*. The reason why the writer choose novel by Nicholas Sparks because every work of Nicholas Sparks can make a lot women fascinated with his novels. He created his novels with the surprised in every part so when the reader gets to the end of a chapter, he or she has to read just one more chapter.

From many famous works of Nicholas Sparks, the writer is interested in discussing one of his novels that is *The Best of Me*. Its first publisher is Grand Central publishing. According to Little Brown Book Group, the book has been translated into more than 40 languages. The story also makes the reader surprised in every part of the chapter so when the reader gets to the end of the chapter, he or she has to read just one more chapter.

The Best of Me tells about the love of Amanda Collier and Dawson Cole. Their love for one another seemed to defy the reality of life in the small town of Oriental,North Carolina. Amanda is the popular Southern belle of the small town of Oriental, North Carolina, raised in an elite rich family who has high expectations and overbearing opinions but Dawson comes from a poor family. Therefore their relationship was denied by their parents. After a few years, finally they meet again for the funeral of Tuck Hostetler, the mentor who once gave shelter to their high school romance. However the situation is different; Amanda is married woman while Dawson is still being a single man. Although one of them has already got married, they still love each other so that for many times they made up a kind of an illegal dating; a togetherness that happened behind Amanda's legal spouse. The topic of *The Best of Me* novel is a love affair between Amanda Collier and Dawson Cole. The writer is interested in discussing the love affair in this novel because it also happens in real life. Besides that, the writer chooses this topic because there is no previous research has been done to this novel.

1.2. Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the study, the statements of the problem are formulated as follow:

1. How is Amanda characterized in *The Best of Me?*

2. What factors influence Amanda Collier's love affair?

1.3. Objective of Study

Based on the statement of the problem, the objectives of the study are formulated as follow:

1. To describe Amanda's characterization in *The Best of Me.*

2. To find out the factors that influence Amanda Collier's love affair.

1.4. Significant of Study

Theoretically, it is hoped that this research can be used as helpful reference in order to understand the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks. Practically, it is hoped that the result of this research will inspire other English Literature students especially the English Department students of UINSA to study more about literature or conduct a literature study to enrich the literature knowledge. Besides, the writer hopes that this study can ease the reader to understand the *The Best of Me* novel by Nicholas Sparks.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The writer focuses on discussing the Amanda' characterization only and the factors that influence her love affair. There are many problems in *The Best of*

Me that can be analyzed, but the writer will specify the discussion by choosing the problem of Amanda's Character in Nicholas Sparks' *The Best of Me.*

1.6. Method of Study

This research is descriptive qualitative one. In descriptive qualitative how the data are organized depends upon the researcher and how the data were rendered (Lambert 2). Also, it is a library-based study. It means I will make use reference such as books, article, magazines and journal either from hard copy or online ones. The researches follow the following steps:

a. Reading the novel of *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks as the primary data in order to comprehend and examine it well.

b. Selecting and collecting the data about the love affair in the novel that I have read. After I find all of the data about the love affair, I select the data about the factors that influence Amanda Collier's love affair use the theory of psychoanalysis.

c. Analyzing the data collected by connecting with the theory.

d. Making conclusion based on the result of the data analysis.

1.7. Definition of Key Term

1. Love Affair : A romantic and emotionally intense sexual or emotional relationship that may not last long that is between two people who are not married to one another (Sheri Stritof)

2. Desire : essentially mobile and has no essence, no proper object, beyond the child hallucinatory desire for the breast (Bennett and Royle 178).