

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Literature is a shadowing or imaginative depiction of life and mind into the forms and structures of language (Tarigan 3). It is also a creative activity, a work of art (Wellek and Warren 3). Perhaps literature is not definable according to whether it is fictional or imaginative, but it uses language in peculiar ways (Eagleton 2). In other words, literature is work of art that created from imaginative depiction of life or experiences which is written in form and structures of language by the author. Activities of an author (in literature), especially who has become proficient author, giving a variety of values. Value is something that arising from the actions, thoughts, and article of one's actions. So, what mentioned in a literary work could provide experience or inspiration for readers (Gie 1).

To understand the values in the literature, it requires a literary criticism. As Wellek and Warren said that every work of art is existing now, is directly accessible to observation, and is a solution of certain artistic problems whether it was composed yesterday or a thousand years ago. It cannot be analyzed, characterized, or evaluated without a constant recourse to literary critical principles (36). Literary criticism is the

discipline of interpreting, analyzing, and evaluating work of literature (Gillespie 1). One of them is psychological criticism.

Psychology is endlessly fascinating science of human mind and behavior, and it can be rewarding tool for enhancing our understanding and appreciation of literature and of ourselves (43). It is not just about understanding psychological issues of others-whether literary characters or authors or a whole story. Psychology is needed to understand or analyze many stories that have hidden motivation and makes it clear. In literary work sometimes we find characters live in their desires, anxieties, and dreams that influence characters behavior. As Freud said that the writers work out their secret desires and anxieties in fictional form. Thus, character's issues are actually writer's issues displaced in the story (44). There are many desires that do by some characters in literary work. One of them is desire to sacrifice instead of helping others.

Sacrifice involves providing a positive benefit for another individual by subordinating one's own personal goals and potentially accruing personal costs in the process (Impett and Gordon 81). It brings the concept that very close to psychological meaning in with growth is seen as giving up the smaller for the larger (Encyclopedia of Psychology and Religion 1587). There are many opinions about sacrifice. For Jung, there is definitive religious instinct in which sacrifice is made of the small personality in favor of the large. Although it is simple to describe, in practice it

involves a typically difficult struggle to let go of something yet fully known but more comprehension (1588).

One of characters that dealt with sacrifice is Savannah. Savannah Lynn Curtis is a girl, 21 years old, and student of university of North Carolina. She takes special education as her major. She lives at Lenoir. She grows in a decent family, her parents teach her to care anybody around them. She has a ranch and some horses that often to be ridden by her. When holiday is coming, she often joins volunteering program such as building a couple of house or others. She cares with an autistic boy named Alan, her neighborhood; she is known him in all her life. Since he was born, no one knew what to do with him or how through to him. She wanted to be able to help kids like Alan, and then she decided to take special education as her major in college. She is kind of true love girl; her first love was John Tyree, an army, a man who met her at beach when she was on volunteering. Her relationship with John was kind of long distant relationship.

Despite of that, their love is greater all the time. Till one day, she sent a letter that tell John that she was in love with another guy who known as her best friend, Tim. Tim was Alan's elder brother. Tim and Savannah married after Tim's parents had an accident and they were killed at that time. Actually, Tim was taking his master degree so he could not intense to take care of Alan. Then, Savannah took over taking care of Alan because she is the only one besides Tim who can take care of Alan. She decides to sacrifice herself for Alan because this condition. After a couple of months they

have been married, Tim got melanoma, a kind of cancer in his feet, so Savannah must take care of him, instead taking care of Alan.

Savannah is one of characters in a novel entitled *Dear John*. It is a romance novel that released in 2006. It is written by an American novelist named Nicholas Sparks. Nicholas Sparks is one of the world's most beloved storytellers. He was born on December 31, 1965, in Omaha, Nebraska. 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 (<http://nicholassparks.com>). *Dear John* is a lovely story. John and Savannah's story is quick, intense and care-free at the beginning but as the relationship grew, circumstances unraveled which tested their love to each other. *Dear John* gave us an idea of unconditional love, teen-sweet love and the reality of certain instances wherein you have to make the selfless decision not only for your life but also with the people you love in order to understand what love really meant. Sparks writing style is very easy, pacing was fast and I love how the story was presented to the readers. The characters were very "real" and you'll definitely connect not only to John and Savannah but to other minor characters as well (<http://thesolitarybookworm.wordpress.com>).

Because there is a few number of thesis which analyze this novel. So, I decide to analyze *Dear John*. Most of people only know Sparks's masterpiece such as *The Notebook*, which was a best-seller and hit movie. So, this thesis hopefully is able to give new color among the number of thesis especially from Sparks's works.

