



**AN ANALYSIS OF CHARACTERS AND SETTING AS REFLECTED IN
THE NOVEL *THE NOTEBOOK* BY NICHOLAS SPARKS**

THESIS

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ORIGINALITY STATEMENT

"I hereby declare that this Thesis is my own work and to the best of my knowledge it contains no materials previously published or written by another person, or substantial propotions of material which have been accepted for the award of any other educational institution, except where due acknowledgement is made in the Thesis".



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Abstract

The research aims to analyze of Characters and setting as reflected in the novel *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks. In analyzing the characters and setting the writer uses structuralism theory to find the reflected in this research. This research was done by doing close reading technique. Based on the result of the research, the writer found the characters their names are Allie, Noah, and Lon. Their characters have reflected with setting. setting as reflected are family, education, girlfriend, boyfriend, and working environment. setting in here give big influences to each other.

***Key words* : characters, setting, structuralism, reflected in the novel**

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reason for Choosing the Topic

Literary work consists of many topics or objects in it. Therefore, literary work is believed to be reflection of culture or life which is pictured beautifully in form of poem, drama and prose. *The Notebook* is a novel which is written by Nicholas Sparks who has *Message in a Bottle* and *Nights in Rodanthe*, among others. Author. Born on December 31, 1965, in Omaha, Nebraska. Nicholas Sparks wrote his first (unpublished) novel while sidelined by a sports injury. He then attended the University of Notre Dame and went into sales. Business setbacks got him writing again and in 1995 he finished *The Notebook*, which was a best-seller and later turned into a hit movie. He followed this novel with *Message in a Bottle*, *Nights in Rodanthe* and *The Longest Ride*, among others.

This novel explains about contemporary love story set in the pre- and post-World War II era. This novel tells the story of two teenage's love life. they are Noah and Allie. Here is told of the struggles of love between Noah and Allie which is not sanctioned by Allie's parents, especially her mother , Anne. Their relationship is not sanctioned because the differences in the economic status. So complicated story of their love that they are separated for fourteen years, but during the times Allie met with Lon, her mother approved her with Lon because same economic status, but Allie's heart still for Noah, and finally after a long

separation, they are reunited. It is a romantic novel and very interesting to discuss, characters among of the Novel; Allie, Noah, and Lon.

Allison Nelson (Allie) is a beautiful lady and She is studying in New York at Sarah Lawrence University and she worked as a teacher and also she had been a volunteer taking care of the soldiers who died during the war. And then As a young woman she falls in love with Noah, a boy beneath her family's social class, although, she is not getting good relationship, but because her love she waiting for a boyfriend for many years.

Allie comes from a wealthy family, with good parents. Her parents is educated person. Her parents have good work in the office, her father is as a manager. Allie has someone in the summer time but their relationship is not get license from her parents. She always waiting for someone until fourteen years.

And then, Noah Calhoun (Noah), Noah is a man who is handsome and modest stature. He always worked day and night to meet the needs of life and family. He works from one place to another, where there is a workplace that accepts a job he will try to come to work there. Noah is the type of man who is very good and she always tries to keep a girl's heart that he loved so much. Girls met when the summer. The girl he was always waiting for many years. Whatever it wants when they are going out first is always kept by Noah. He did not despair that he go back and look for the girl.

Noah was a carpenter's son who lives with his father's modest home, every day he works for he need and his father. He worked as a carpenter until employees from various places, he worked from one place to another. After he

worked as carpenter he move to worked with Goldman and then he worked as Army in Patton's Third Army, tramping through deserts in North Africa and forests in Europe with thirty pounds on his back. And then in the summer, Noah meet with Allie. He falls in love with Allie the summer after graduating from high school, and even though they go their separate ways, he never stops loving her. When she unexpectedly re-enters his life, he discovers she is engaged.

Next Lon Hammond, Jr.(Lon), Lon is a man deeply concerned with the lives of his self in a career. He always tries to force himself to look as perfect as possible and he work does should be good, so that he became more presentable. But behind that, he has outstanding personality, he is very gentle and wise when determining the attitude of a decision.

Lon is a good lawyer from a good family who will provide a good life. He is a man who comes from a wealthy family, because he led work all days in the office without knowing the time, every day he just concentrate on working in his office, every night he always comes home late at night and sometimes he fell asleep in his office, he doesnot think about her love, he always thinks about work and work.

1.2 The Objective and Scope of the Study

The objective of this research is to describe the characters of the novel and the influence of setting toward the characters. By doing the research, the writer also wants to know the motives of the characters actions and the influence of setting toward the characters. To figures out the problem above, the writer gives the limitation to analyze this research. The writer decides the scope of this

research only focuses in the characters and setting was presented in the story, without relating it the world outside of the novel and also does not relate with the author and the reader. By limiting this research, the writer can analyze this research correctly, focus, and clearly.

1.3 The Formulation of Problem

The writer wants to find the traits of the character which are found in the story. In order to get the aim of analysis, the writer makes two researchs questions that helps to analyze the object, they are:

1. How are the characters as reflected in the Novel?
2. How does the setting influence the characters in the Novel?

1.4 Review of Related Literature

1.4.1 Previous Study

The writer find some previous studies from few of people which has been discussed about this novel with a different aspect. First come from Fajarini, Yuli Andria, *Devotion in Nicholas Sparks' The Notebook (1996): An Individual Psychological Approach*. Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. 2015.

“This thesis is purposed to show the devotion of Noah Calhoun, the main character in Nicholas Sparks’: The Notebook. The object of the study of this research is to analyze the novel based on its structural elements and the devotion of Noah that deals with *inferiority feeling and compensation, striving for superiority, fictional finalism, style of life, social interest, and creative self* using an individual psychological approach. Based on individual psychology analysis the novel tells that the major character, Noah Calhoun is affected by the

psychological effect. Noah fights hard to get his true love and shows her his devotion”.

Second, the writer take from Simamora, Agreny Melisa., *An Analysis of Leading Character's Conflict in Nicholas Sparks' Novel The Notebook*. University of Sumatera Utara, Medan. 2014.

“This research more discussed about which is a kind of Allie’s conflict in her life. The conflict is devided into three such as Allie’s internal conflict, Allie’s external conflict with Noah (her boyfriend) and Allie’s external conflict with her parents. The conflict can happen because the choices cannot be fullfilled, where Allie’s parents do not agree with her decision because different status, Allie comes from a rich family and Noah comes from a poor family. It causes conflicts between her parents and Noah. The writer uses Tennyson’s theory for this thesis”.

That is the some thesis the writer found as to compare the research, and in here the writer become with a different aspect as a research. The tittle of this research is “*An Analysis of Characters and Setting As Reflected in the Novel The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks*”. In this research the writer Using Structuralism theory to analyses the characters and settings which is influence the characters of the Novel.

1.4.2 Theoretical Framework

In analyzing, *The Notebook by Nicholas Spark*. The writer finds the object of the research “the characterization and setting as reflected in the novel. This research only analyzes about how the characters and setting as reflected in the novel. So, this research only focuses on the intrinsic element without relating it to the word outside. So, In this research the writer uses Structuralism theory.

According to Roberts in his book, *Writing About Literature*, “principle of structuralism stems from the attempt to find relationships and connections among elements that appear to be separate and discrete”(269). It means that intrinsic elements of literary work have relationship to each other which it make each other cannot be self supporting.

Intrinsic elements in literary work consist of character, setting, plot, point of view, style of language and theme, the elements have connection with each other. In this research the writer only take intrinsic elements that give big influence to the main character's is character and setting.

So the writer uses definition which can help in studying the existence of the character. According to Roberts (1964:53):

“A character is a verbal representation of a human being presented to us by authors through the depiction, through action, speech, description and commentary. Author portrays characters who are worth caring about, rooting for and loving, although there are also characters you may dislike, laugh at, or even hate”.

Based on this quotation character in a story is a figure who is described as having how human personality and portrayed through the character interactions with each other and through the actions in story. Roberts's state about setting:

Setting is “a work's natural, manufactured, political, cultural, and temporal environment, including everything that characters know and own. Characters may be either helped or hurt by their surroundings. And they may fight about possessions and goal. Further, as characters speak with

each other, they reveal the degree to which they share the customs and ideal of their time,”(108).

It means setting is all the things that are around the characters, it can be tangible or intangible that influence the personality of the characters. Based on the meaning of setting, the writer takes a point of setting. These are natural, manufactured, political, cultural, and temporal environment. According to the Cambridge Dictionary Online, Natural is “as found in nature and not involving anything made or done by people”. And then Manufactured is “make or produce goods in large quantities or using machinery (Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary). Political in Cambridge Dictionary Online has a meaning is “relating to politics”. Cultural is “relating to the habits, traditions, and beliefs of a society (Cambridge Dictionary Online). Temporal environment is “relating to practical matters or physical things, rather than spiritual ones, the air, water, and land in or on which people, animals, and plants live (Cambridge Dictionary Online).

1.5 Method of Research

For this research the writer has chosen the novel entitled *The Notebook* by *Nicholas Sparks* as the object of the research to understand the text the writer uses close reading technique. Jacobus states that:

“Close reading takes the form of writing, discussion or silent observation, should be based on questioning the text. Close reading requires that you take the text seriously enough to study it, to read and read it, search for details that might otherwise go unobserved, examine the text for special

words and term and refer to the dictionary to be sure of their meaning when necessary".(6)

It means that the writer reads the text several time as far as the writer catches the intention of the author through the novel. After the writer understands or comprehends the meaning of the text, the writer collects the data that supports the research and then the writer analyzes the data based on structuralism theory.