

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Ambition is a strong desire to achieve success in life and achieve the great or good things desired. Roy (2011) defines ambition as an ardent desire to attain success in life such as personal advancement, fame, power, rank, or position. It suggests that ambition is a positive driving force which motivates people to be enthusiastic in their life because there are goals they want to attain. A person's ambition cannot be seen in the real world or everyday life but can also be seen through depictions in stories such as novels. Usually, the author makes ambition as one of the themes in a novel to make the story more interesting. The Notebook written by Nicholas Sparks also describes the ambitions of protagonist Noah Calhoun.

The Notebook is a romantic novel in 1996 and it was written by Nicholas Sparks. Nicholas Charles Sparks born in December 31, 1965 and he is an American novelist and screenwriter. Sparks lives in North Carolina. At age 15, Sparks had read more than a hundred books a year and from the books he read, Sparks learned something. He learned how famous writers built into a story.

The Notebook was the first novel Sparks wrote in and published in 1996. Interestingly, the book was completed in six months, when starting at the young age of 28. Nicholas Sparks is a romantic love story writer whose works are loved by readers all over the world. All of his novels have become New York Best Sellers and have been translated into 50 languages. To date, Sparks' novels have sold more than 105 million copies worldwide.

The Notebook talks about Noah Calhoun a poor man and his relationship with Allie Nelson. The story begins with Noah who surprisingly turns out to be reading his diary in the hope that Allie can remember herself and their past, because Allie is currently suffering from Alzheimer's. Noah Calhoun falls in love with a girl named Allie Nelson, after meeting them at a carnival on Seabrook Island, South Carolina. Unfortunately, Allie's parents didn't agree because Noah was not from their family and asked to end their relationship immediately. After they separated Noah managed to buy the old house of his dreams then renovated the old house according to his promise to Allie when they were dating, and Allie came to visit him in New Bern after reading the news about Noah in the newspapers. During the years they were apart, it turned out that Noah had written many letters to Allie, but Allie did not reply to any of the letters because Allie's mother had hidden the letter from Noah so that it would not reach Allie's hands.

The writer decided to analysis about ambition in the novel because every individual must have desires and ambitions to be achieved. Ambition is not only always associated with bad things, but also into good thing when done in a good way. Ambition makes a person moves forward to achieve something with a good cause. It can be a moral lesson for there who read this study. Noah Calhoun, who comes from a poor family, is ambitious and never gives up to defend his first love despite many obstacles.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background above, the problem of this study are formulated as follows.

1. What type of ambitions are found in Nicholas Sparks' novel *The Notebook*?
2. How are the protagonist's ambitions in Nicholas Sparks' novel *The Notebook*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of this research is to get the answer of the question in the statement of the problem. Then, there are two objectives proposed to be conducted in this study, namely:

1. To reveal the protagonist's ambitions in love in Nicholas Sparks' novel *The Notebook*.
2. To show how the protagonis's ambitions in love depicted in Nicholas Sparks' novel *The Notebook*.

1.4 Scope of the Study

In writing the thesis, the scope is to make the analysis stand by the topic that has already been chosen. This study is limited on what and how the protagonist's fulfill his ambition in love find in the novel, written by Nicholas Sparks. Other topics have no relation to the analysis will not be included.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is to increase knowledge in literary research, especially novels. In addition, this thesis also provides several benefits for readers, especially to add information, increase knowledge as well as ambition in love and the author also hopes that this research can provide literature review for those who are interested in the work about ambition.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Protagonist

A protagonist has an important role to run the plot in a literary work, especially in a novel. The protagonist always becomes the opposite of the antagonist as stated by Beckson and Ganz (1990: 217) that a protagonist is the first actor, who plays the leading part. This definition is in line with Cuddon (2013: 565) protagonist is the first actor in the play thence the principal actor or character. Abrams (1999: 224) also says that the protagonist (or conversely, the hero or heroine) is the head of the character in a plot, who is the center of our attention. It is also a type of character which usually becomes the center of the story plot.

A protagonist has an important role to run the plot. As stated by Baldick (2001: 157), originally in ancient Greek theatre, the protagonist is the principal actor in a drama. Hall (2013:70) says that protagonist is who the story is about. He also states the protagonist pursues the goal of the story who, sometimes, is played by the main character. Main character represents the audience's eyes into the story because he or she will effect the audience emotionally.

Nurgiyantoro (2002: 178-181) states that the protagonist is the main player who supports the principal idea in the story and usually has a specific plan and purpose. The protagonist represents the good and the praiseworthy, because it can attract the sympathy of the reader. Nurgiyantoro (2010: 176-177) also says that protagonist is a character whose storytelling is prioritized in the novel concerned. He is the character who is mostly told, both as the perpetrator of the incident and the one who was

affected by the incident. He also adds that the protagonist characters show some things that suits our views.

Based on some understandings of protagonist above, a protagonist can be defined as the leading character or one of the major characters in a drama, movie, novel, or other fictional text. The protagonist is also a character who drives the plot, pursuing the main goal of the story. Protagonists are often thought of as the point of view character, because readers follow them and their exploits throughout the story. This shows that the protagonist is very influential in the course of a story, both in novels and in other literary works.

2.2 Definitions of Ambition

Everyone who lives in this world must have ambition in his life. Some people keep working hard to achieve their ambition. Ambition can become positive and become negative. It is positive when to reach out a goal or dreaming without disturbing or damaging other people and it becomes negative when people take the wrong way to make their dreams become reality. The ambition, in some cases, purposes achievements, skills developments, and self-competencies. However, ambition sometimes rewards people such as honor, money, wealth, power, and fame.

Bridge (2010:04) stated, “Ambition is the desire to make the most of your potential to achieve something special, which would make a profound difference to your life and to those of others, whether that is through success, achievement or distinction.” It means that, everyone must have the desire to be achieved, the desire to be better in a certain field, for example in a career or studies. This desire can be realized with success or achievement. Success will make a person proud and complacent.

Kurtus (2007) defines that ambition provides inspirations, responsibility and discipline. By having ambition, people do not easily give up. It inspires them to find ways to attain their goal. They become critical and analytical. Ambition also encourages them to dare to take risk for that. It shapes them to be responsible.

Gallozzi (2011) supports that ambition grants energy and willingness for people. When people have ambition, they automatically have aim in their life. It drives them to be persistent. They keep working hard and moving on in order to attain that.

Ambition is a desire or passion that is passionate to get what we want, such as the desire of someone who is great to achieve something in his life or do something to achieve good goals with his desires then it is called with ambition (Moputi & Husain, 2018: 7). According to Murray (1938) in Mupoti & Husain (2018: 7), ambition needs are related to the need for achievement and recognition. The need for achievement is often expressed by succeeding, achieving goals, and overcoming obstacles. The need for recognition is met by gaining social status and displaying achievements. Sometimes the ambition needs even involve a need for exhibition or the desire to shock and thrill other people.

The ambition is motivational formation and represents aspiration of a person to be a significant and a recognized personality to others for real achievements, important both for person and for other people (Barsukova, 2014). In other words, the ambition is a desire of the person to improve the status, position in the world; to find popularity, glory, power; to succeed, reach a certain result and heights. Ambition is the force which makes a person move ahead and reach any heights on a promotional and social ladder. (Barsukova et al, 2015: 2)

Barsukova (2011) says that ambition as aspiration means the subject, an ambitious person; other person or other people, whose recognition the ambitious person seeks; self-reflection, self-assessment (Self-intimate); the purpose, achievement of recognition and importance which are shown in achievement of the power, glory, success (social or career) and so forth. (I-want and/or I-must); position and the status of a person in social hierarchy (I-real). Ambition is often seen as an individual characteristic, as a personality trait that makes it possible to distinguish between ambitious and non-ambitious individuals (Bicknell and Liefoghe, 2006; Judge et al., 1995 in Benschop et al, 2013: 702-703).

2.2.1 Types of Ambition

Every human in this world has an ambition which has different purposes with different purpose, the ambition also has different types of ambition. Arvidson & Lyon (2010) says that, there are two types of ambition which is extrinsic and intrinsic.

2.2.1.1 Extrinsic Ambition

Ambition can take the form of either extrinsic ambition (goals and desires that are focused on external rewards) For example, a musician who is motivated by extrinsic rewards such as awards, charts, money, and the lure of recognition/fame. Their work is driven by these desires and their success is determined by whether or not they achieve them. The extrinsically ambitious see what has gone before they look the model and paths to follow so that they can succeed too. They fit into the system. The system will create their success. Yet the system often rewards the outliers. Those who ignore the extrinsic honor because of the fact that they are the ones willingness push the boundaries of possibility.

2.2.1.2 Intrinsic Ambition

They are driven by the desire to create something they want to create and their success is determined only by their own ability or motivation. Goals are not reliant on other people/factors to validate or define their success.

For example a musician who focusses on goals that mean something to them as an individual. Ambition is the persistent and generalized striving for success, attainment, and accomplishment, and innovation brings fresh thinking and actions upon the way someone leads, manages, and works.

2.3 Love

Love often leads on to ambition, but seldom does one return from ambition to love. Ambition in love is essential as it keeps things exciting and lively between the couple. Before start to achieve the ambition make sure that the ambition is measurable. Make sure that the ambition is something you love, because achieve something which is loved will be easier and more enjoyable.

Martin (2019: 271) states that love is about self-forming and building a shared identity with loved ones. He also adds that love can be the merging of two individuals into one. Individuals who love then absorb all things and forms from the person he loves.

Hoesni et al (2013) say that love, a widely discussed topic in literature and art for centuries, has also become an interesting theme in psychology, as it is considered an important emotion in the life of a human being. It stimulates people, even in cultures beyond the Western world, to commit to lasting relationships, such as marriage or cohabitation.

Stenberg (1986: 120) views love as a complex whole. Love is an instinct, feeling, thought, or impulse that is inherited genetically. It can also be obtained and learned socially through observation and the object comes from anything.

Stenberg (1988) says that love is a form of human emotion deepest and most expected. Humans might lie, cheat, steal and even kill in the name of love and better die than loss of love. Love can include everyone and from various levels age.

John Lee (1973), analogize the type of love like color circle. There are three types of love that is *Eros*, *Ludos*, and *Storge*. *Eros* is a feeling love and affection for someone who considered ideal. *Ludos* considers love only limited to a mere feeling game. The love is only limited to a friendship known as *storge*. There is also a blend of the three of them, divided into *Mania* (*Eros* + *Ludos*) is a full of obsessive love. *Pragma* (*Ludos* + *Storge*) is a realistic and practical love. And the combination of *Eros* and *Storge* known as *Agape* which means love without feeling tired.

Belli et al (2010) say that love has helped to define the essence of human beings. "There are some who never would have loved if they never had heard it spoken of", said La Rochefoucauld. Without a history of love and lovers, we would know nothing on how to cope with such a fundamental emotion as well as on why this particular emotion has been investigated in its various aspects and the strength of the interest when it comes to the relationship between emotions and language.

Kansky (2018) says love is a feeling that is especially expressed by the people involved in romantic relationships and is considered, along with a number of other factors (such as intimacy, commitment, and affection), one of the most significant components for a satisfying relationship.

Acevedo & Aron (2009) say love relationships can also be a source of stress, discomfort, struggle, pain, and negative feelings, especially when associated with

dependence and obsessive behavior, which may negatively affect the quality and duration of a relationship.

In line with the understanding about love above, it can be concluded that love is a strong feeling of affection shown from one person to another. Love cannot be seen in real, but can be felt by everyone. Basically, love is full of love and empathy. Love simply cannot be manipulated or controlled. Feelings of love from someone to another person, consciously or unconsciously, will make that person give all the best that is in him for the person he loves.