

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research which consists of background of research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, the definition of key terms, and organization of writing.

#### **1.1 Background of Research**

Nowadays, popular literature is something often talked in the whole of the world. It is important to know more about popular literature because it can come to the reader not only in term of the literary work but also it come in term of the representation of human being, social, religion, and all the condition of human life. The influence of popular literature can be seen in this era that there are many people like even need to get all thing related to work of popular literature.

Popular literature can be interpreted as term of literature that has many meanings can facilitate the reader to understand literature. Popular literature is a kind of literature relating to the context of time and content. In relation to the time of popular literature is literature that exists at the present time or appears in modern times. Popular literature base on the content is the work which presents everything in line with social development.

Popular literature is imaginative work or writing that comes from the imagination or the idea of the author in the process of creation (Egleton, 1983: 1). It can be presented because of the author's imagination is a real story based on his experience and also as a work of fiction that is really not in author's experience or

events that influence the past of author. Popular literature is something loved or liked and known by many people. In this case the incorporation of the word “literature” and the word “popular” bring new meaning. The “popular literature” that essentially tells a literary work that is popular or literary works are popular and favoured by many people or many readers as lovers of literary work.

With the development of society which is becoming more pragmatic, popular literature can be called as a popular fiction. It can be either an essay or fiction. The essay is a work that is scientific opinion. Fiction is a work of fiction that can be shaped in the form of novel or movie. Popular fiction is a story that is not based on an actual incident. The authors free of any ties that are data. This does not mean that the author does not use the data to formulate his fictional story, it’s just that the events actually happened has been changed by the author to give a certain meaning (Adi, 2011: 19)

Thus, popular fiction has rule in the content of its form. It calls formula in popular fiction. In general, formula is a structure or dramatic conventions employed in a great number of individual works. There are two common usages of the term of formula closely related to the conception. The first usage simply denotes a conventional way of treating some specific things or person. The second literary usage of the term formula refers to larger plot types. This is the conception of formula commonly found in those manuals for aspiring writers that give the recipes for twenty-one sure-fire plot. Boy meets girl, boy and girl have a misunderstanding, boys gets girl. These general plot patterns are not necessarily limited to a specific culture or period (Cawelti, 1976: 5-6).

Popular fiction has many genres, one of it is romance. Romance novel is one of the genres of popular literature. It is a love story, focusing on the development of the love relationship between the two main characters, written in such a way as to provide the reader with some degree of vicarious emotional participation in the courtship process (Ramsdell, 1987). Moreover, romance novel is kinds of popular literature which is highly read and consumed. Vangent (2005: 4) mentions that today romance novel is mass consumed; the romance writers understand the romance market and the romance reader very well. One of the romance novels which is considered and belongs to popular literature is *The Notebook*, a novel by Nicholas Sparks.

As the product of the popular fictions *The Notebook* was published in 1996 and was written based on the true story. The novel sets in 1920s in North Carolina, the time of pre and post war II. It tells about the love story of the protagonist character, Noah and Allie. Allie is suffered from Alzheimer in her old age and she cannot remember any of her love stories with Noah. To remind Allie their love story, Noah writes down their story in a book and he always reads that story for Allie. The novel is considered as popular because it is the New York Time best-seller list in its first week of release. The Notebook is also a hardcover best seller for more than a year. It gets 4 of 5 stars and 465.565 rating based on the goodreads.com. The popularity of the novel is proven by adapting into romance movie with the same title.

Popular fiction always encodes the main character and the plot. The hero of *The Notebook* is restoring a plantation home to its former glory, and the hero is

haunted by images of the beautiful heroine met fourteen years earlier, a girl that hero loves like no other. Unable to find heroine, yet unwilling to forget the summer they spent together, the hero is content to live with only memories until the heroine unexpectedly returns to his town to see him once again. Heroine is engaged to another man, but realizes that the original passion she felt for the hero Noah has not dimmed with the passage of time. Still, the obstacles that once ended their previous relationship remain, and the gulf between their worlds is too vast to ignore. With her impending marriage only weeks away, Heroine is forced to confront her hopes and dreams for the future, a future that only she can shape.

The previous studies of this research are; *Struktur Naratif Novel Twilight: Pencarian Formula Ideal Sebuah Romansa*” by Indri K (2014) which concluded that Stephanie Meyer’s novel entitled *Twilight* reveals how the narrative structure constructed ideal formula of romance fiction. In her paper she reveals that as a product of popular literature, *Twilight* accommodates formula in its narrative structure and has 9 functions out of thirteen functions Radway’s narrative structure indicating that *Twilight* quite enough to be considered as ideal romance novel according to the theory of Radway’s ideal narrative structure. And then the research of Dwi Bakti (2016) “*Ideal Formula in Christina Dodd’s Candle in the Window*”. The result of the research shows that it has Cinderella Formula and there are nine functions as the form of ideal functions of thirteen functions of Janice Radway’s narrative structure ideal formula. Those functions explain the meaning from heroine. Meanwhile, Nicholas Sparks’ *The Notebook* categorized as Pamela Formula and it has ten functions by side of heroine.

From the explanation above the researcher interests to examine the novel of Nicholas Sparks entitled *The Notebook* in the case of formula exactly the ideal formula as like Janice Radway's term narrative structure, with the title *The Ideal Formula of Romance Represented in Nicholas Sparks' The Notebook*.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Based on the background of research, the problem research is the case of romance formula and the ideal formula of romance. Then, the researcher formulate the questions of the research as follow:

1. What formulas of romance are represented in Nicholas Sparks' *The Notebook*?
2. What Radway's ideal narrative structures are represented in Nicholas Sparks' *The Notebook*?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

1. To know the formula of romance represented in Nicholas Sparks' *The Notebook*.
2. To know Radway's ideal narrative structures represented in Nicholas Sparks' *The Notebook*.

## **1.4 Research Significance**

1. Theoretically

To the scientific Development of English Language and Literature or literary researcher further. This research could be a reference to further research of literature, especially in knowing the form of formula and ideal formula of romance novel and become a research which can give theoretically benefit not only in the research field but also in the field of any other studies.

## 2. Practically

- a. To the reader, the results of this research can give an idea that *The Notebook* researched and discussed as understanding or learning in accordance with the interests of the understanding of the literary works in knowing the ideal formula of romance in Nicholas Sparks' *The Notebook*.
- b. To the people can increase the knowledge and insight regarding the ideal formula of romance in Nicholas Sparks' *The Notebook*.

### 1.5 The Definition of Key Terms

**Popular fiction:** it is plot-driven fictional works written with the intent of fitting into a specific literary genre, in order to appeal to readers and fans already familiar with that genre.

**Formula:** It is a structure of narrative or dramatic conventions used in a number of literary works. Formula can be used for call flow or plot.

**Romance:** It is one of the genres of popular literature. It is a love story, focusing on the development of the love relationship between the two main characters.

**Ideal:** Conceived as constituting a standard of perfection or excellence.

**Represented:** it is the participle form of the verb 'represent'. It means that "to show or describe something or someone".

## **1.6 Organization of Writing**

### **Chapter I : Introduction**

This chapter presents the introduction of the research which consists of background of research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, the definition of key terms, and organization of writing.

### **Chapter II : Theoretical Foundation**

This chapter presents the theories which are relevant to the topic of research. They consist of romance formula theory, and ideal narrative structure by Janice A. Radway.

### **Chapter III : Research Method**

This chapter provides the method used in conducting the research. It contains research design, data resource, data sample, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

### **Chapter IV : Discussion**

This chapter deals with the result of the study, which consists of the analysis of the ideal formula of romance represented in the novel 'The Notebook'.

### **Chapter V : Conclusion and Suggestion**

This chapter presents some conclusions and suggestions resulted from the analysis data as well as problem discussed.