

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Research

When looking for partners, humans have their own particular reason or criteria. Ordinarily, the sexual attraction between males and females occurs from the idea of human sexual preferences. The concept of sexual preferences evolves from human ancestor through the adaptation to the life problems. However, human's sexual preferences regarding men and women fundamentally have to do with physical attractiveness, and willingness to invest in a long-term relationship. Then, it becomes a value of reproductive success to regenerate offspring. Offspring occurs as a product of adaptation in human beings. Moreover, human preferences in looking for partners are produced to solve human's adaptive problems regarding survival. In fact, the main goals of living as human beings since the beginning of human civilization are to survive and succeed in reproduction. The mechanism in evolving human adaptive goals equals to the evolution of psychology in human beings. Consequently, the human evolution of psychology affects human brain to respond adaptively to things. Besides, one thing that greatly affects the psychological level of humanity is literature. Literature has an adaptive value as the navigation to human life dilemmas (Gotschall 317). Accordingly, literature helps humans to survive.

Literature is the art of words. The words portray actual or fictional conditions of a human through its element which is called by characters. Characters in literature represent human traits in real life such as the habit of loving calories, fear of threat, or even sexual motives. Moreover, characters in a literary work are equal to the psychological mechanism of human beings. Human psychological mechanism works adaptively to solve problems. Ordinarily, human deals with problems every day. Any problem that comes through human life triggers human brain to find a solution. The nature of solving a problem guides human to another level of psychological mechanism in human evolution. Besides, literature does so. Literature is a place to cherish human imagination and bolster some moral behaviors (Gotschall 288). Reading fiction exposes anybody to have a strong character, minds with highly developed abilities of observation and thought, and imaginations capable of creating great passions and subtle feelings (Carroll, *Special Issue* 143). Therefore, literature helps human beings in solving a problem because there is always a life lesson in a literary work. Likewise, the nature of human beings lives in literature.

The theory of the relation between human nature and literature is described in literary Darwinism. Literary Darwinism is a theory of correlation between literature and evolutionary studies such as evolutionary biology, sociobiology, and evolutionary psychology. Evolutionary studies view the biological and social phenomenon in the context of natural selection. Therefore, the focus of literary Darwinism is to seek how meaning in literature can be seen through the lens of evolutionary studies. Ordinarily, literary Darwinism is founded by Joseph

Carroll. Joseph Carroll is an English literature professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, United States. During his lifetime, Carroll is working on the theory of evolutionary human sciences. All of his research studies are mainly bestowed in his books which are titled by *Evolution and Literary Theory* (2004), *Literary Darwinism: Reading Human Nature* (2004). In addition, Carroll also bestows his ideas to some journal articles for example *Three Scenarios for Literary Darwinism* (2010), *Teaching Literary Darwinism* (2013), *Special Issue: The Psychology of Fiction Minds and Meaning in Fictional Narratives: An Evolutionary Perspective* (2017), and *Imagination, the Brain's Default Mode Network, and Imaginative Verbal Artifacts* (2020). Literary Darwinism seeks human motives regarding the adaptive problems of survival in a fictional narrative. Literary Darwinism believes that human motives are the fundamental of life goals that affect human behavior (Carroll, *Reading Human Nature* 157). Moreover, literary Darwinists also believe that meaning in literature has to do with real human goals and biological needs (Whitfield 388). Consequently, literary Darwinism is one of many literary critical approaches that can produce meanings in a literary work and take it as a theory of human life history.

Many literary works give a touch of love and survival stories to get the impression of beauty and tension to the readers. In fact, human loves the story of romance and the pleasure of freedom. One of the best authors in the adult romantic novels of the 21st century is John Green. John Green is an author of adult romantic fiction from the United States. *Looking for Alaska, An Abundance of Katherine, Paper Town, The Fault in Our Stars, and Turtles All*

the Way Down are some of his phenomenal works throughout his life. In fact, *The Fault in Our Stars* becomes one of the best works that Green ever achieves. On Green's official website, *The Fault in Our Stars* novel has won 12 awards entire of its career, among them are TIME Magazine's #1 Fiction Books of 2012 and #1 *New York Times* bestseller ("The Fault in Our Stars"). *The Fault in Our Stars* novel has also been adapted into a movie and the movie has won 19 awards since it was released in 2014, among them are MTV Movie Award for Best Kiss in 2015 and Teen Choice Award for Choice Movie: Drama in 2014 ("New York Post"). Moreover, this novel has its own unique characteristics to be loved by the audience. As stated on John Green's official website, a review from *New York Times Book* says that *The Fault in Our Stars* has a blend of melancholy, sweet, philosophical, and funny themes, even more, Green shows the reader true love in a relationship and the novel is far more romantic than sunset on the beach ("The Fault in Our Stars").

In case, this research focuses on analyzing John Green's novel entitled *The Fault in Our Stars* by using the perspective of literary Darwinism. *The Fault in Our Stars* is a romantic fiction novel which is published in 2012. Intuitively, this book is a romantic tragedy novel that drains readers' emotions. This novel consists of twenty-five chapters. The story tells about teenagers named Hazel and Augustus who are having a relationship in critical condition of disease, in this story, cancer. Cancer overshadows their lives and one day they can die at any time. Therefore, they must live their life by attending cancer kids support group to share their feeling with the other sufferers. It means to make them do

not feel lonely and keep them mentally stay healthy. In short, the combination of love and survival without bloodshed between the characters in this story provides the latest revolution to the development of literary themes in the world. In fact, this novel is so popular because of its romantic plot and insightful knowledge in the scopes of medical, pharmacy, psychological, and literary terms until nowadays. Although this story is about kids with a terminal disease, this story also reveals the human motive to survive by finding a partner and the life of imagination in its characters. Therefore, the benefits of having a relationship can maintain their possibility to survive much longer in a critical situation.

Consequently, the writer analyzes the story deeper and focuses on the character's relationship. The writer assumes that the term "relationship" is based on Hazel and Augustus' relationship. Unwittingly, this relationship is made by John Green as the main motive of humans to survive.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Generally, a romantic genre in adult fiction books ends up with a happy ending story between couples of the main characters. Conversely, the ending of *The Fault in Our Stars* is inversely proportional to the expectation of the readers. Augustus dies in the end of the story, but his death leaves a meaningful narrative in Hazel's life. Notwithstanding, literary Darwinism believes that love is the central thing of human life in the cycle of reproductive needs which means people need other people to live ("Western Civilization, Texas Tech University"). Therefore, the writer analyzes the basic human motives of looking

for a mate and the life of the minds or imagination of the main characters of this story, Hazel and Augustus. Consequently, the writer means to find out the reason how love helps humans to survive in a difficult situation in sort of adaptation and natural selection based on Hazel and Augustus' relationship journey.

1.3 Review of Related Studies

The first thesis is Jamira, *The Positivity of Facing Cancer in The Fault in Our Stars by John Green* in 2017. In this thesis, Jamira reveals some reasons for the positive mind in the characters of the novel while living alongside cancer by using the psychological approach in motivational theory. Jamira seeks the reasons for positivity in each character that is caused by the pump of motivation in the community, and the belief in God. Nevertheless, Jamira emphasizes the power of positivity through motivation and guides the characters to be healthy characters by living positively while covering the negative side of their life.

The second thesis is Lia Damayanti, *The Motivation of the Main Characters to Cherish Their Life as Seen in John Green's The Fault in Our Stars* in 2016. In this thesis, Lia discusses the motivation of the characters of Hazel and Augustus on pursuing their dreams by maintaining their love while fighting against cancer. Lia applies the library research method and psychological approach to guide her in comprehending her analysis. As the result, Lia concludes the characteristics of Hazel and Augustus into one specific term. Their characteristics influence one another. Hazel who is a pessimistic person turns out to be a loving person with the help of Augustus. Otherwise, Augustus who is a mischievous and super active person turns out to be a calm and prestigious

person with the help of Hazel. Consequently, Lia adds love builds a dream to live happily between these two teenagers. The dream becomes the main motivation for them to cherish their life in the middle of disease.

The third thesis is Nurhuda Fithroni, *Psychological Relationship in The Fault in Our Stars Novel: An Analysis of Social Exchange* in 2017. In this thesis, Nurhuda elaborates on the relationship between the characters of Hazel and Augustus by using the psychological approach to social exchange theory. Nurhuda aims to see the factors of the relationship through underlying friendship. Nurhuda sums up that a relationship in the novel is based on similarity, reciprocity of liking, positive qualities, physical attractiveness, and physical appearance. Moreover, Nurhuda attaches some additional factors to Hazel and Augustus' relationship such as satisfaction, stability, and interdependence.

The fourth thesis is Gisti Yurahman, *Sociobiological Critique in Thornton Wilder's Our Town: A Literary Darwinian Study* in 2011. In this thesis, Gisti focuses on the characters' motives of mate selection and raising offspring along with their behaviors in daily life in the three couples of Thornton Wilder's *our town*. Gisti exposes that there are behavioral similarities between couples and their children in the story. In this analysis, Gisti points out that the same motives occur in the three couples of the story.

The fifth thesis is Siti Maulina, *Sibling Rivalry in Literary Darwinism Perspective as Seen in John Shors' Beneath a Marble Sky* in 2021. In this thesis, Siti uses literary Darwinism as the main approach. Sari focuses on looking for

the uncovering motives between siblings that encourage the rivalry between siblings in John Shors' story. Siti portrays that a rivalry between siblings is covered by a survival motive in order to gain power from each other. In addition, Siti points out that family motives affect the relationship between siblings.

The sixth thesis is Lisa Nollet, *Social Darwinism in Thomas Hardy's Jude the Obscure and Tess of the d'Urbervilles* in 2013. Lisa combines two novels by Thomas Hardy into one conclusion of the influence of the contemporary social Darwinist perspective. Lisa means to consider Thomas Hardy as a social Darwinist or not. Of course, in her analysis, Lisa uses literary Darwinism approach in social Darwinism to finish her analysis. In sum, Lisa states that Thomas Hardy cannot be considered as a social Darwinist, instead, Hardy's novels are against Darwinian ideas. This thing is proven by some facts in Hardy's novel, the majority, show cold-hearted and merciless attitudes in the characters such as Arabella and Vilbert in *Jude the Obscure*, and Jude, Sue, Tess, and Angel in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

1.4 Questions of the Research

The writer comprehends the analysis with some questions. The following questions are:

1. How does John Green represent human criteria in finding a mate through the characters of Hazel and Augustus in *The Fault in Our Stars*?
2. How does John Green describe love as Darwinian survival mechanism based on literary Darwinism Theory?

1.5 Scope of the Research

This research covers a limitation in analyzing the novel to restrict the scope of the research. The writer focuses on analyzing how literary Darwinism explains the human criteria in finding a mate and the adaptive function of imagination through their mating benefits to produce the meaning of life. This focus theoretically catches up with survival as the main motive of human beings in the overview of love through Hazel and Augustus' relationship. Accordingly, this research lies in the fact that the writer limits the analysis of the relationship between Hazel and Augustus.

1.6 Objectives of the Research

The purposes of this research are focusing to reveal the human motive of human criteria in finding a mate in Hazel and Augustus' relationship and presenting the result of the adaptive function of imagination through their mating benefits to be the meaning of life. In fact, the result of imagination is hypothesized to produce a behavioral change to pursue life in the future in which it enhances the higher chance of survival and reproductive success through Hazel and Augustus relationship in *The Fault in Our Stars*. Moreover, the writer aims this research as a first step in improving literary Darwinism studies.

