

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Novel is one of the literary work that becomes very dominant today. The reader of the novel not only consisted of some particular people such as lecturer but rather the public begin to enjoy a novel with a variety of genres. The various novel have been written by the author, as connoisseurs of a literary work especially novel. It is proper for us not only a passive reader in the sense of simply being able to read novels and enjoy the story. But also it will be better if we are able to enjoy a literary and have critical thinking. So it will be a literary criticism process.

Some elements that have been analyzed which is contained in a novel are in the form of intrinsic or extrinsic. When reading a literary work especially novels, it will appear many kinds of questions about the novel, from which there will be a process of literary criticism.

The novel that will be discussed by researchers in this time which is a novel by John Green entitled *Looking for Alaska* (2005). The story tells about a woman which is daring to try out of the question. It comes from a last word of the famous figure named Simon Bolivar who said "how will I ever get out of this labyrinth!".

There are many readers who have perspective and argue about the novel. The author presents the woman as a modern woman who grows personally and socially. The writer chooses to use Green's work in this paper. It due to the novels that have been published around six novels in general are usually telling the story of a teenager.

John is able to make the reader looking for a common thread death of Alaska based on the last word. In addition, the story of Alaska becomes a major concern in this story. The story of Pudge and Alaska as well as her other friends such as Colonel, Takumi and Lara with their behavior in Culver Creek also get the attention of the reader. The conflict is usually displayed in interesting way. It explore the unexpected ending of the story. The moral message is also implicit in the story. The conflict that has been created are made from various aspects. It makes the reader to has the desire for analyzing the novel.

The writer thinks that there are a lot of meaning which still ambiguous in this novel. Therefore, in analyzing this novel, the writer by using the structural approach followed by tries to found the women issue. It is related to feminism. In this case, it is necessary to find a study which will in this discussion is shown with a discusses the theory of literary criticism.

The structuralism are the elements of the structure itself. It is the mechanism which is related with one of each other. Hence, the relationship between the elements are becoming one. Relationships are not purely positive, such as alignment, compliance, and understanding. But also negative, such as conflicts and contradictions. As seen in one of the dialogues in the novel :

“scared isn’t a good excuse!” she shouted into the couch.
“scared is the excuse everyone has always used!” I didn’t know who ‘everyone’ was, or when ‘always’ was, and as much as I wanted to understand her ambiguities, the slyness was growing annoying. (page 117)

According to Abrams (1981: 188-190), “the term structuralism criticism specifically refers to the practice of literary criticism basing its analysis on the model of modern linguistic theory, but generally structuralism refers to a group of writers in Paris which apply the method and terms of analysis developed by Ferdinand de Saussure”.

Alaska is extremely apparent due to the fact that she is really the only female character. It offers the only feminist insight in a community clearly dominated by men. Alaska is very vocal about her feminist opinion. She frequently experiences violent outbursts ranting about how women should not be objectified. It is obsessed with not conforming to the “patriarchal paradigm”.

“She has great breasts,” the Colonel said without looking up from the whale.
“Do not objectify women’s bodies!” Alaska shouted
Now he looked up. “Sorry perky breasts”
“That not any better!”(page 75)

The phenomenon of main female character can be analyzed also from a feminist perspective, as Trites (1997:7) said that man an of feminism is to support women in making decision to raise societal respect for them decision. Furthermore, the most important thing is the essence of decision that women know exactly the choice they have made.

Therefore in this study, the writer reveals intrinsic element which presents in the novel. It uses structural theory because as was said earlier that using structural theory, because the writer tries to analyze the conflict of the novel by linking all aspects such as setting, plot, character. Then it will discuss the state of the psychology of the main character that touched on women's issues closely with feminist views. Feminist criticism is needed in reading this novel, because as Guerin (1999:196) that feminist literary critic try to explain how power imbalance due to gender in given culture are reflected in or challenged by literary text.

From the explanation before, the feminist literary criticism is suitable to be used for analyzing this novel. It will analyze the conflict and intrinsic elements of the novel. It also will discuss the psychology of the character by using structural theory. Therefore, it is hoped to give another perception in analyzing the novel.

1.2 Research Question

To specify the research, this research conducted based on these following questions :

1. How the structure (plot, setting, character) of Looking for Alaska by Green's related to feminism?
2. How is the conflict in Looking for Alaska by Green's ?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This research purpose to discover two things based on novel written by John Green 'Looking for Alaska' :

1. To understand how the structure of Looking for Alaska related to feminism.
2. To know how is the conflict of Looking for Alaska.

1.4 Significances of the Study

The research helps us to see more the works of John Green. Particularly his novel *Looking for Alaska*. It also discusses the impact of the book with a variety of issues inside it. As previously stated, this study focuses on the conflict and describing of main female character in the novel. It reveal a women issue. This research aims for readers to give a different view when reading this novel.

By using this novel, is expected for the student to help them learn about feminist issue. Additionally, this research also expected for similar research to develop the students understanding in doing literary criticism of this novel.

Tabel 1.1 Frame of Work

