

## **Chapter I: Introduction**

This chapter presents several subtopics that will be described in this research. It is divided into five subtopics such as basic consideration, research questions, research objectives, limitation problem, and the significances. All of the sub-topics are described below.

### **Basic Consideration**

Literary works are necessary to be discussed because it reflects the human life. Tarigan (2011, p. 3) states that literary work is presenting the real of human life and delivering imaginative minds onto written form and arrange in a beautiful structure of language. Therefore, literary works are also developed and more attractive to the public due to it cannot be denied that a literary work is a part of human life. It's relevant to Hudson theory (1970, p. 11), which states that literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have in experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. In other words, literature is the situation that seen of human life, such as experiences, thought, and feelings. It means that literary work always reflects issues of human life. These issues are a part of reality and these have actually happened.

One of the literary kind that is regularly related occasions, in actuality, is novel. Djojuroto and Pangkerego (2000, p.23) states that novel is one of the works that arrangement with the human life that is described by the presence of contentions which in the end prompted an adjustment in character. It's relevant to Sari (2013, p. 1), characterization is an important element in almost every work of fiction, whether it is a short story in prose or in drama and a novel. When it comes to characterization, a writer has two options:

1. Direct characterization: the writer makes direct statement about character's personality and tells what the character is like.
2. Indirect characterization: the writer reveals information about character and his personality through that character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.

One of the fascinating parts of Spark's novel *The Best of Me* is the characterization. Characterization in the novel are described by the author through sentences. In general people use "personality" to identify the most fact characteristic of a person, or relation to that person's social skill. Personality is a branch of psychology research in which personality speculations endeavor to comprehend the intricate relationship among the distinctive part of an individual working including the part of learning, perception and motivation. In addition, Personality is the human's organization that deals with the things that they need to do. Personality does not only come from the nature side of human but also from the environment. Human being cannot avoid the environment as a factor influenced them. In this case, one thing needs to recall, each human will have different personality.

In the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks, the character of Dawson Cole is interesting to discuss. How good person he was and he did not inherit the bad attitude of his father. In addition, it is because Dawson was born into a notorious criminal family, allowed to get away with many petty crimes out of the fear the town feels toward this family. Dawson's father named Tommy Cole, he is a member of a notorious criminal family in the small town of Oriental, North Carolina. He is a criminal and vicious person. On the early life of Dawson, he has often experienced cruelty and physical

abused from his own father and cousin. When Dawson wanted to do good things and did not inherit the bad parenting of his father. Dawson's father would torture and beat to him. Despite Dawson tried to become a good man and intelligent student in his school, but his father would torture and beat him until a trace on his back. Dawson was not like his family, but no one really believed that a Cole could be honest or law abiding. For this reason, Dawson lived an isolated life in his hometown. In fact, as a teen Dawson left his father's home and began living in the garage of local mechanic, Tuck Hostetler. The role of Dawson's father in parenting his son was very vicious, so that because of Dawson's father characterization to make Dawson's personality became frightened to him. In the quote below can be seen the example of Dawson's father characterization.

*"..... The Coles were moonshiners and drug dealers, alcoholics, wife beaters, abusive fathers and mothers, thieves and pimps, and above all, pathologically violent. According to an article that had been published in a now defunct magazine, they were at one point regarded as the most vicious, revenge-driven family east of Raleigh..." (Sparks, 2011, p. 18).*

This utterance above describes Cole's family have much problems. It seen all of them are moonshiners and drug dealers, alcoholics, wife beaters, abusive fathers and mothers, thieves and pimps, and above all, pathologically violent. Dawson's father was abusive father, drug dealers, alcoholics, wife beaters, and cruel father. He spent most of his twenties and early in prison for various offenses. He tormented his son until became a bruised when he angry and also he would kill his son if not follow his desired. The information based on the article that had been published in a now defunct magazine, Cole's family were at one point regarded as the most vicious, revenge-driven family east of Raleigh. The action of Dawson's father as the head of the family was very bad.

Then, in the quote below of the impact of Dawson's father characterization to Dawson Cole's personality.

*".... One night, a month after he turned sixteen, his father came at him with a belt after a night of drinking, and Dawson reared up and ripped it from his father's grasp. He told his father that if he ever touched him again, he'd kill him..." (Sparks, 2011, p. 12).*

Dawson's father did not show an attitude like the head of the family. That night Dawson's father came to Dawson with a belt. He only drunk alcoholic every night. He came to his son drunk after a night of drinking while carried a belt used to beat Dawson. Dawson became frightened and tried to defend himself with the threatened to his father. Then, Dawson went to Tuck's home for protected. He vowed would kill his father if wanted to touch and beat his body again. It is one of the impact of Dawson's father characterization to Dawson's personality.

Brooks statement (1987), parenting as "the process of developing and utilizing the knowledge and skills appropriate to planning for, creating, giving birth to, rearing and providing care for offspring". This definition implies that parenting starts when there is a plan for it and it involves not just bringing up the children but also providing care for them.

In this age, the problem of parenting is commonly happened. For example, parenting facts in the United States of America such as: nine million American children face risk factors that may hinder their ability to become healthy and productive adults. One in seven children deal with at least four of the risk factors, which include growing up in a single-parent household. According to Kids Count Survey- Annie E. Casey Foundation (as cited in Speaks, 2016), the survey also indicated that children confronting several risk factors are more likely to experience problems with concentration, communication, and health. Then, According to Children's Defense Fund

(as cited in Speaks, 2016), more than one half of all youths incarcerated for criminal acts lived in one-parent families when they were children. Furthermore, according to National Center for Health Statistics (as cited in Speaks, 2016), 1 out of 5 children have a learning, emotional, or behavioral problem due to the family system changing.

Based on the problem above, parent was very important in helping children become good, disciplined, and independent in the future. Parents should be the good examples to their children. Especially a father who became a leader in the family. It's relevant to Steinberg's theory (2004) which states that there are 10 fundamental things still apply to good parenting: what do you matters, you cannot be too loving, be involved in your child's life, adapt your parenting to fit your child, establish and set rules (early on.), foster your child's independence, be consistent, avoid harsh discipline, explain your rules and decisions, and treat your child with respect. Following Steinberg's theory, it can be said that parents have to aware their role in educating their children. Parents have responsibility in developing their children.

Furthermore, in the real life the problem of children that got the abuse, and torment of their cruel parents was a lot going on. Sometimes the treatment of cruel parents to their children will be affect to their children personality in the future. There are children who became frightened, antisocial, anxiety, and depression because of bad parenting from their parents. Following this problem, this research will discuss about the impacts of a father who was cruel to his son, and also the aim of this research is to find out the impact to Dawson that got bad parenting from his father. Therefore, this is the reason why the researcher chooses about this topic. Then, this research is very important to assist parents in treatment their children. Hopefully, parents do not cruel their children like what Dawson's father did to his son, Dawson.

This novel is not only depicting characters with a strong character but also became one of the best seller novel. Moreover, Nicholas Sparks ever got awards from his writing. This is the reason the novel of *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks eligible to performed through the study of psychoanalytic.

### **Research Question**

Based on the background of study, this research is focused to answer these questions:

1. How is Dawson's father characterization?
2. What are the impacts of Dawson's father characterization to Dawson's personality?

### **Research Objective**

The purposes of the study can be stated as follows:

1. To analyze Dawson's father characterization.
2. To justify the impacts of Dawson's father characterization to Dawson's personality.

### **Limitation Problem**

Based on the identification problems that complex above, the researcher wants to limit the discussion. These restrictions are intended to help researcher focuses on subject matter only. Therefore, researcher limits issue the characterization of Dawson's father and the impact of Dawson's father characterization to Dawson's personality exhibited in the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks.

## Significance of Research

The significance of research would be as follows:

### 1. The readers

Literary is the mirror of the society. In the real life the problem of children who got the abuse, torment, and violence from their parents are commonly happened.

Generally, cruelty and violence in educating children occurs due to lack of knowledge about how parents educate their children. And also they do not know the impact will occur in children. Therefore, this research is very important to assist the society especially parents in treatment their children. Furthermore, this research will clarify how to be a good parent, based on the characterization of Dawson's father, and the impact of Dawson's father characterization to Dawson's personality in the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks. As the result, this research can help the readers in reaching the knowledge of moral values.

### 2. Educational Institutions

Generally, both teacher and lectures are educator. Their responsibility as parent of students in school to teach and educate them. In the system of education before that teacher was educate that preferring the harshness and punishment. This is not only having an impact on their physical, but also mental of them. They feel depressed at the time of learning so that they are difficult to develop and express themselves. They feel constrained by the existence of punishment when they make small mistakes. Nowadays, physical punishment is no longer allowed even though there are some people who are still implementing the system. Hopefully, with this research the parents in schools or universities can reduce violence and physical punishment in educating their students. It is because based on the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks the vicious and

violence are tremendously influence the personality of the children. Moreover, the teachers and lectures can make this research as orientation in good educating to children, and also this research can be reference for students who want to do a further research, especially for the English Education Study Program.