

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter explains and describes the basic consideration, research questions, aim of the research, the scope of research, and research significances.

Background of Study

Literature is part of knowledge that is inseparable from human life. It represents and pictures out all different aspects of life. One of the popular forms of literature is novels; fictional stories in the form of writing or words, and it consists of an intrinsic and extrinsic element. Usually, it tells about human life in interacting with the environment, society, or one another. It is the result of the experiences, thoughts, and feelings of the author. By using language, the author presents the work to deliver their ideas to the readers; hence every work of literature has its characteristics and objectives of the author's identity. Therefore, it is understandable if the idea in the author's work can be very influential to the reader's mindset.

Commonly, a novel is present under a plot or theme that focuses on developing characters and actions. Subsequently, the acts and the events in the novel are connected to the real-life of humans, as well as love, experiences, sadness, ambitions, and happiness, which the reader can learn much from it. As well as Wellek and Warren (1970, p. 95) said, the novel is a reflection of society. It always shows the phenomena or the situation that occurs in life. Therefore, it becomes a mirror of human-being. Similar to people, the characters in the novel also fell in love and build a relationship. The existence of love can expand the

attractiveness of the story. It also can help the reader to understand the value of love in the novel. Furthermore, the readers will be able to look at other perspectives of life through the character's love story.

Love has been attracting people's attention in many ways, particularly in novels, poems, and short stories. Love becomes a popular topic and a general theme among poets and novelists. According to Bayley (1960, p.3), love can be found in many kinds of literary works because it has always been related to literature, and it is hard to imagine literature without love stories. Regarding the explanation above, it is clear that literature cannot be apart from love stories. As evidence, there are many literary works written with the theme of love and human, either love of God, love to parents or family, love to the opposite sex, even to same-sex. Since love is a unique thing, thereby people felt and thought about love is very different.

As experts assume that love has various types; C.S Lewis's "The Four Loves" in 1960 divides love into four types, affection, friendship, eros, and charity. Afterward, John Alan Lee in 1973 in "The Colors of Love" consisted of agape, ludus, storge, eros, mania, and pragma. Finally, Robert Sternberg in his theory "Triangular Theory of Love" (1986, p.119) described love through three components. Passion refers to the intense feeling that indicates romance, sexual consummation, physical attraction, and phenomena in a loving relationship. Meanwhile, intimacy is feelings of friendship, acquaintance, and attachment in a loving relationship. On the other hand, commitment divides into two terms, short

and long. Short-term refers to the decision to love someone, and long-term is related to maintaining that love.

For supporting this study, the researcher chose *The Longest Ride* novel by Nicholas Sparks. It consists of two couples from different generations and relationships; Ira-Ruth was a married couple who met during World War II, and Luke-Sophia, a dating couple who lived in the modern era. Both partners represent the three elements of love introduced by Stenberg. It illustrates through the different problems they experience from the passion, intimacy, and commitment components. Ira and Ruth have confronted culture in the 1940s. They also have to compromise with the problems that come from their environment and face the impact of the commitment they build. Meanwhile, Luke and Sophia have to deal with Sophia's traumas, the principles, perspectives, the uncertain future, and the dreams. Therefore, it makes the researcher attracted to explore deeply the components of love that occur inside this story through the four main characters in the novel.

Research Question

The researcher focused on the characters and components of love in Nicholas Sparks' novel *The Longest Ride*. The questions within this researcher are:

1. How are the characterization of Ira-Ruth and Luke-Sophia?
2. How Ira-Ruth and Sophia-Luke are portrayed their love in the novel?

Aim of Research

Based on the research question, the research aims to discover the character of the main characters, analyze the elements of love experienced by the main characters, and describe how the elements of love are portrayed in *The Longest Ride* novel.

Limitation of Research

This research focused on the main characters' love that appears in the novel *The Longest Ride*. Besides, this study emphasized the elements of love throughout the description of the characters. They were analyzed through the theory triangular of love by Robert Stenberg and the structuralism approach.

Significances of Research

The significance of the research is enriching literary study through fiction in terms of the novel. A novel is related to ideas that are manifested in the form of text or words, therefore the text means to convey ideas that reflect a brief history of man's life. Hence, to study literary work such as novels means to get knowledge or understanding about humans.

The other significance of this analysis is to add literary study in wider fields of literature. Simply, this research result analysis can be used as a reference for learning how to study the character in the novel and increase the readers' knowledge about love by analyzing the component of love.