

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Love is an incredibly subjective thing, and within love itself there are a whole bunch of different kinds of love. There's non-romantic platonic love between friends, love between family members, plus intense unconditional love. But, most often, when people talk about love they mean romantic love with a partner. According to the dictionary, love is "an intense feeling of deep affection." Meanwhile, Urban Dictionary defines love as, "The act of caring and giving to someone else. Having someone's best interest and well being as a priority in your life. To truly love is a very selfless act."

Love is one of the most universal themes in literature, as in life. In fact, the theme of love is underpins many of the stories that have been discussed so far. Love can be a force for good that inspires people to sacrifice themselves for others, or a toxic force that drives people to madness or violence. Different flavors of love as a literary theme include: forbidden love, family love, unrequited love, and friendship (Margaret Atwood, 2020).

In the literature, love is also defined in variety of ways, as a relationship, as an attitude, as an experience, and as an emotion (Fehr and Russell 1991). This complex emotion consists of affective experiences with

positive valence, for instance joy, elation, sexual arousal, contentment, delight, a sense of happiness (Fehr 2006). Although positive valence dominates in this group of feelings, negative elements which may appear include anxiety, fear, dissatisfaction, jealousy, hatred, shame or guilt (Sternberg 1986) in Barbara Gawda (2019).

In the literature it has been emphasized that this emotion is not uniform in terms of the structure of affective feelings, the type of object to which the feeling is addressed, and the phase of relationship (Sternberg and Weiss 2006; Hendrick and Hendrick 2006). There are several theories of love proposed in psychological literature that have been comprehensively described, e.g. in the book entitled *New psychology of love*. One of the best known is the three-factor conception of love, formulated by R. Sternberg, assuming there are three components of love: intimacy, passion, commitment. These components evolve over time and are constantly changing (Sternberg 1986).

Another conception by Sternberg defines love as an individual story that a person continuously builds in the course of development and experiences. It is a narrative concept containing basic generalized information about love. The nature of this narrative has a great impact on the quality and type of a specific person's relationships. People construct different stories of love, and their abstractive versions are stored in memory forming a representation of affective experiences. The structure of this representation is hierarchical (Sternberg 1998, 2006).

Love theme is found in “*Dear John*” movie, 2010 directed by Lasse Halström and based on the novel by best-selling author Nicholas Sparks, *Dear John* tells the story of John Tyree (Channing Tatum), a young soldier home on leave, and Savannah Curtis (Amanda Seyfried), the idealistic college student he falls in love with during her spring vacation. Internal Conflict of *Dear John* has a theme of a love story. John and Savannah have a burning passion for each other in the movie. Even though John went off into the Army, he had to balance that out and his relationship with Savannah. When John met Savannah he fell in love with her in two weeks.

As the title implies, “*Dear John*” is a film of romance lost. Set primarily in Charleston, South Carolina, John meets Savannah when she needs a heroic male to assist her. Jumping to her rescue, John reveals himself to be a courageous yet troubled person who captures her attention and eventually her heart. In a whirlwind romance lasting only the two weeks of spring break, John and Savannah soon pledge their undying love and begin a long distance relationship through hand-written letters. This sets the stage for the predictable angst to come. (<https://www.cinemainfocus.com/movie-reviews/2014/5/15/dear-john>, assessed on September 12, 2020)

The love story in “*Dear John*” movie received many comments or responses from the audiences. The responses of the audience are varying from positive, negative to neutral responses. Discussions of film, from

conversations and journalistic reviews to deeply analytic studies of individual films or portions of a film, almost always involve assumptions, implicit or explicit about audience response. In this case, the researcher presents some of the responses of audience toward the love story in *Dear John* movie, as follow.

Positive Response: Brianna, age 14 (USA)

“Dear John is a very interesting love story. I enjoyed this movie a lot. There is one objectionable scene, but you can easily fast forward through it. There are only a few swear words. I almost rated this as Better than Average, and it is if you fast forward through the one scene. I really enjoyed it. I would suggest renting first before you buy it as you should do with every movie”.

Negative Response: Alexxus, age 13 (USA)

“The moviemaking quality was poor—no character development ever took place, and the movie just seemed to drag on and on. I was disappointed, all-in-all. I do NOT recommend this movie”.

Neutral Response: Seana, age 32 (USA)

“Overall, I like this movie alright. I pretty much agree with the reviewer regarding the quality of the script and character depth, as well as the lead actors' execution of the characters. I do think it is unfortunate that sex outside of marriage is portrayed as ok if you really love someone. At least they portrayed the harm that it caused in the relationship, as well. The act of sex is so intimate, and whether you know it or not, binds you emotionally with someone on a whole other level”.

The responses of audience above show that “*Dear John*” movie, 2010 is watched by variety of ages start from teenager to young adult viewer and obtained various responses, negative, positive, and neutral. The opinion given by the viewers or audiences refer to the storyline, scene,

characters, quality of the script, and the languages used in the movie. Based on the above background of the research, the researcher is interested to analyze deeper about the concept of love in “*Dear John*” movie 2010 including the types of love and the meaning of love using the audience’s response perspective toward “*Dear John*” movie 2010. Therefore, this research entitled “*An Analysis of the Concept of Love in the Movie of “Dear John” 2010 By Using Reader Response Perspective*”.

B. Limitation of the Research

The scope and limitations of this research is on the concept of love in “*Dear John*” movie 2010 derived from the reader response perspective. The readers participated in this research consists of male and female from various ages with the age range from 20 to 30 years old. The primary data source of this research is the reviewers’ response of “*Dear John*” movie 2010 directed by Lasse Hallström taken from IMDb (Internet Movie database) website. Then, the secondary data source is some references related to this analysis such as books, journals, previous researches and other sources.

C. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the research stated previously, there are some research problems proposed by the researcher, as follow:

1. What are the meanings of love in “*Dear John*” movie 2010 based on reader perspective?

2. How is the audience response toward the concept of love in “Dear John” movie 2010?

D. Objective of the Research

Based on the research problems proposed by the researcher, the research objectives can be formulated as follow:

1. To identify the meanings of love in “Dear John” movie 2010 based on audience perspective.
2. To describe the audience response toward the concept of love in “Dear John” movie 2010.

E. Significance of the Research

The result of this research is intended be useful for many parties, both theoretical and practical significance. They are as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

Hopefully, this research can give some contribution to the body of knowledge, particularly literary study on the concept of love used in the movie. This research is also expected to give some additional knowledge related to the analysis of reader response perspective in the literature products, such as movie.

2. Practical Significance

a. For the Present Researcher

Hopefully, the results of this research can help the present researcher to deeply understand the concept of love used in “Dear John” movie 2010 based on reader response perspective. It is also expected that the results of this research can give more knowledge to the present researcher about reader response theory.

b. For the English Department Students

Hopefully, the results of this research can give more insight related to the concept of love used in the movie and reader response theory.

c. For the Next Researcher

Hopefully, the next researcher can conduct the similar research with broader scope.

F. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is organized into several chapters in order to make it easier to understand the contents of this research; the content of the research is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction. It concerns with background of the research, problem statement, objective of the research, limitation of the research, significance of the research, and research paper organization. Chapter II is review of related literature. This chapter discusses literature review and previous study. Literature review explains theories related to this research such as Psychology and Literature, Definition of Love, Concept of Love, Sign of Love, Reader

Response, Movie or Film, and Dear John Movie. Chapter III is research method. This chapter presents type of the research, object of the research, type of data and data source, method of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data. Chapter IV is research finding and discussion. In this chapter, the findings and discussion are presented in accordance to the problem statements of the research. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. This chapter presents the conclusion of this research and provides the suggestion for future studies.