CONCERN IN LUNG CANCER IN JOHN GREEN’S THE FAULT IN OUR STARS NOVEL (2012) : A READER RESPONSE THEORY

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department

by:
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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA
2017
APPROVAL

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PUBLICATION ARTICLE

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Accepted by the Board of Examiners
School of Teacher Training and Education
Muhammadiah University of Surakarta
On May 2017

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Hence later, if it is proven that there are some untrue statements in thus testimony, I will hold fully responsibility.

Surakarta, 09 May 2017
The Researcher

[Signature]

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CONCERN IN LUNG CANCER IN JOHN GREEN’S THE FAULT IN OUR STARS NOVEL (2012): A READER-RESPONSE THEORY

ABSTRACT
This research is about the readers’ concern towards the issue of lung cancer in the novel The Fault in Our Stars (2012) which was analyzed based on Reader-Response theory. The aims of this study was to identified the major issues responded by the readers’, described how the readers’ response towards the issue lung cancer, and to analyzed the readers’ response related to their background. The primary data source was the readers’ reviews data on the Goodreads website. The secondary data of this study was from others source which related with this study such as, journal/e-journal, e-book, books, dictionary and some website that support this study. This study comes to the following conclusion. First, there were 10 major issues responded by the readers’; Second, the readers’ was given both of the positive reviews and negative reviews towards lung cancer. The third results were show that there was relation between the readers’ response with their background.

Keywords:, concern, lung cancer, reader-response the fault in our stars

ABSTRAK

Kata Kunci:, kepedulian, kanker paru-paru, reader-response, the fault in our stars
1. INTRODUCTION

The Fault in Our Stars novel is a kind a romance novel which tells both of love story and the struggle of life of cancer sufferer. In this novel, the main character (Hazel) diagnosed a lung cancer. Lung cancer is an abnormal cell that grows in one or both lungs. In United States, more than thousand sufferers were death each year because of this disease. This condition makes every lung cancer sufferer feels scared and unsure about their life. As well as on the readers’ reviews, most of them show their judgments towards this phenomenon.

The readers’ judgments, reviews, and comments are included in the field of Reader-Response theory. Not only the readers’ positive utterances that include in this theory, but also their negatives utterances. Readers’-response theory focus on the correlation among readers’ in a text to produce its meanings. Richard Beach on A Teacher’s Introduction to Reader-Response Theories (Urbana, IL: National Council of Teacher’s of English. 1993) gives his statements about the different perspective about readers’-response. He divides five primary theoretical perspectives on response. They are: textual theorist of response; experiential theories of response; psychological theories of response; social theories of response; and cultural theories of response.

The research about The Fault in Our Stars have been done by the others researcher by using different objects and theories. Some of them observe the linguistics objects (Dini Indriani, 2015). Another researcher investigates about the optimism in character in the novel (Ana Fathiya Rosida, 2014). The next researcher observes about the pragmatic analysis of disagreement in the novel (Dwiansari Ramadani, 2015).

Regarding with those previous study above, there are differences in their theories and objects usage with mine. In my study is about the readers’
concern in lung cancer disease in the novel using Readers’-response theory. The novelty of this research is to reveal the major issue responded by the readers’ in the novel, the readers’ concern or consideration towards lung cancer issue in the novel, and the relation among readers’ response with their background.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative research. The aim of this research is to describe the readers’ concern towards lung cancer in The Fault in Our Stars novel (2012). The objects of the research are material and formal objects. The material objects are the readers’ response on Goodreads.com website. The formal object of this study is the readers’ concern to the lung cancer issue in the novel.

There are two types of data source that used in this research: the primary data and the secondary data. The primary data source is the readers’ response on the Goodreads.com website. The readers’ response data were collected using purposive sampling techniques. The secondary data source is from others source which related with this study such as, journal/e-journal, e-book, books, dictionary and some website that support this study.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Major Issue Responded by the Readers’

3.1.1 Characters

Characters are the dominant issue in the Goodreads.com. Most of the readers’ argue about the two main characters; Hazel Grace Lancaster and Augustus Walters. Based on the readers’ reviews, they are state that Hazel is such a real character. Hazel is kind person, strong girl, and always full of hope. She gives the readers’ another view about the life of a cancer sufferer. In Augustus character, the readers’ state that he has positive personality and
such an optimistic person. However, some of them are claimed that Augustus character is annoying and too smooth.

3.1.2 Sentimentality

In the sentimentality issue shows readers’ reviews regarding the over-romantic words and exaggerated facts that mention in the novel. The thing that mainly critics are the way Hazel and Augustus talk and act in the novel. The readers’ thoughts that both characters are too manic, they show too much act as a teenager, and they speak like they were an adult. They claimed that as a cancer sufferer, they should not act like that.

3.1.3 Plot

Based on the research, plot refers to the story line that author made. The story lines in the novel are the love story and the cancer sufferer. The readers on this issue give both of positive and negative reviews.

3.1.3.1 Positive reviews

Through the characters, the readers’ thinks that the story more attractive and beautiful. The readers adore the love story between the characters. They also said that it such a lovely book to read. The following utterance is from some of the readers’:

“Our story isn’t simple, isn’t nice and isn’t all sunshine and flowers, but its beautiful. Its one of the most amazing love stories I’ve read. I have nothing to say besides that book is perfect.”

3.1.3.2 Negative reviews

In the negative reviews, the readers’ gives several critics to the book. They thought that as a story which tells
about cancer, it should be on the track of cancer. They claimed that the combination idea of cancer sufferer and romance are terrible. Here some evidence from them:

“This is a book about teens who suffer from cancer; apart from the love story elements and quirkiness. One would expect it to be an emotional read - for many people, I don't doubt it was —“

3.1.4 Style

Style in this research is refers to the matter of diction choice, quotes, and metaphor which found in the novel. Some of the readers’ praise the touching or inspiring quote in the novel. However, some of the readers’ also thinks that the quotation is hyper. For example, in this quote: "My thoughts are stars I cannot fathom into constellations". The readers state that they do not believe for teenager who never knows about literature say that romantic thing like that.

3.1.5 Craftsmanship

Craftsmanship is the one of the most issues which discussed by the reader’s. This issue concentrates on what is the reader’s consideration or complement about the author work of the novel (John Green). The readers argue that the authors’ occupation deserves to be waiting. They are said that John Green is smart, creative and such a lovely person.

3.1.6 Lung Cancer

The next issue responded by the readers’ is about lung cancer. The lung cancer issue is focuses on the readers’ who gives their comments, critics, or their affection on the illnesses suffered by the main characters. In this issue the readers’ gives both of positive and negative issue. The clarification of this issue explained in the next section.
3.1.7 Image

This issue is about the readers’ who only gives picture on their post. They are present several picture such as the image of their emotion (sad, happy, angry, etc.); animation images; quotation images; the movie picture of the book; and the cover of the novel itself.

3.1.8 Different languages

In this research, the writer focuses only on those who use English language. The classification of different language was made to cover up the respondents who did not using English language. The readers’ may use their local language, such as: Arabic, Russian, French, Spain, Italy, Germany, and Indonesia.

3.1.9 Shared Link

The next issue is Shared link. This issue covers up the readers’ that only posted a link. They are share YouTube link of the Fault in our Stars film or their personal blog address.

3.1.10 Short Comments

The last issue is short comments. In this issue the readers’ gives not enough clarification about their statements. The readers on this issue only said one sentence without explanation.

3.2 The Readers’ Response to Lung Cancer

3.2.1 Positive Reviews

3.2.1.1 Sympathy

The readers’ gives their positive reviews depends on their reason. The first reason is sympathy. The readers’ show
their carefulness and attention through their reviews. One of them said that, “...I really loved about Hazel is that she never let her cancer take control of her life.” From it utterances show that the readers believe having a cancer cannot define the sufferer. They are still having a life they deserve. A harmful disease may strike them but they still fight it.

3.2.1.2 Similar Experience

In the readers’ reviews, some of them are telling their same experience with the cancer disease on the novel. They share that they have parents, family, or their own experience which ever had a cancer. Here, some evidence from the readers’:

“I put off reading it for a while because I lost my mama in August of last year to lung cancer, so I knew it would be extremely difficult.”

The readers emphasize that having a cancer is very hard things to reside and accept. She shares that there are things in the novel such as the story line, sadness facts, and a lot of emotion she got through with her mother.

3.2.1.3 Life Lesson

Some of the readers’ state that they got a life lesson when reading the novel. The readers’ feels satisfied that the character in the novel shows how it to be grateful in the desperate situation is. The other readers’ state that the cancer sufferer is someone beyond their self, they have a huge amount of opportunities, have a vision, and take control of their self.

3.2.2 Negative Reviews

The readers’ gives negative reviews because they have different experiences of the lung cancer disease. Some of them
state that the illustration about lung cancer on the novel very
different with the reality. The readers’ thoughts that cancer sufferer
in the end-stage are weak and life in hopeless situation. They are
afraid and unsure about their life. None of cancer sufferer has the
braveness and full of spirit such it mentions in the novel. The
readers’ highlight that there are many things in the novel that
contrasts with the fact of characteristic of cancer sufferer.

3.3 The Relation Between the Readers’ Response and The Background of
the Readers’

3.3.1 Classification of Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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In this research, there are three classification of readers’
background. First is gender classification. In this classification, as
much as 50% readers’ responses are females and only 6% is male.
This data shows that females readers’ have more sensitivity than
male. Females’ character is soft-hearted and soulful. Meanwhile,
the readers’ who did not give their personal information is 44%.
They keep their account in private.

3.3.2 Classification of Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>30-40</td>
<td>12,5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>40-50</td>
<td>12,5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Unidentified 50%

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The readers’ who gives their reviews are from different age. They are from 20 years old until 50 years old. The readers with age 20-30 years old are 25%. The readers on this age can be considered as an adult. Perhaps, they are interested with the book. Then, the readers with age 30-50 are take same number of percentage (12,5%). From this percentage, it may be concluded that the readers are less interested with the book, or the book is not appropriate on their age. Meanwhile, 50% of readers’ hide their age information.

### 3.3.3 Classification of Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>6,25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>6,25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>12,5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>6,25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>43,75%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

The respondents from United States get the highest percentage in giving reviews about lung cancer disease in spite of the unidentified readers’. They may give the reviews because this kind of disease often occur their country or maybe their country have a large number of cancer sufferer. In unidentified classification,
43.75% readers are keep their account private or did not mention their country of origin.

3.4 Discussion

Reader-Response is a theory that clarifies the readers’ arguments, judgments, and believes. For some theorists, the readers’ may have different purpose when giving a response. One of the aspects that mostly affect the readers’ is their personal experience. Richard Beach on A Teacher’s Introduction to Reader-Response Theories (Urbana, IL: National Council of Teacher’s of English. 1993) propose five perspectives on response there are “Textual”; “Experiential”; “Psychological”; Social”; and “Cultural”.

Based on the Beach perspective only 1 kinds of perspective that suitable with the readers reviews. The perspective is experiential theories of response. Experiential theories of responses deal with anything that relate to the readers’ experience and engagement to a text. Most of the readers relate their personal experience with the story. The readers’ gives their emotional feeling and empathy to the story. They think that the story is very touching and inspiring. This reader’ statements are included in the engaging stage of experiential response.

The next stage is constructing. In this stage, the readers begin to create their own real-world assumption. On the readers’ reviews, some of them claim the facts of cancer sufferer are more frustrating than in the novel. A cancer sufferer feels scared and unsure facing the death, far from courageous and hopeful words. The readers’ said that cancer sufferer in the novel is awful. In the imaging stage, the readers’ may be interpreting the characters, place, and act depend on their own emotional experience and understanding towards a text. The readers’ may compare the disease in novel’s character with their family or their own experience. Some of
them state having a cancer is terrible, however some of them state that it has to be grateful for a live even having a harmful disease.

The next stage is *connecting*. In this stage the readers’ may relate their past experience to the recent text or literary works. One of the readers’ shares her experience when losing her mother because of cancer. She thought that it was very hard to deal. When a reader can relate their past experience to the novel, they could possibly understand the story. The last is *evaluating*/*reflecting*. This stage deals with readers’ optimism or expectations from their experience to the novel. In this stage, the readers’ may found many differences and disappointments. The readers’ feels disappointed because their expectation may be different with the reality in the novel.

4. **CONCLUSION**

   After analyzing the data of the readers’ response in the chapter before, the writer draws several conclusions. Firstly, there are 10 major issues responded by the readers’, namely: characters, sentimental, plot, style, craftmanship, lung cancer, only picture, different languages, shared link, and short comments. Secondly, the readers’ response towards lung cancer issue. The readers’ response is dividing into positive and negative responses. In the positive reviews, there are 3 main reasons why the readers’ gives their reviews. They were: sympathy, similar experience, and life lesson. Meanwhile, in negative reviews the readers share different experiences with the novel.

   In the last conclusion, the writer revealed the relation between the readers’ response and their background. There are 3 categories according to the readers’ background. There are: gender, age, and country. 50% are females, 25% are the readers with age 20-30 years old, and 25% of them are from United States.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


