

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Paper Towns is written by John Green and is also his third solo novel. The novel was published on October 16, 2008, by Dutton Books. Now the novel has become a bestselling book based on *New York Times* and has its own film adaptation.

The novel is about the relationship of Margo Roth Spiegelman and Quentin Jacobsen. Quentin is obsessed with Margo and would do everything to make her happy; Quentin is infatuated with Margo. Margo stops talking to Quentin when they enrolled high school, but the way Margo shuts Quentin out does not make him to stop liking Margo. When Margo asks for Quentin's help, he is there for her. Unfortunately, Quentin's love is ignored by Margo. Margo runs away and no one knows where she heads to.

Margo's disappearance leads Quentin to an adventurous searching in his whole life. In the course of Quentin's journey of looking for Margo, Quentin is not alone; he is accompanied by his best friends. At the end, Quentin's infatuation helps him to see the truth, value of friendship, and life lessons.

Quentin's admiration to Margo, along with all his behaviour, is called infatuation. Infatuation or infatuated love is a great case of affection in the vacancy of close relationship and certain need (McClanahan, Gold, Lenney, Ryckman, & Kulberg, 2010). Elaine Hatfield and William Walster (1981), Cited in McClanahan, Gold, Ellen, Ryckman, & Kulberg (2010) point out to romantic love that usually begins instantaneously and quite strong, it may likewise reduce in its intensity quite fast. A person who is in love cannot use their ability to judge or to make discriminations in regard of the personality of the

loved one (McClanahan, Gold, Lenney, Ryckman, & Kulberg, 2010). Therefore, infatuated love is referred to an adage “love is blind”.

From this point, I propose *infatuation* as the main problem which is experienced by the main character—Quentin Jacobsen, as Quentin is obviously obsessed with Margo. When Margo disappears, Quentin is the most anxious person who concerned about Margo more than anyone else. Quentin does not pay attention to his classes; instead, his mind is stuck in the poem Margo gave him to crack—the poem that led him to find Margo. Also, Quentin becomes very annoyed with his best friends when they tried to convince him to move on or to stop playing Margo’s games. What most matter to Quentin at the time is the idea to be reunited with Margo. That idea prevents Quentin to see the reality he is living in.

Another reason the researcher wants to discuss infatuation is the researcher’s personal experience about infatuation. When the researcher was on the third grade of elementary school, she was in love with her fellow student. The feeling lasts until she has grown up. That is why when she reads about *Paper Towns*, the researcher feels some connections with what Quentin has been through.

Infatuation is actually very common in a psychological phenomenon. It can happen to everyone in the different generation. The children in kindergarten can have infatuations with their friends. Also, infatuation could grow between the adult co-workers in offices or between teenagers in schools. Infatuation is a common social behaviour, but most infatuated individuals do not know that they are actually infatuated. Therefore, it is going to be interesting to discuss infatuation.

Researches on infatuation in novels have been done by some scholars. Research entitled *Love, Infatuation and Compromise in Austen's Pride and Prejudice* by Samina Ashfaq and Nasir Jamal Khattak explains that infatuation is shown through relationship of certain characters in *Pride and Prejudice*. The research proves that the characters in *Pride and Prejudice* actually demand a sincere love to be happy—a true love beyond infatuation. Meanwhile, the research titled “*How Do I Love Thee?*” *Infatuation, Passion, and Love in the Novel and 2004 Film The Phantom of the Opera* by Deborah Fillerup Weagel elaborates that Erik and Christine are infatuated to each other. The research distinguishes the difference between an infatuation experienced by Erik to Christine and a genuine love experienced by Christine and Raoul. These researches encourage me to discuss infatuation in *Paper Towns*. Therefore, I would like to propose male infatuation experienced by Quentin Jacobsen in *Paper Towns*.

1.1. FIELD OF THE STUDY

The field of the study is literature, especially Quentin Jacobsen's infatuation in *Paper Towns*.

1.2. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is infatuation experienced by the main character of *Paper Town* by John Green, Quentin Jacobsen.

1.3. PROBLEM FORMULATION

The problem formulations for this thesis are:

1. What features of infatuation does Quentin experience in the novel?
2. How does Quentin overcome his infatuation towards Margo?

1.4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The purposes of this study are:

1. To find out the infatuation features experienced by Quentin Jacobsen.
2. To find out how Quentin Jacobsen can finally overcome his infatuation.

1.6. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This significance of the study is to prove that people can learn psychology from literary works, or in this case, infatuation. It is important to introduce infatuation to Indonesian society because infatuation is something they are not familiar with. Therefore, it is also important to know the difference between romantic love and infatuation by learning through literary works in popular culture such as *Paper Towns*.

1.7. DEFINITION OF TERMS

1.7.1. Infatuations

Infatuation is a psychological indication that causes individual becomes extremely obsessed with their loved ones. Usually, the infatuated individuals cannot judge or discriminate the loved ones in regard of their personality. Therefore, there is an adage says that 'love is blind'. (McClanahan, Gold, Lenney, Ryckman, & Kulberg, 2010)

1.7.2. Behaviour

Behaviour is approximately detectable physical activity. For example: a mother waves to her daughter goodbye, a man kisses his girlfriend, and how a teenager eats a burger in a restaurant. Although behaviour seems trivial and very simple, it may indicate someone's stability of psychology. (M.Bergner, 2010)