

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Literature is a reflection of human life which has an element of entertainment to afford pleasure. There are three known literary genres such as lyric, prose and drama. The writer chooses prose, in this case novel, instead of other literary genres because the writer thinks that it is a suitable work to be analyzed and it is one kind of literary works that the writer is mostly interested in.

Lots of people like to read novels more than other literary genres because it is easier to be understood because of the detailed description which appears very real. That is why the writer thinks the very reason for choosing a novel is because a novel uses details of explanation and describes all the things inside the story very clearly such as the characters, setting, atmosphere and theme. By reading a novel the writer can know how the characters interact with others and also what the characters think and feel in any situations and conditions. Besides, by reading a novel the writer can know the conflict in the novel directly. Moreover, the writer wants to focus on a novel because the story in a novel can be based on a

true story or the experience of the author. About the relationship between novel and life, Holman says that

All novels are representation in fictional narrative of life and experiences, but the form itself as protean as life and experiences themselves (1986, p. 312).

Santrock states that a novel is a kind of literary works that explore the human imagination using imagery, adventures, and experiences, in order to see life more interesting (2002, p. 431). This is also explained in a book entitled *How to Read a Book*:

Much of what people read--newspapers, magazines, reports--increases people store of information but not people understanding and the main purpose in reading novels is to gain increased understanding (Adler & Doren, 1972, p. 214).

According to Siciliano (2002), Nicholas Charles Sparks was born on December 31, 1965. He is an internationally bestselling American author who writes novels with themes that include Christian faith, love, tragedy and fate. *A Bend in the Road* is one of his novels that does not only include love and tragedy but also guilt and longing for justice. Sparks also includes a mystery into this novel. In *A Bend in the Road*, Nicholas Sparks is a person who writes with brilliant strength about life's bitter turns and incomparable sweetness. His affirming message carries a powerful lesson about the imperfections of being human, the mistakes that all people make, and the joy that comes when people give themselves to love.

Miles Ryan's life seemed to end the day his wife was killed in a hit-and-run accident two years ago. Missy had been his first love, and Miles fervently believes she will be his last. As a deputy in the North Carolina town of New Bern, Miles Ryan not only grieves for Missy, but also longs to bring the driver that killed.

Then Miles meets Sarah Andrews. The second grade teacher of his son, Jonah, Sarah had left Baltimore after a difficult divorce to start over in the gentler surroundings of New Bern. Perhaps it is her own emotional wounds that make her sensitive to the hurt she first sees in Jonah's eyes, and then his father's. Tentatively, Sarah and Miles reach out to each other. Soon they are both laughing for the first time in years and falling in love.

Brian, Sarah's brother, is revealed to be the one who hit Missy and the mysterious first-person narrator from the beginning of the book. Miles is enraged and believes that Sarah knew this from the beginning and planned everything out. Sarah is completely awestruck and does not know what to do. Miles explodes on Sarah and says that they are through. Sarah and Brian must fight and survive through Miles's dangerous anger and troubling wants for revenge, as Miles's past actions haunt them as they wait for something to happen.

Eventually, Miles makes sense of everything and makes a decision. Miles waits at the cemetery by Missy's grave where he knows Brian will come. Brian

does indeed come, carrying flowers and wondering when Miles would approach him. When Miles speaks to Brian, he is afraid, but decides to accept what might happen instead, Miles tells Brian to never mention the accident to anyone ever in his life, and that he forgives him, as long as he does something worthwhile with his life. Miles decides to keep Brian's confession as a secret, only between him and Sarah. Brian goes home, utterly surprised, but knows that what Miles said was right. He goes on with his life without a problem.

The writer chooses this novel because this novel is one of the novels where the writer can imagine the situation inside this story which is felt by the protagonist in this novel and become curious to know who the murderer is. Besides that, according to the New York Times Bestselling Author, *A Bend in the Road* is authored by a number one best selling author (http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2345.Nicholas_Sparks, 2011). So, it makes the writer eager to find out the special things in the novel. The writer intends to analyze this novel by focusing on Miles Ryan's changing attitude upon the hit and run accident of his wife's death.

The writer tries to analyze the motivation of Miles Ryan's changing attitude as an effect of his love towards Sarah by using the Freudian psychological approach focusing on the psychic process of Miles Ryan's changing attitude. In order to get a better understanding about the character of Miles Ryan, as it is mentioned before, the writer uses the psychological approach. The writer thinks

that this approach is suitable for analyzing the changing attitude of Miles Ryan toward the death of his wife.

In this thesis the writer uses Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic criticism. The theory used to analyze is the three concepts of human psyche iceberg: id, ego and superego. With Miles' id, ego and superego clearly traced, it becomes easier to discover the motivation behind the changing attitude of Miles Ryan who forgives the murderer of his beloved wife. Using the Theory of Needs by Abraham Maslow, the writer can find that Miles ego influences him to give his forgiveness.

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of the study is focused on literature, especially novel.

1.3 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is Nicholas Sparks' novel entitled *A Bend in the Road*. In analyzing this novel, the writer uses psychological approach. Psychological approach is assumed to be able to answer what is behind Miles Ryan's motive so that he changed his attitude towards Brian, the murderer of his beloved wife.

1.4 Problem Formulation

In analyzing the changing attitude of Miles Ryan, the following questions will be the basis for the study:

1. How are the Freudian analysis and the theory of needs from Abraham Maslow applied on the changing attitude of Miles Ryan?
2. To what extent does love become the motivation that gives impact on Miles Ryan's changing attitude?

1.5 Objective of the Study

1. To analyze the changing attitude of Miles Ryan using Sigmund Freud's theory focusing on human psyche-iceberg concept and the Hierarchy of Needs' theory by Abraham Maslow.
2. To prove that love is as the motive of Miles' changing attitude in his effort to reveal the death of his wife.

1.6 Significance of the Study

By reading this thesis, the readers, especially students of literature can have some benefits as follows:

1. It brings to the surface the knowledge about psychic process and motivation as an exertion of psychological approaches in the novel.

2. It may enrich the readers' knowledge with the study focusing on the changing attitude of a main character in a literary work.
3. This is a study which may provide general interests to study the novel further.

1.7 Definitions of Terms

There are some terms throughout the study that should be understood by the readers, such as:

a. Attitude

Predisposition to act or react in a characteristic direction (Feist, 2002, p. 115).

b. Hierarchy of needs

People has to achieve lower level needs, such as food, shelter, and safety before they can achieve higher level needs, such as belonging, esteem, and self-actualization (Lincoln, 2010, p. 17).

c. Motivation

The process that energizes and/or maintains a behavior (Lincoln, 2010, p. 25).

d. Needs

Circumstances in which something is lacking or necessary and requiring some course of action (Nagar, 1999, p. 1297).