

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Chowdhury (2016:1) stated that moral with its action called morality is a human behavior towards a situation or thing and Value is the norm that is believed by a society as a foundation for human in taking action. We live where moral values commonly become the main benchmark for humans to act in daily live, there are values in social life, values in sports, values in art as include in literature. Values emerge from predecessors which came from culture, tradition, and religious beliefs. Chippendale (2001:1) describes values as something important in one's life and morals prescribe what is or is not considered as appropriate behavior. The level of importance in having values in life because by having them would affect one's attitude towards themselves and their interaction in social life. Guerin (2001:77) argued that literature should be delightful and instructive. Literature as one of the major media must have a value including moral value so that a literary work not only gives its readers a pleasure but also provides values and lessons.

Literary works are written and made not only as mere entertainment, but there is an ideas, experience, and message that author wants to convey to the reader. Literary works are not just a collection of written writings and beautiful words. More than that, literature has a great power in influencing society by attaching moral values. For example, literary works in the form of stories that are published in Indonesian children's school textbooks, especially elementary school children who are easily affected. If a literary work for children has elements of bad things

such as not respecting the opposite sex, then it will adversely affect the child's life. It is different if a story published in a literature textbook contains positive things such as respecting others, learning hard, and making parents happy, they will live have a positive mindset. Correlate to the real life, a concrete example of people behavior which influenced by the power of literature happened in 1920 where there was a novel entitled *The Island of Gorilloids*. This novel tells of a great army created by the results of cross-breeding between women and gorillas. The novel was a successful literary work but it caused bad things to the public's behavior, especially in Russia, where at that time many women asked the zoo who had gorillas to get in touch with them. This is proof of how powerful the influence of a literary work for human behavior, there will be a deviation if there is a misinterpretation of a value in a story.

Literature is powerful and moral value is one of important element in a literary work. No exception is the literary work made by John Green, a famous writer from the United States. In his novel titled *The Fault in Our Stars* which tells about teenage life, he inserts a life value of struggle in life that is most portrayed through the characters of Hazel and Augustus. John Green is known as the writer of fiction works who focuses more on adult and teen stories. The novels he has written are *Looking for Alaska* (2005), *An Abundance of Katherines* (2006), *Let it snow: Three Holiday Romances* (2008), *Paper Towns*, *Will Grayson* (2010), and his latest work is *The Fault in Our Stars* (2012). *The Fault in Our Stars* novel that he created is inspired by his friend who has died fighting against thyroid cancer. In the statement made by John, the reason he made this novel is to give a picture that someone who suffers from an illness does not mean to have no hope.

Conversely people with illness are just the same as other healthy people where they have a desire to do an activity, even to love someone. In the process of writing the novel *The Fault in Our Stars*, John Green made observations by having conversations with people suffering from cancer, talking with oncologists, and reading writings about other people's illnesses. This is done by him to be able to understand what exactly is felt by people suffering from an illness and what they really want. By observations made by John, this novel feels close to the environment of the real world and gives an understanding of what is felt by people suffering from illness. This is what made this novel received appreciation from the public, millions of copies sold, was once the # 1 New York Times Bestseller, # 1 USA Today Bestseller, # 1 International Bestseller and was awarded the Audie Award for Teens (2013).

By having enticing story, providing insight, and getting good appreciation from the community, even being adapted into a movie in 2014 proves that there are something valuable in morality scope for many people about the story of the struggle of life in the novel, this makes the writer eager to analyze aspects of moral values contained in *The Fault in Our Stars* written by John Green as a focus of the current study. Generally, the novel tells about a young 16th years old girl who struggles with cancer, in which she is not very passionate about living until it's time that a young man can inspire her to live a better life and they struggle against the disease by doing things they like such as reading novels which the stories of the novels they read are also about a girl who has cancer as a motivation.

The Fault in Our Stars Novel include as popular literature, Swirski (1999) in his essay *Popular and Highbrow Literature: A Comparative View* describes people

seeing underestimates to popular literature because of the word uses in a common language which close to the readers, made only for pleasure, less artistic, mostly known for the mass production of it and to earn profit as much as possible. Contrast to highbrow literature or classical literature that use more sophisticated words, valued more, and by read the works could improve the readers intellectual. However, popular literature is also provides an information, knowledge, and could be as a medium to put moral values just like classical literature and civilized it readers.

This reserach is important to do to foster a sense of awareness for humans of the importance of having a value in life, especially morals, which organizes the way humans think, act, and understand the circumstances. Furthermore, this research was conducted to appreciate the popular literature created by authors including John Green who had entered into the 100 most influential people in the world as reported in Time Magazine in 2014. With an abundant of appreciation given by the public for the literary works that John Green has made, it indicates that his literary works, which are included as popular literature not only function to get pleasure but also provides a value and knowledge that could affect positively to the behavior and mindset of the readers.

The difference between the current study with previous studies lies in the content of moral values contained in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* which tells the lives of young people struggling with cancer, it tells how to regain a life that once felt empty to be a colorful life even in imperfections condition, the story also tells about friendship and love which of course will provide variations in moral values.

Moreover, each personality has their own understanding of a problem and value, which of course will make a variety of interpretations among writers.

The writer uses the theory of Universal Moral Values proposed by Kinnier et al in interpreting the values in the novel. Contemporary Writers including Krieger, Russel, and Patterson in Kinnier (2000:5) have argued that the future survival of humanity may depend on the acceptance of a global ethic, without it may cause those in power may simply indoctrinate the other party which has weaker position. The call for a list of Universal moral values are has been echoed from time to time to avoid the powered one controlling the less powered. Kinnier et al did a research focusing on Universal Moral Values, the theory is obtained from the conclusion of the majors religion texts and literature texts regarding to philosophies. There are four major Universal Moral Values; Commitment to something greater than oneself, Personal Values, Respect and caring for others, Caring for other living things and the environment. The theory of Universal Moral Values from Kinnier et al assist the writer in categorizing the moral values contained in the novel as clearly as possible, in addition by applying the theory could provides the findings of the current study be more acceptable for many groups, races and parts of the world because it is universal. Theory of the elements in fiction work by Nurgiyantoro and Lucaks with the *Theory of Novel* is also use in this study to provide understanding that moral value is included in extrinsic elements, elements that cannot be directly found in the text of a novel.

Furthermore, Moral and Philosophical approaches which is derivative of literary criticism are applied in the current study. Literary criticism has three main activities; Interpreting, Analyzing, and evaluating. Moral and Philosophical

approaches here is included as interpreting activities because the writer interprete and find the moral meaning of the novel *The Fault in Our Stars*. As stated by Plato in Guerin (2016:333) Moral and Philosophical approaches is describes a literature must exhibit moralism and utilitarianism. It is in line with the focus of the current study in intrepreting moralism in a literary work made by John Green with his novel *The Fault in Our Stars*.

1.2. Formulation of the Problem

In the present study, the writer intends to focus on the following problems:

1. What are the categories of moral values that the author tries to convey in *The Fault in Our Stars*?
2. How are the moral values in *The Fault in Our Stars* described?

1.3. Objectives of the study

Based on the research questions, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To find out the categories of moral values that the author tries to convey in *The Fault in Our Stars*.
2. To describe moral values in *The Fault in Our Stars*.

1.4. Uses of the Study

The study is expected to have function in both theory and practice.

For theoretical uses, the current study provides information and descriptions of moral values contained in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars*. In addition, this study provides a knowledge of universal moral values definition, it types and expected to be very useful for future researcher who are interested in conducting the similar study using Kinier et al theory of Universal Moral Values and Moral

Philosophical Approaches which focus on moral values interpretation in a literary work.

For Practical uses, for the general society, this study provides an understanding of literature in the aspect that a novel is not just a fictional story but contains a good and moral value that can later be applied in life. For University and general students, this study is useful in understanding a moral values practically by applying the knowledge and lessons contained in this study. In addition, this study is aimed at fostering a sense of appreciation for a literary work by analyzing the elements contained therein. Which will continue on the new literary works created by the authors because of the high sense of appreciation given.

1.5. Scope of the Study

The focus of the current study is to find the categories of moral values in John Green novel entitled *The Fault in Our Stars* and describe it by using Universal Moral Values theory and Moral Philosophical Approaches. The moral values are reflected by the narrations, sentences and thoughts of the characters in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars*.