

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

An issue called *Domestic Violence or Family Violence*, it had been stated by Royles (2015:5) that “Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior or an action which abuses or violates another. It is an abuse of one person’s power, control, and influence over another”. There is a phenomenon known by the wider community that there is gender inequality. Where women become victims of violence, it is always connected to Feminism, something related to the release of women from injustice and the power is dominated by men. The aim of feminism is gender balance or interaction. United Nation (UN) once released a statement that “At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime—with the abuser usually someone known to her.” Violence against women and girls is a universal problem of epidemic proportions. The problem that arises in this context is not only why women or wives are the most dominant victims of domestic violence, but also why violence occurs in places where family members should feel safe. This makes domestic violence cases the most common in comparison with other cases of violence. Domestic violence is a complex thing. It is different from other crimes, where the victim and the perpetrator have personal, legal, institutional and social implications. Violence against women has a far deeper impact than it does directly. It has devastating consequences for women who experience it and traumatic effects for those who witness it. Through this analysis, the writer wants this research to be useful for readers to be more aware of domestic violence issues in literary works. By means of this research

too, the writer describes how the behavior of domestic violence occurs in a character's life and what kinds of domestic violence behavior occur in that particular character's life.

Related to the issue above, the writer is interested in analyzing the acts of domestic violence that are portrayed in a best seller novel called *Safe Haven* using feminist approach. *Safe Haven* is a romantic novel written by Nicholas Sparks. Twelve of his books that won the best-selling level made him the number 1 writer in New York, including *Safe Haven* which won the 2010 Goodreads Choice Award for Romance Novel and was nominated for the 2010 Goodreads Choice Award for realism and romance novel. *Safe Haven* (2010) tells a story of the domestic violence experienced by Katie, the main protagonist in the novel. Katie had a marriage with Kevin, a detective, who often did abusive things to Katie in the form of physically, emotionally, and sexually. Kevin becomes overprotective of Katie that mostly leads to an abusive act. Katie gets terrified and several times tries to escape from her husband, but it always fails. Until one day, she gets help from her neighbor who has witnessed Kevin's behavior. She heads to the bus station, crops and bleaches her hair, buys a bus ticket, and stops in the small town of Southport, North Carolina. She begins a new life there and changes her name into Erin to hide her identity. She settles in a forest-house, gets a new job and meets new people which is draws her into two reluctant relationships: one with Alex, a widowed store owner with a kind heart and two young children; and another with her plainspoken single neighbor Jo. Katie begins to fall in love with Alex, yet she struggles with the dark, haunting, terrifying secret that sets her on a shattering journey across the country to the sheltered oasis of Southport. A serious problem happens when Kevin has found Katie's location and the fact that she is with Alex. Kevin gets jealous and wants to kill Katie. In the end, Katie was able to escape from Kevin and kill him in self-defense because Kevin tried to kill him. Later, Katie chose Alex as her life partner. Katie finally realizes

that in life she must choose between a life of transient safety and one of the more risky rewards and that in the darkest of times, love is the only true safe haven.

In the *Safe Haven* novel, one of the most powerful messages the author wants to convey is about a woman or a wife who struggles to escape from her husband who has violence behavior toward her. Spark succeeds in taking the reader's attention by creating various nuances that can immerse the readers' hearts and make them feel what Erin feels as the victim of domestic violence. Finally, from several aspects mentioned above, after reading the novel and going deeper into the issue of domestic violence, the writer wanted to explore and analyze the Behavior of Domestic Violence toward women experienced by Katie as the main character in *Safe Haven* by Nicholas Sparks (2010) based on the Feminist Perspective, and the title is Analysis of Domestic Violence toward the Female Character in Nicholas Spark's *Safe Haven: Feminism Approach*. It is a little reminder that a lot of discussion about violence is related to the issue of feminism. In many cases, women are the victims of violence particularly by a man. It started from the thought that women are not strong enough to fight and defend themselves, and sadly these situations happen a lot in real life. This imbalance continues because many people still think and claim that women are obedient and weak. Some men make women the object of violence in order to achieve their desires or pleasure. Furthermore, the idea of men as a family leader and every family member having to obey their orders or rules make them feel superior and have a control power including to hurt their wife, in particular. Finally, the belief creates a thought that a man has power over his wife and children. So, if there is violent behavior in it, it can be said that he is abusing power.

1.2 Research Question

The research question in this study based the explanation above, as follows:

How is the portrayal of domestic violence behavior toward the female character reflected in *Safe Haven* by Nicholas Sparks?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the problems, the objective of this research is to describe the behavior of domestic violence toward the female characters reflected in *Safe Haven* by Nicholas Sparks (2010).

1.4 Uses of the Study

Every researcher must contribute to the academic world, and benefit society. The main purpose of this research is to provide further knowledge and information that can be applied by the community. Therefore, this study discusses two research uses which are theoretical use and practical use.

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

Theoretically, this research can give more contribution to the development of literary study and can be as references for those who are interested with the same discussion and similar theory. Therefore, the writer hopes that this research can give new knowledge to society toward this topic that are being discussed in this research and can give significant improvement of knowledge about the topic.

1.4.2 Practical Use

Practically, the writer hopes this research can give more understanding of Domestic Violence which often arises in both literary works and real life. Through literary works, readers can increase knowledge about what domestic violence is by looking at behavior and patterns of domestic violence that appear in novels. Readers are also expected to be aware of the harm and dangers of domestic violence.

1.5 Scope of the Study

In completing this research, the writer puts some limits to narrow the topic of the study. This can help the writer to focus on issues that are discussed. The writer focuses on discussing the Behavior of domestic violence toward Katie as the female character reflected in *Safe Haven* by Nicholas Sparks (2010). In this research, the writer would like to analyze and describe what types of domestic violence behavior are seen and the characteristics of it based on the novel. These are the types of domestic violence behavior that exist in the research, (1) emotional abuse, (2) sexual abuse, and (3) physical abuse.