

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is an introduction which presents some points. They are the background of the study, identification of the problem, formulation of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, and operational definition.

A. Background of the Study

Humans are not exempt from issues on the Earth. One of them is if a human is affected by a disease. The disease that causes death is cancer. Cancer is a disease that almost everyone fears because of its malignant and deadly nature. According to Saini, et.al, (2019), cancer is a disease characterized by epigenetic or genetic changes in somatic cells, resulting in aberrant cell proliferation that can spread throughout the body. Cancer is increasing every year. The arrival of cancer is not visible at a young or old age. Even cancer does not discriminate against gender male or female.

Nowadays, cancer is almost taking over as the number one cause of death. Patients with cancer desperately need good relationships with health care professionals, psychological support (from their family, friends or environment) and information to support them during and after the disease. Cancer is one of the diseases that make people feel desperate. Psychologically people will feel lonely where they feel like they have a short life and the time of their death is timed. In medical, cancer is in which cells start to grow out of control.

According to WHO estimates (2021), 20 million people will be diagnosed with cancer, and 10 million will die from it. One type of cancer is thyroid cancer. Thyroid cancer is the uncontrolled and continuous growth of thyroid gland cells leading to malignancy resulting in the formation of an abnormality in the thyroid gland. In this condition, a lump appears in the front of the neck accompanied by symptoms such as hoarseness, difficulty swallowing, and even difficulty breathing. Epidemiological data shows that thyroid cancer is more common in the adolescent population and adults. The incidence of thyroid cancer in women is higher than in men. In the last three decades, the prevalence of thyroid cancer has been found to increase.

Thyroid cancer accounts for around 1-2% of all cancers. In 2020, new cases of thyroid cancer worldwide reached around 580,000 cases. Thyroid cancer is 3 times

more common in women than men, namely 9.3 cases per 100,000 per year in women and 3.1 cases per 100,000 per year in men. Thyroid cancer is more often found in the adolescent population and adults aged 15 to 39 years. The highest prevalence of thyroid cancer is found in East Asia. This cancer is the 7th most common cancer in women in Europe and the 5th most common in women in the United States. In Indonesia, thyroid cancer is the 5th most common malignant cancer in the female population with the number of new cases in 2020 reaching more than 9,000 cases or 4.2% of all new cases of cancer in women. In 2020, the total number of new thyroid cancer cases in Indonesia exceeded 13,100, accounting for 3.3% of all new cancer cases. Indonesia ranks 13th in terms of thyroid cancer incidence, after only leukemia, ovarian cancer, and prostate cancer.

The thyroid gland is the largest endocrine gland in the body. In the thyroid gland a malignancy can occur called carcinoma of thyroid cancer. Thyroid cancer is the most prevalent malignant disease that primarily affects the endocrine system. It accounts for 95% of all malignancies endocrine glands constituting thyroid cancer (Khambri et al., 2017). Various things can be risk factors for thyroid cancer, such as genetic or family factors, smoking, and a history of exposure to radiation. However, it has also been reported that the nutritional status of obesity is also an aspect to be considered in the development of several cancers. One study found a positive link between thyroid cancer risk and body mass index, with the risk increasing with each additional 5kg/m² (Matrone et al., 2020).

For example, one of the deadly cancers is thyroid cancer. Thyroid cancer occurs in the thyroid gland, which is a butterfly-shaped organ located at the base of the neck. This thyroid cancer has increased to about three times more common in women and mostly attacks white people. Although the disease begins in the thyroid, as the cancer progresses, it can spread. The spread is usually from the thyroid to other parts of the body, including the lungs. If it is detected in the lungs, there are still signs of thyroid cancer, so it is still called thyroid cancer. Thyroid cancer usually does not cause any symptoms at first. However, as it grows, this disease can cause signs and symptoms, for example swelling in the neck, changes in voice, and difficulty swallowing.

The researcher is interested to analyze the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green because first, for the first time this novel get #1 New York Times Bestseller, so

that this novel is read by many people. This novel was also adapted into an American romantic drama film by Josh Boone in 2014, starring Shailene Woodley as Hazel Grace Lancaster, and Ansel Elgort as Augustus Waters and received good appreciation. It consists of 318 pages which was published in January 2012 with its publisher, Dutton Books. Second, because the novel is a depiction of the realities of life with all kinds of problems. Thirdly, the novel has a moral message to implement in real life. This novel has received many awards including the Printz Medal, Printz Honor, Edgar Award and has become a finalist of the LA Times Book Prize. Not for the first time the writer, John Green received an award. From his previous novels he also won an award. In addition, over 36,000 people have read this work on Goodreads.com.

The novel is about a girl named *Hazel Grace Lancaster* sixteenth that had cancer in her lungs. She is the primary character in this novel. Hazel was tired of living her life since she had to carry oxygen around all day. Then, she joined the Support Group of Cancer and met a 17 year old boy, an osteosarcoma sufferer named Gus (nickname Augustus Waters) and then made Hazel's life change 180 degrees. This novel contains bitter stories of life, death, and love in between, funny, happy, and sad because this novel tells the struggles of two young cancer patients about their lives. It expresses a strong affection, particularly for cancer patients, and how love gives individuals more spirit and strength to live. These events occurred in the lives of Hazel Grace Lancaster and Augustus Waters, who met later and decided to form a relationship and love each other.

Hazel really likes reading novels entitled *An Imperial Affliction*. The main character, Anna, also suffers from cancer like him. She read the novel every day, back to back. It was from the novel that Hazel learned from Anna on how to cheer herself up even though she has cancer. Anna says things that Hazel would love to hear, things that in reality have never been told to her by people around her. Anna offered a little relief that made Hazel Grace feel comfortable when he is depressed. Cancer patients rarely engage with the general public since they are typically viewed as unique individuals. This treatment causes a lack of contact (American Cancer Society). So it is difficult for her to interact with society and form relationships with others.

There are numerous techniques of analyzing the novel. One of these involves a psychological approach. Psychology and literature have a positive interaction in human

existence, affecting behavior, thinking, motivation, and expression. Psychology can be utilized to explain a variety of topics and occurrences in human existence by incorporating psychological ideas into literary works. The novel the researcher wants to analyze tells about the struggle of humans to survive from cancer. So, based on that problem, the researcher used one of the psychology theories called individual psychology of Adler. The researcher described the novel by using Adler's theory, an individual Psychological focused on the struggles of the main character against cancer. Individual psychology is one of psychology theories that analyze human life related to their struggle, inferiority, fictional finalism, creative self, and style of life. The term psychology itself has several meanings.

This novel also gives an unexpected ending. when we think the main character will die of cancer, but as a result it is not the main character who has to die and make this novel have an ending that is still hanging. Many messages for all of us to continue to survive in any circumstances. Because after all life will continue and we must strive to achieve our goals, dreams and ideals. This novel contains a life of motivation and a struggle to survive. And there are also moral messages and positive values.

B. Identification of the Problems

Based on the background above, there were some problems that has been analyzed by the researcher. The problems of this study were as follows :

1. The portrait of the main character in *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.
2. The struggle of the main character to survive from cancer in *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.
3. The main character's individual psychology in *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green.
4. The relationship between Hazel and Augustus in *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.
5. The Impact of the love conflict that occurred on Hazel Grace Lancaster and Augustus Waters in *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.
6. The ego of mother and daughter in *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green.
7. The main character's internal conflict in *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.
8. The positive and motivation of the main characters who are facing cancer in *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.

9. The ambition of the main characters to meet Peter Van Houten in *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.
10. The moral values that are presented in the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.

C. Focus of the Study

Related with the identification of the problems, the focus of this study are :

1. The portrait of the main character in *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.
2. The struggle of the main character to survive from cancer in *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.
3. The moral values that are presented in the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.

D. Formulation of the Problems

Based on the focus of the study above, this research is intended to answer the following questions :

1. How is the portrait of the main character in *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green ?
2. How is the struggle of the main character to survive from cancer in *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green ?
3. What are the moral values that are presented in the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green ?

E. Objectives of the Study

Based on the formulation of the research problem that has been stated, the writer set the objectives of this research as follows :

1. To describe the characterization of the main character that is portrayed in the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.
2. To explain the struggle of the main character to survive from cancer in *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.
3. To describe the moral values that can be learned in the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green.

F. Significances of the Study

The writer expects that this research will provide contribution, information, and knowledge, particularly the literature education study on John Green's novel *The Fault*

in *Our Stars*. The findings of this study were expected to be useful theoretically and practically as follows :

1. Theoretically

This research is expected to widen the insight about psychological approach especially in terms of individual psychology by Alfred Adler also this research can increase knowledge about psychological approach that can be used to analyze the struggle against cancer and how to survive from the problem in the novel.

2. Practically

This research is expected to help readers understand the contents of the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green, especially regarding the psychology of the main character Hazel Grace Lancaster and to give information and knowledge to the reader, especially the literary study about the novel. To get a better understanding of the novel, in the literary field as references to other researchers in analyzing the novel especially based on an individual psychological approach.

G. Operational Definition

There are three terms need to be defined operationally, they are:

1. Cancer

Cancer is a disease that is characterized by cell growth abnormality that is invasive in nature and spreads to other body tissues via blood vessels and lymph vessels to result in serious conditions and can result in death in patients. Cancer is one of the diseases that make people feel desperate.

2. Main Character

The main character is the main character of a story, or the character the reader follows throughout the story or within the story. The main character must be in the story's problem, climax and resolution.

3. Moral Values

Moral values are abstract and are normative because they say something about the good life, about good and bad. Also moral values relate to the good or bad view of human actions or character.

4. Psychological Approach

Psychological approaches are used to try to explain human thoughts and behavior differently. The psychological approach is an approach that is contrary to the assumption that literary works always concentrate on various behaviors.