

BOOK REVIEW OF NICHOLAS SPARKS' MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

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ABSTRAK

Novel merupakan suatu bentuk karya sastra yang berbentuk prosa yang memiliki unsure intrinsik dan ekstrinsik yang banyak digemari orang. Novel percintaan merupakan novel yang paling banyak digemari oleh pembaca terutama kalangan remaja. *Nicholas Sparks* menulis sebuah novel yang berjudul *Message in a Bottle* yang dikisahkan dari sudut pandang seorang wanita yang menemukan sebuah pesan didalam botol. Novel ini menunjukkan adanya rasa penasar dan perjuangan cinta seseorang untuk mendapatkan cintanya tersebut. Dengan adanya *book review* ini, penulis menganjurkan untuk membaca novel tersebut. Karena melalui bacaan dari novel ini mempunyai segala factor untuk mendapatkan pesan yang disampaikan oleh *Nicholas Sparks* tersampaikan. Ceritanya yang sangat menyentuh sekali dengan bernuansa percintaan, namun tetap menghadirkan sebuah pesan moral dan perjuangan yang harus dicapai.

Kata kunci: *Novel, Fiction, Nicholas Sparks, Message in a Bottle*

Background of the study

A novel is one of literary works that attract readers of various ages and backgrounds. Novel isa work of fiction, it is a story drawn out of the writer's imagination. *Message in a bottle* is a famous novel that has one of the international best-selling based on famous author, Nicholas Sparks. The writer believes that this is a great novel to be read. This novel is very interesting to read for young people, because the storyline is good and very touching. Indeed, the story in the *Message in a Bottle* mostly about sad romance, but behind the story implied some motivation for people to stay strong and continue living no matter how hard life is. Nowadays, many phenomena of broken hearts lead to suicidal thought/behavior is one of the moral value that the writer can take from this novel. This is why the writer think this novel is suitable for young people.

Author's Biography

Nicholas Charles Sparks was born in Omaha, Nebraska on December 31, 1965. All of his books become *New York Times* bestsellers, with over 105 million copies sold around the world, in more than 50 languages. Nicholas Sparks lives in North Carolina. Nicholas Sparks wrote one of his best stories, *The Notebook* at the age of 28. It was published in 1996 and followed with the novel *Message in a Bottle* (1998), *A Walk to Remember* (1999), *The Rescue* (2000), *A Bend in the Road* (2001), *Nights in Rodanthe* (2002), *The Guardian* (2003), *The Wedding* (2003), *True*

Believer(2005) and its sequel, *At First Sight* (2005), *Dear John* (2006), *The Choice* (2007), *The Lucky One* (2008), *The Last Song* (2009), *Safe Haven* (2010), *The Best of Me* (2011), and *The Longest Ride* (2013) as well as the 2004 non-fiction memoir *Three Weeks With My Brother*, co-written with his brother Micah. His eighteenth novel, *See Me*, published on October 12, 2015. His newest book, *Two by Two*, was published in October 4, 2016.

Summary

The story of *Message in a bottle* begins when Theresa Osborne, a columnist for the Boston Times, found a bottle on the beach. Inside is one of the most touching love letters Theresa has ever read. Apparently, it is a letter from Garrett Blake to his lost love, Catherine. Theresa shows the letter to her friend and editor, she talked them to publish the letter in her parenting column in the Boston Times. The reaction of the readers is overwhelming. Theresa returns from vacation to pile of letters. She got many phone calls from people who want to know more about it. Theresa is fascinated with the letter and decides to do some research on that message in bottle. Theresa takes all three letters to her editor and together they use the information in the letters to locate Garrett Blake. As time goes by, they meet, care for each other and fall in love each other. The conflicts begin when they are arguing, Garrett found her letters to Catherine at Theresa's apartment. Garrett got angry. He felt it was a private thing that should not be known, especially the public media.

At the final chapter, Theresa just gave up on their relationship. He feels Garrett is still overshadowed by Catherine. Theresa finally chose to move away from Garrett. Garret Blake dies due to an accident involving a storm but not before sending her a message in a bottle.

Review

Theme is a major idea contained in a story including in a work of writing. Theme is derived from the Latin language, *thema*. According to Perrine (1988), Theme is a way that is seen by the reader to know the story in writing. Stories in writing will be more delivered well when choosing an interesting theme. The writer wants to shows that the main theme in the novel of *Message in a Bottle* is sadness. From beginning till the end the story tells of the sadness experienced by the characters. Only a small portion in this novel has romance and happiness scenes.

Characterization is the way the authors describe the story based on its essence, physical characteristics, the environment in which it lives, and how it acts. According to Kenney (1966: 33), Character is the mental and moral qualities that make a person or a group different from other. Morner and Rausch define character simply as “a person in a literary works” (1991:31). Character can be said as fictional actors/actress in a fictional story that has a natural human nature, which means that the characters have a life.

In a novel there is an element that must exist that is setting, all the things that setting of story from start to finish. There are three important points in the setting; place, time and social setting. The story's of setting of *Message in a Bottle* setting in Boston and Wilmington in 1997. Boston is the setting for Theresa Osborne's office, Boston Times as columnist. Meanwhile, Wilmington is where Garrett Blake lives and where he works as a diving instructor and sailor.

Strengths of the novel

The first strengths of this novel is word selection. As we know that in the novel usually uses a figurative language that is difficult to understand and sometimes uses the language of literature. But not with the novel by Nicholas Sparks, he uses a word that is easy to understand so that the reader has no difficulty understand it. Because according to the writer opinion, in his way of creating an easy-to-understand novel it's easier for the reader to capture what the author wants to convey the intent in the story. Moreover, the novel is intended for young people, so the readers, especially young people can understand the meaning and meaning. So the story can be well conveyed by using common words.

The second strengths of this novel is the plot illustrated well. The plot of the novel *Message in a Bottle* is using chronological plot. Because the story presented undergoes a step forward that result in the future. Novel *Message in a Bottle* begins when she found a bottle in which a letter appeared. First time taking it, Theresa was

very enthusiastic. After he picked up the bottle, it was clear that the letter paper he had found was very long. Theresa shows the letter to her friend and editor, she is talked into publishing the letter in her parenting column in the Boston Times. Theresa success to get information about a man named Garrett, they meet, care and fall in love each other. Until the distance becomes a problem between them. And then Garrett found her letters to Catherine at Theresa's apartment. Garrett got anger, he felt it was a private thing that should not be known, especially the public media.

In this novel there are lots of griefs, message in a bottle from Garrett to his beloved wife is already the first sadness in this novel that made the reader touched.

Weakness of the novel

The first weakness of the novel readers can guess the end of the story in this novel. At the beginning of the story it was mentioned that Theresa divorced and became a single mother, and then Garrett wrote the message in a bottle to her beloved wife who had found the message found by Theresa on the beach. When Theresa and Garret meet and fall in love, the conflict approaches them because Theresa feels that Garrett has not been able to move on from his wife, Catherine. At the end of it they are not together because the end of the story, Garret passed away when he tries to save people when a storm breaks out.

The last weakness of the book is lack of romance. The story of the novel Message in a Bottle tells of a woman who fell in love with the man who wrote the

message in a bottle and then they fell in love with each other. Only in that section there is a romance scene in this novel when they love each other. But most of these novel stories start from beginning to end, leading to sadness and deep sorrow. The writer feel it will be more interesting if more romance scene added in this novel.

Conclusion

Message in a bottle is a novel authored by an American Writer by Nicholas Sparks who is a famous author for his best-selling work and lots of his qmade the film version. The message of this story to the reader is that we have to value our life and hold on to people who cherish us. The story also contains elements of comedy, such as the typical story of Nicholas Sparks. The funny character in this story is Deanne, a 58-year-old middle-aged woman, a close friend of Theresa. Although the writer does not think it is a happy ending where Garret's character has to die, but there's an important lesson behind this story. It can be concluded that in a novel there are strength and weaknesses. It depends on the reader's point of view. After reviewing, the author gets some strengths and weaknesses of this novel. The strength of this novel is the author capability to select words and the amount of grief and sadness in its story. The predictable ending and lack of romance scenes are the weakness of this novel. Although this novel has some weaknesses, the author strongly recommends this novel to be read because it can motivate us to treasure the people that cherish us in the present

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