

CHAPTER III

DESCRIPTION

The novel that is taken to be studied in this research is *The Best of Me*, a novel by Nicholas Spark. Nicholas Spark is an American best-selling writer. He published 16 novels and became the best-selling novel in the United States and around the world. Most of his novel has the theme of love and romance. Seven of the whole of his novels have been adapted to the big screen, including *A Walk to Remember*, *Dear John*, *The Last Song*, and most recently, *The Lucky One*.

3.1 Characterization

In this sub chapter, the writer will discuss one of the literary work's elements called characters and characterization. As explained in the previous chapter, here the writer does not discuss the whole characters in the novel chosen but only one of them. The character chosen as the object of the description is Amanda Collier, one of the main characters in *The Best of Me* novel by Nicholas Spark. That is why; this sub chapter will elaborate Amanda's characterization description.

In description Amanda's characterization, the writer uses the methods of characterizing characters stated by Pooley (1967). There are actually four methods of characterizing characters stated by Pooley (1967), however, the last method is omitted by the writer. It means, in analyzing the Amanda's characterization the writer uses three methods. Those methods are: analyzing character's characterization through the physical traits and personality given by the author,

through the speech, behavior, and actions of the characters, and through the other character's opinion toward certain character.

3.1.1 Physical Traits of Amanda

The author may characterize his characters by describing the character's physical traits. Physical traits are given by the author to ease the reader fully imagine the character. It is also aimed to ease the reader to differentiate each of the character because in a written prose, the only way to describe each character is by using written description without illustrated by pictures. Thus, the detail description toward the physical traits of the characters is needed to make the reader engaged to the character of the story.

In *The Best of Me* novel, Amanda Collier is depicted as a good looking woman in her age. She is 42 years old already, but from the narration of the author, it can be concluded that Amanda is beautiful. She is a beautiful girl in her teenage too.

3.1.1.1 Beautiful

Amanda Collier is called as a beautiful person. It can be described from the following sentence:

She had a quick, unbridled laugh, and when she smiled there was a mischievous hint about it, as though she knew something that no one else did. Her hair was a rich honey blond, her eyes the color of warm summer skies, and sometimes as they scribbled equations into their notebooks, she would touch his arm to get his attention and the feeling would linger for hours. (Chapter I: 8)

which determines their behavior: good or bad. Those three components are: id, ego, and superego.

In *The Best of Me* novel, Amanda has a love affair with her former boyfriend named Dawson Cole. This love affair happened because id component in Amanda's mind won the warfare toward superego. Id component represents all of the human being willing, expectation and desires no matter those willing are break the rule. Superego is an internal representation of the moral rules of the external, social world (Pervin et al, 1996:85). It functions to control behavior in accord with these rules, offering rewards for good behavior and punishment for bad behaviors. Whereas the id seeks pleasure, the superego seeks the perfection, the ego seeks the reality. The ego's function is to express and satisfy the id in accordance with two things: opportunities and constraints that exist in the real world and the demands of the superego.

In Amanda's cases, the ego preferred to satisfy id more than superego because the consequence that is offered by the superego is tolerate enough. Then, it is absolutely has a relation with the reality of Amanda's life. The condition of Amanda's life supports the ego to prefer to satisfy the id component.

The realities that probably play a role to the ego's final decision (in id side) are: Amanda has a trouble marriage, Amanda felt lonely, Amanda has a faithful former boyfriend, and Amanda felt she is hurt.

After a honeymoon in the Bahamas, she started her teaching job at a local elementary school, but when Jared came along the following summer, she took a leave of absence. Lynn followed eighteen months later, and the leave of absence became permanent. By then, Frank had managed to borrow enough money to open his own practice and buy a small starter house in Durham. Those were lean years; Frank wanted to succeed on his own and refused to accept offers of help from either family. After paying the bills, they were lucky if they had enough money left over to rent a movie on the weekend. Dinners out were rare, and when their car died, Amanda found herself stranded in the house for a month, until they could afford to get it fixed. They slept with extra blankets on the bed in order to keep the heating bills down. As stressful and exhausting as those years had sometimes been, when she thought back on her life, she also knew they'd been some of the happiest years of their marriage (Chapter 2: 14.)

In that moment, life is still unstable; every possibility may happen to Amanda and Frank's life. Thus, although the conditions they passed were hard, they have a tendency to be happy. When the living began to be stable and settled, the lives offered less surprises, everything runs well as it should be. This condition is then, emerging a monotonous. Monotonous living sensitively causes many troubles in human beings' life. Realizing or not, Amanda's life began to be monotonous since her husband has his own dental clinic, her economy began to be stable, Amanda & Frank have their own house, and Amanda's children is already three. Nothing new and nothing is needed to be fighting for.

Frank's practice grew steadily, and in many respects their lives settled into a predictable pattern. Frank worked while she took care of the house and kids, and a third child, Bea, followed just as they sold their starter house and moved into the larger one they had built in a more established area of town. After that, things got even busier. Frank's practice

The time when Bea died is very hard for both Amanda and Frank. It is told in the novel that Amanda described Bea as a super cheerful baby, even, Bea is still being cheerful in the time when the Bea's disease is getting worse.

She was joy in living form. We used to joke that she came out of the womb smiling. Even as a baby, she hardly ever cried. And that never changed. She laughed all the time; to her, everything new was a thrilling discovery. (chapter 12: 107)

So we visited a host of specialists, and each of them told us there was nothing he could do for her.” She swallowed hard. “After that... it just started getting worse. But she was who she was, you know? Just happy. Even toward the end, when she was barely able to sit up on her own, she still laughed. (chapter 12: 107)

“After she died, part of me died, too. And for a long time, Frank and I could barely look at each other. Not because we were angry, but because it hurt. I could see Bea in Frank, and Frank could see her in me, and it was... unbearable. (chapter 12: 107)

Based on the quotation above, it can be concluded that Amanda does love her daughter. Then, when her daughter died, Amanda felt there was something missing in her life. Thus, although Amanda still has many other children, she felt lonely still because for women, children is like a pieces of their body, when they loss one of them, they feel like they loss one of the piece of their body.

Because Amanda felt lonely, she needs someone to accompany her sole in her grief. Frank should be the person who best accompanies Amanda's grief, in fact, since the death of Bea, Amanda tries to sheer off from Frank because Frank's face reminds Amanda to Bea. Thus, Amanda faces the solitude alone.

Therefore, this solitude condition cause Amanda to do a love affair with the person that probably able to loss her solitude. Thus, Amanda Collier commits a love affair with Dawson Cole.

She could recall with utter clarity her certainty that Dawson was the only person in the world who really understood her. But most of all, she could remember how completely she'd loved him and the single-minded passion with which he'd loved her back. (Chapter 2: 20)

She smiled before going on, knowing that he was remembering as well. "That's why I loved being with you. We could do the simplest things, like toss starfish into the ocean and share a burger and talk and even then I knew that I was fortunate. (Chapter 7: 74)

Because you were the first guy who wasn't constantly trying to impress me. You accepted who you were, but more than that, you accepted me for me. And nothing else mattered—not my family or your family or anyone else in the world. It was just us." She paused. "I don't know that I've ever felt as happy as I did that day, but then again, it was always like that when we were together. I never wanted it to end." (Chapter 7: 74)

From the quotation about explain that this proves that Amanda with Dawson felt comfortable and very much in love Dawson. Additionally when Amanda would marry with Frank she thought that Dawson was beside, this is the evidence that Amanda thought of Dawson.

"Don't you know?" She looked at him. "It's because of you. Even when we were standing in the church and I was getting ready to take my vows, I can remember wishing that you were standing there, instead of him. Because I not only still loved you, but loved you beyond measure, and I suspected even then that I would never feel the same way about Frank" (Chapter 12: 106)

She could hear Tanner breathing on the other end “Dawson was helping Alan Bonner out of the bar when Ted managed to fire off a last round. Dawson was shot.” (Chapter 23: 173)

Dawson, she knew, had saved Alan’s life—but in the end, he’d saved Jared’s as well. And for her that meant... everything. I gave you the best of me, he’d told her once, and with every beat of her son’s heart, she knew he’d done exactly that. (Epilogue: 179)

Quotations above prove that Dawson was willing to help someone, even though it endangers his life. When Dawson was shot and died he donate her heart to another person and accidental donor heart was given to Amanda children
Amanda

All in all, from the above explanation the researchers know that there are three factors that led Amanda to do a love affair, those are; Marriage’s Problem, Loneliness, and Faithful Ex-Boyfriend. Those facts causing Amanda could not stop her desire to close with Dawson Cole every time.

The factors presented above are the conditions that trigger Amanda to commit her love affair, where the *ego* presents supporting facts toward what the *id* expected.

Through Sigmund Freud's id, ego, and superego, it found that the causes Amanda’s love affair. First; his id-marked when Amanda is controlled by desires and his improper behavior are just looking for fun. Ego, on the other hand, arises when Amanda started to lie to the mother and her husband on the relationship romance with Dawson Cole. Furthermore, Amanda knows that the relationship with Dawson is wrong and it shows superego.