

AN EXPRESSIVE ANALYSIS TOWARD *THE FAULT IN OUR STARS* BY JOHN GEEN

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Abstract

In this thesis, the writer discusses the about the life expression of a young girl in Indiana through the main character inside *The Fault in Our Stars* novel written by John green. *The Fault in Our Stars* novel tells about a group of cancer support especially a romantic couple Hazel and Agustus. The author express the real life of Esther in fiction And it has a corelation with the biography of the author. There are to problems analyzed in this research. First is about the motivation of author to produce *The Fault in Our Stars* novel. Second is the expression of personality, biography, emotion and idea of the author and the main character inside of *The Fault in Our Stars*.

Literature review provides theory and approach related to the discussion. The Writer applied biographical as the approach and Expressive as the theory to answering the problem formulation. Beside that, in analyzing this thesis, library research and descriptive qualitative research that writer applied to elaborate and to perform the that have logic corelation to the problem formulation.

In conclusion, the writer finds that there are four elements of expressive theory and it can be seen in *The Fault in our Stars* Novel such as: The work kinds of genre, it can be seen by the youg adult character and also romantic atmosphere that present inside of the story. Spontaenity as creation can be seen by the skill of the author to present a sensitive and different work about Cancer without setire anyone. External world that is being discussed is a world of Esther earl, a girl who survive from cancer in Indiana. Actually, John green dedicate this work to her best friend Esther earl, but beside that a whole world also get in touch with the story, the way author give life motivation to the audince throught the main character and also life motivation for cancer survivor. The writer described or proved those situation by stated some quotations which are direct and indirect quotation by the characters inside of the novel.

Key words: cancer survivor, external world, genre, life expression, motivation, spontaenity as creation

INTRODUCTION

Literature can be defined as an expression of human feelings, thoughts, ideas, and experience in which the medium is language , oral (Kuswoyo & Siregar, 2019) and written (Mandasari, n.d.). In most cases, literature is referred as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature (Rido et al., 2016), (KUSWOYO et al., 2013), (Amelia & Daud, 2020), (Aminatun et al., 2021), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020b). Author develops the ideas and produce different perspectives or point of view toward something which is exist in society (Pustaka, 2020), (Rido, 2018), (Amelia, 2021), (Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020), (Wahyudin, 2018). They requires the stating idea, accomodate a framework of thinking, and it is happen because human is social creature, they need to get in touch as a part of the society as the result or point of social relationship. It is based on someone life experience in particular time and place. Those two things becomes the main ideas and influenced author's motivation to produce literary work (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020a), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2021), (Kuswoyo, n.d.), (Suprayogi & Novanti, 2021), (Lennon, 2008).

Biography also can define as detailed description or account of someone's life. It is a list of basic facts, such as: education (Gumantan et al., 2021), (Simamora & Oktaviani, 2020), (Hasani et al., 2020), (Rohman et al., 2020), (Yudiawan et al., 2021), work (Sensuse et al., 2020), relationships, death, the subject's experience of those events, a biography presents the life's story of the subject. The statement above indicates that there are some aspects inside someone biography. If the critics want to criticized a literary work they need to know deeper about all those things (Kuswoyo, 2016), (Kuswoyo, 2013), (Kuswoyo, 2014), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020a), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2021). The corelation can be as individual and sociological.

The question addressed under this discussion, what is the nature relationship that exist between the work and its author? Does the identity of the author (their personality, character (Kardiansyah, n.d.), (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019), (Yulianti & Sulistiyawati, 2020), (Mertania & Amelia, 2020), nationality, class (Oktaviani et al., 2020), (Mandasari, 2017), (Sari & Wahyudin, 2019), (Oktaviani, n.d.), (Wahyudin, 2017), race, gender (Afrianto & Ma'rifah, 2020), place and time (Aguss, 2021) in which they lives) influence the literary work that they produce? There must be answer of those question above, generally, it was about self-expression in which the author describe their life in the form of literary work.

There are some elements which prove the originality of a literary work, to be a work of art, it needs to look realistic, correct, complete, and vivid with its representation. A literary work can be categorize as good work if it is captured the real life and it can be easily recognized and also understood by the reader. The real art may teach and reform by emphasizing social, psychological condition, idealistic and realistic, the author alsomust present moral value to inspired the reader.

The corelation between ideas, expressive and also biographical of thore aut will give an understanding that literary work is produced based on some reasons and author intention. Green as the author of *The Fault in Our Stars* novel produced the story based on two sides. The first is, he produced as his individual expression. The second is, the author as a part of society. He sees the situation surrounding, people who lived in Indian, especially young adult who suffers from cancer. The author involved in the field of medical treatment.

(Degelezer, 2013: 20) stated that *The Fault in Our Stars* novel is the fourth of Green's solo novels. The novel was published on the 10th January 2012. Green had plans to write about sick kids after his experience as a chaplain in 2000, but it takes along time to find the right voice. In multiple interviews, he names Esther Earl is a girl who died because of cancer in 2010, Esther Earl as an important influence to the development of the novel. He cites her as the main cause of him to finished the work. Despite the fact that their lives were cut short, these kids still led lives which were meaningful and filled with more than just pain. *The Fault in Our Stars* is award winning author John Green's most ambitious and heart breaking work yet, brilliantly exploring the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love.

The reason for the writer to choose this work as the object of analysis are: to know deeper about author motivation to craete this novel. Whether or not this novel is really as his expression when he work as a Chaplain. The second is what is the writer idea, what he says toward the story inside of this novel, the writer also curious toward author biography. It

can be conclude that those three reason will prove that this historical event actually occurred and was prevalent in author's mind when he wrote the text.

1.1 Research Question

Based on background of study which is described above, the writer formulates the study into one,

1. How is the author's ideas expressed inside of *The Fault in Our Stars* novel?

1.2 Research Objectives

Based on the problem that the writer formulated above, the objective of this research is to find out whether or not *The Fault in Our Stars* novel is the reflection of author's self expression. It can be proven from his biography.

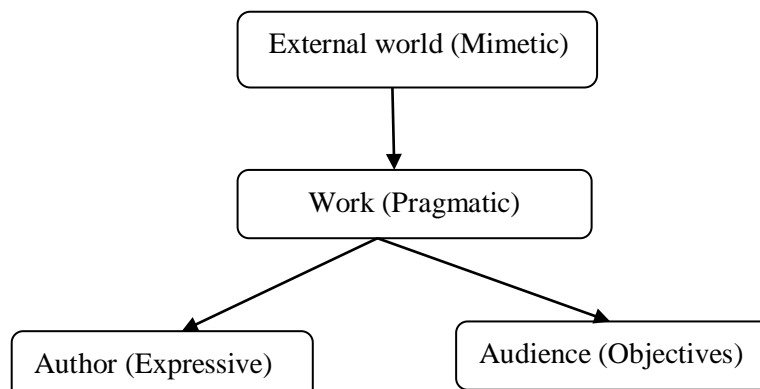
LITERATURE REVIEW

Biographical approach based on Erinn Shick (2014), it is a form of literary criticism which analyze a writer's biography in order to show the relationship between the author's life and their works of literature. Biographical approach in criticism means that evaluating a work of art, such as: novel, fiction, drama poetry etc; by seeing the life of the author of that work. It also tends to look into the authors history, his personal life, his physical, psychological conditions in which the work is a product. The author's personal life and his times are taken into consideration while evaluating such works.

Biography of John Green as stated by (Hezeleger,2013:18) John Green was born on August 24th 1977. In 2000, he graduated from Kenyon College, Ohio, with a double BA in English and Religious Studies. He spent five months working as a student chaplain at a local hospital. John Green spent several years writing reviews for magazines and papers in Chicago and New York. He published his first book *Looking for Alaska*, a young adult novel which won the Michael L. Printz prize in 2006 (Michael L. Printz). In 2007 his second book, *An Abundance of Catherine*. It was nominated for the Printz prize and garnered an honorable mention on the Young Adult Library services Association's 2007 list of best books for Young Adults.

2.2 Expressive

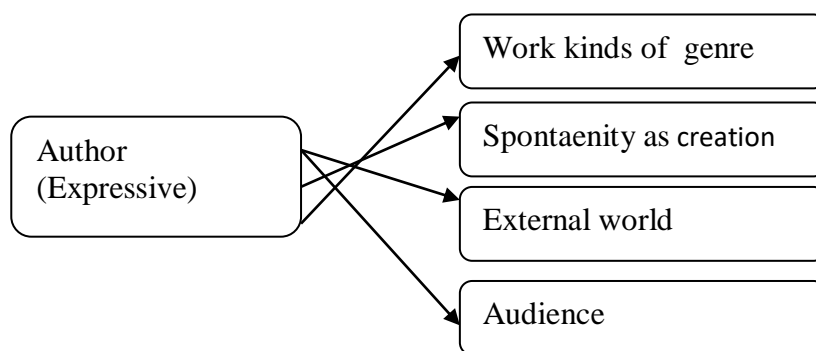
This theory is one of four critical orientation which is coming from Mayer Howard Abram in his book *The Mirror and The Lamp* (1953) and it has been recopyed by Oxford university in 2010. Critical orientation appear in romantic movement in 19th century.



Early, this literary criticism used to criticize poetry and art in a whole. But in now a days, this theory can be used to analyze the other kinds of literary work such as: drama, prose and novel because those three novels have big influence toward the literary work production. The first orientation is the external world (mimetic), this orientation focused on the life of particular society, culture, group or individual in particular time and space that captured by the author inside of the literary work.

The second is the work as an object (pragmatic), this orientation ofcused on the object, the production and also physic of the work. The third is the author (expressive), this orientaton focused on the life of the author, bography, idea and also motvation of the author to create the work. The last orientation is the audience (objective), the audience as the central aim of literary work is also include inside of this literary orientation.

Mayer Howard Abram produces the concept of literary criticism orientation as the writer mentioned above gives clear understanding toward the existence of literary work. He stated that the concept of literary orientation must be exist in every single literary work creation. In this research, the writer only choose one orientation, because this orientation is really describe in this work namely expressive theory. This critical theory became prominent with romantic movement in the early 19th century. It makes sense of meaning and significance of literature by focusing upon what the literary text expresses about the thoughts and feelings of its writer. In cases, it is clear what the writer thinks and feels, about those of the speaker or the narrator in the text.



Based on Abram's book *The mirror and the lamp* (2010:34) The most important source of this theory is the author as individual or as a member of a group. It is no longer to external factor but the author itself. It corelates with the feeling and also desire of the author to produce a lterary work. Expressive theory also focused on author's biography and psychology to understand the work, it is a must to know the psychology of the author and know all aspects of his biography. Expressive theory would be appropriate toward this research.

The work kinds of genre

This element sees the genre of the work as the purest expression of feelings. The content of the story as the imitaton of external world. The genre of a literary work also gives big

influence to the reader to choose a literary work. For example, mostly teenager likes to read a novel in romantic genre because it is discussed about love and romance between man and women. The genre of a literary work also can determine mood or feeling of someone.

Spontaneity as creation

This element sees the capability of the author as a whole in creating literature. The author knowledge and skills are acquired. The writer needs to see the other skills of the author besides as the writer. An author may have another abilities and skills in life, a writer and an actor or actresses, a writer as a film production, a writer as a business man or woman. In this terms, the author can divided into two classes: The first is author who are born and author who are made. It is basically seen from the previous work of the author. The second is author by nature or author by culture. It can be seen from the condition in particular time, the writer produce a work because of the condition which happen in specific time and place. The appearance of spontaneity shows those both elements above.

The External World

Literature is often defined as a permanent expression of particular time and space, some thought, feeling, idea about life of the world explain in the form of words. Literary work can construct the world throughout words for the motive that words have power. By the side of statement, it is represented that through that power can formed an image of particular world, as a new world. Those words have documentary aspects that can break through space and times, illustrate past as well as future.

The Audience

The most important point in this term is the reader of the work. The importance of the audience as the determinant of the work and value. The work is not written for one but for many people. Based on Abram in Glossary literary terms, each of work has a worthy purposes even though it turns out that the pleasure and profit of the audiences is an automatic consequence of the work's spontaneous overflow of feelings have been established by the work in advanced. The author might produce the work based on his own feeling of he himself, upon the belief or the will of another. When the expression of his emotion is expressed, it can be as the purpose by desire that make an impression of another mind. Usually the work utterly replaces the audience feeling.

METHOD

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative research because researcher does not use specific or certain data in method of research. Therefore concerns upon the sentences and phrases in revealing the analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Work Kinds of Genre

The first novel is *Looking for Alaska*, this novel published in April 23rd 2009. It tells about a young man named Miles, he likes to read the biography of some famous writers even though he does not read the work completely. He find out the life of the author, school

and memorized their last word before they died or at the end of their work. It became the main reason for him to continue his study in Alabama and move from Florida. The genre of this novel is young adult and romantic genre because the character and also the whole story tells about the life of young boy to find out the meaning of 'I go to seek a Great Perhaps, while he try to find outthe meaning of the words, he make some friends and has a girl friend in his new collage.

"Hold on," I said. I went into Dad's study and found his biography of Francois Rabelais. I liked reading biographies of writers, even if (as was the case with Monsieur Rabelais) I'd never read any of their actual writing. I flipped to the back and found the highlighted quote ("NEVER USE A HIGHLIGHTER IN MY BOOKS," my dad had told me a thousand times. But how else are you supposed to find what you're looking for?). "So this guy," I said, standing in the doorway of the living room. "Francois Rabelais. He was this poet. And his last words were 'I go to seek a Great Perhaps.' That's why I'm going. So I don't have to wait until I die to start seeking a Great Perhaps." (Green, 2009: 7).

From the quotation above, it can be seen that the main character try to explain the reason for him to move to Alabama. His big curiosity to find out the meaning of the words gives a new experience of life in his new collage. It can be seen from the last words "*And his last words were 'I go to seek a Great Perhaps.' That's why I'm going. So I don't have to wait until I die to start seeking a Great Perhaps.*" He believe that there were some meaning of life inside of literary works, the stanza of every poet. This novel is almost the same with *The Fault in Our Stars* novel, the main character find out the author's intention inside of a literary work.

Spontaenity as Creation

John Green has been stated as the best author for young adult genre of literary work. Besides in writing, he also good as actor, editor, vlogger, producer. Same as the novel, this film also preferebly by the audiences and also reader of this novel, succesd to take million people to watch this movie. Another skills of John Green besides as a writer is a succes video blogger in youtube, he manage this blog with his brother named Hank Green. They posted some studies about literature, daily life, public speaking, information about healthy and etc.

Highly Quotable + Heartache + Happy Ending: Readers will find many elegant and profound quotes to feature in fan art inspired by *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Aliré Saenz. (Consider "I could be something and nothing at the same time. I could be necessary and also invisible. Everyone would need me and no one would be able to see me," or "Words were different when they lived inside of you.") These sentences would look just as nice on a T-shirt as the popular quotes from *The Fault in Our Stars*. So what are journalists and marketers really saying when they claim a book is "for fans of John Green"? (Molly, 2014:1).

The reseracher takes the quotation above from journal which is made by one of John Green fan. She criticize the works of John green overall. It really shows that the ability and skills of John Green are really seen inside of his works. There are some quotations that

have specific reason and meaning like in *The Fault in Our Stars* (Consider "I could be something and nothing at the same time. I could be necessary and also invisible. Everyone would need me and no one would be able to see me," or "Words were different when they lived inside of you"), and the second is in *Looking for Alaska* ('I go to seek a Great Perhaps.'). Those two quotations have been repeated from another best quotation from John Green novels.

The External World

A literary work produced based on the condition in particular time and place, the condition is called as external world. The creation of literary work must be produced in the right terms, some aspects or elements which are included inside of it must be described well. Plot, theme, characters and the other elements of literary work, it tends to be regarded as the inner state of author feeling and emotion through literary work. *The Fault in Our Stars* novel described the situation in particular time and place, even though it does not describe the situation of a society in a whole but the author highlighted the story of a particular group which is a group of cancer survivors.

This Support Group featured a rotating cast of characters in various states of tumor-driven unwellness. Why did the cast rotate? A side effect of dying. It met every Wednesday in the basement of a stone-walled Episcopal church shaped like a cross. We all sat in a circle right in the middle of the cross, where the two boards would have met, where the heart of Jesus would have been. So here's how it went in God's heart: The six or seven or ten of us walked/wheeled in, grazed at a decrepit selection of cookies and lemonade, sat down in the Circle of Trust, and listened to Patrick recount for the thousandth time his depressingly miserable life story—how he had cancer in his balls and they thought he was going to die but he didn't die. (Green, 2012:1)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that all members of that support group are gathered every week, they still care about their life, support group becomes their routine every Wednesday, it can be seen from the narration "*It met every Wednesday in the basement of a stone-walled Episcopal church shaped like a cross.*" They seek motivation to live and put their hope in God. Based on Abram (2010: 36) the work must be true not to the object but, to the human emotion, thus severed from the external world, the object signified by the work, the symbol also as the inner state of author's mind. The only way of expressing emotion in the form of art is by finding an objective correlative. In other words, a set of objects, a situation, a chain of events which shall be formulated of that particular emotion, such as; when the external facts are present, it is a must to understand what kind of emotion or experience are given.

Basically, people who suffer from cancer and the other serious illness are hard to socialize and communicate with others, they tend to be alone and overthink. Sometimes they decide to fall into depression, but actually it is not, it is only the effect of cancer, the member of this group mostly experienced this effect, that is why the role of their parents is totally seen in this story. They were recommended to follow and it is the best choice to join support group. Even though support group is a little bit boring, but they can find people who have the same disease there and probably more severe, so they can find motivation to live better, they always support one another and it can make them survive their life.

Once we got around the circle, Patrick always asked if anyone wanted to share. And then began the circle jerk of support: everyone talking about fighting and battling and winning and shrinking and scanning. To be fair to Patrick, he let us talk about dying, too. But most of them weren't dying. Most would live into adulthood, as Patrick had. (Green, 2012:2) Patrick as the leader of this support group is the one and only person over eighteen, he talked about the heart of Jesus every meeting, all about how the people there as a young cancer survivors, were sitting right in Christ's very sacred heart. They might be got the real motivation to live from Patrick, he almost died because of cancer in his balls but the truth is he did not die but gathered with them.

Whatever the situation they still think about how their parents feel, they were thinking that it was not easy to bear the truth that their children was born in that kind of situation, as cancer survivor. They appreciate their parents more especially Hazel.

I went to Support Group for the same reason that I'd once allowed nurses with a mere eighteen months of graduate education to poison me with exotically named chemicals: I wanted to make my parents happy. There is only one thing in this world shittier than biting it from cancer when you're sixteen, and that's having a kid who bites it from cancer (Green, 2012: 3)

Hazel Grace Lancaster is seventeen, she has no siblings and is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster. Hazel is so close to her mother, she always accompanied Hazel whenever she goes, does chemotherapy, picks her up from college education, watching movie and other routines of Hazel. She appreciates her mom and makes her mom happy by following support group, it can be proven from the narration "*I wanted to make my parents happy. There is only one thing in this world shittier than biting it from cancer when you're sixteen, and that's having a kid who bites it from cancer.*" It describes about her caring about her mother.

The Audience

The main purpose of an author to produce a literary work is to satisfy the reader or audience, because it replaces the audience feeling personally or in group. It is a must that every literary work has worthy purposes whether it is specific or general. An author might produce a literary work only to satirize particular group, describes the condition of a group or it can be as the history. What kind of story that is presented, in what era and condition of the story is set and who is the audience of that work. Those factors are very important to be considered by author when they produce a work. From the explanation above, we can say simply that a literary work is successful if the audience easy to understand the story line, theme, plot and characterization and also it can be seen from the level of selling and categorize as the best seller of the year.

The story of *The Fault in Our Stars* is uncommon story because John Green present the life of some kids who survive from cancer. Some people might argue that this novel is satire to cancer survivor but actually this work was a dedication to his beloved friend Esther Earl. Eventhough the story is quite different from the real life of Esther, but generally the main purpose of this novel is to give a motivation for people around the world who has cancer, on how they fight their life to survive cancer, the role of parents, church and friends.

Mostly, John Green present all characters in this novel are young adult and they exist as the cancer survivor like Esther, and it connect with the genre of novel that usually produce by Jogn Green nemly Young adult and romance.

I looked over at Augustus Waters, who looked back at me. You could almost see through his eyes they were so blue. "There will come a time," I said, "when all of us are dead. All of us. There will come a time when there are no human beings remaining to remember that anyone ever existed or that our species ever did anything. There will be no one left to remember Aristotle or Cleopatra, let alone you. Everything that we did and built and wrote and thought and discovered will be forgotten and all of this"—I gestured encompassingly—"will have been for naught. Maybe that time is coming soon and maybe it is millions of years away, but even if we survive the collapse of our sun, we will not survive forever. There was time before organisms experienced consciousness, and there will be time after. And if the inevitability of human oblivion worries you, I encourage you to ignore it. God knows that's what everyone else does."(Green, 2012: 7).

Hazel explains critically about human being and every single part of this world that each of us will desappear time by time. People will not be remembered forever, there will be time for us to be forgotten. Every human being will die whether it is normal people or cancer survivor like them. It clearly seen from the quotation by Hazel "*There will come a time,*" I said, "*when all of us are dead. All of us. There will come a time when there are no human beings remaining to remember that anyone ever existed or that our species ever did anything.* Eventhough Hazel is cancer survivor as the other but she has a realistic thinking about life. The readers, especially cancer survivor can get big motivation to live by the characterization of Hazel. Actually, Everyone can read this story and find their own perception about the story but the main topic is people do not need to be afraid about life and death because at the end God knows what everyone else does.

CONCLUSION

There are some important points could be taken such as: ideas and some of biographical context of the author are depicted in *The Fault In Our Stars* novel. This novel tells about the life of John Green's friend namely Esther Earl, her experince are depicted by Hazel Grace Lancaster as the main character.

Based on the problem formulation, research objective, biographical approach and literature review, the writer describes the author biography as the best author of young adult genre in literature really seen because the writer present two secondary data such as: *Looking for Alaska* and *An An Abudance for Chatrines* which are corelate with the main research object. The life expression of Esther Earl through the main character also the most important point iside of this research. John Green gives more philosophical approach to the issue of pain, romantic, family, friendship of two teenagers with terminal cancer. It is inspired by the true story of tragic teenager Esther Earl, a friend of the book's American author John Green, who passed away just three weeks after her 16th birthday after four year battle with thyroid cancer.

Eventhough Esther got thyroid cancer, she live her life as usual as she can, do many activities like a normal people, a youtube stars, wrote some journal about her struggle to

fight her cancer until she died. The story that is written by her published with the title *This Stars Won't Go Out*. That condition become the way for John Green to make the story almost the same between the real life of Esther and the main character Hazel Grace Lancaster in *The Fault in Our Stars* Novel. Hazel suffers from thyroid cancer stages four but she still follows traditional school, has a boyfriend, and join support group.

Based on the research design and some method to collect the data, finally the writer finds that this novel reflect some points such as the work kinds of genre that is young adult and romantic genre, it shows by the characters that present inside of this novel and also the language style that he used to explain the meaning of *The Fault in Our Stars*. The way John Green corelate between real life of Esther Earl, AIA, *This Stars won't Go Out* and Hazel as the main character shows that this novel is spontaneity as creation. The purpose or target audience of this novel also clearly for all age especially for the survivor of serious illness. It can be seen from some reader response that the writer present to prove that this novel is really loved by the audience and audience get the meaning, purpose, moral message from this novel.

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