2. Research Method

Character is the important elements in literature, especially in a novel. Character refers to one of the persons in the story. The character can be human, or even animal. The character usually dominated by human as the character.

Character are also the persons who build up the story, and the personality of the character will lead the character to act such emotional, behavioral, and all the logical things that deals with the problem faced by the character. Therefore, the character of the novel mostly has a value of a human in real life.

2.1 Character

Character is very important element in literary work such as novel, drama, or even a short story. A character is a reasonable facsimile of a human being, with all the good and bad traits of being human. Character are usually presented through their actions, dialect, and thought, as well as by description.


“Character are the person present in dramatics of narrative work, who are interpreted by reader as being endowed with the normal and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say in the dialogue and what they do in action.”
A character is a person depicted in a drama. Characters may be flat, minor characters or round, and major.

Robert (1993:131) says, in a novel the character may be defined as a verbal representative of human being. Through action, speech, description, and commentary, authors portray characters are worth caring about, rooting for, and even loving, although there are also characters you may laugh at, dislike, or even hate.

Character according to Nurgiantoro (1995:165) in his book Teori Pengkajian Fiksi:

“Orang-orang yang ditampilkan dalam suatu karya naratif, atau drama, yang oleh pembaca ditafsirkan memiliki kualitas moral dan kecenderungan tertentu seperti yang diekspresikan dalam ucapan dan apa yang dilakukan dalam tindakan.”

Aminuddin says about character:

“Pelaku yang mengemban peristiwa dalam cerita fiksi sehingga peristiwa itu mampu menjalin suatu cerita, disebut dengan tokoh.”

(Aminuddin 2000:79)

Finally, character is very important thing in a novel and very interesting to be discussed. There are two types of character, major character and minor character.
2.1.1 Major Character

By reading the novel, usually the author will present several characters for the reader when the reader reads the entire story of the novel. All the characters have different function and role to each character that the author created in the novel. There are some characters may dominate the entire story, and the other may not. The characters whose mostly appear in the story usually hold the most important part of the story in the novel. These characters are called as the major character.

About major character. Nurgiantoro (1995:176) says:

“Tokoh utama adalah tokoh yang diutamakan penceritaannya dalam novel yang bersangkutan. Ia merupakan tokoh yang paling banyak diceritakan, baik sebagai pelaku kejadian maupun yang dikenai kejadian.”

These following items indicate the list of characters and short analysis of the major character of the novel written by Nicholas Sparks entitled Dear John:

1. John Tyree

John Tyree was born in 1977, grew up in Wilmington, North Carolina where his father had raised John by himself. As a child John and his father would go to numerous coin shows, seeing how his father collected them and they were sit in his father den for hours just examining and learning about it. John high school years were the hardest and he was a "rebel" and made many bad decisions. Which also led John getting tattoo.
John always in motion and hate to be alone. John taller than his father, John also had sandy hair, hazel eyes freckles, and brown hair. John was love to surf and love the beach. John also occasionally likes to read. The only one good decision he had made in his life was to enlist himself in the army after high school in 1997 when he was twenty years old. It was a decision he had to make, and needed at the time.

In early June, in 2000 he was at home and left for a couple of weeks and he met Savannah Lynn Curtis and fell in love. They promised each other to get married after John came back from Germany and Savannah finished her college. Before they were disjointing, they also promised to write a letters.

But the marriage is only a dream, because Savannah cannot wait for that long. Something happened with Savannah, she wrote a letter to John and said goodbye. Savannah got married with Tim. John was in broken heart. When John father died cause by of heart attack, John felt very sad. After the funeral, John went to see Savannah and knew that she married with Tim. But John felt pity because Tim was sick “Melanoma.” John had a decision, he sold all his father collection coin to pay Tim operation. John hopes that Tim can get well and makes Savannah and Alan happy. The good thing about John, he doesn’t tell anyone that it was him, who contributed Tim’s operation. And John let go Savannah to Tim. John is very gentlemen and responsible person.
2. Savannah Lynn Curtis

Savannah was a blonde girl and she was twenty one. Savannah was an only child in her family, she doesn’t have brother or sister. She is a college student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Savannah met John when she was on vacation, and they fell in love. They saw each other only in two weeks, Savannah must be back to college, and John must go back to his military job in Germany.

Savannah promised to write John a letters, and started the letters with a word “Dear John”.

Savannah loved horse and named Midas for her horse. She had a dream to open a riding camp for autistic kids, and opened that place just for only a few moments.

Savannah lived in apartment not so far from her college. Savannah promised to John that after john came back they would get married. But it’s only a dream because she couldn’t wait until John be back. Savannah wrote a letters to John and said good bye. She got married with Tim.

Tim was Savannah neighbor and they were friends at the college.

It seemed Savannah was still in love with John and she couldn’t forget John until the end of the story.
2.1.2 Minor Character

The minor characters can be defined as the supporting characters of the major characters. It is so much different between major and minor characters. The minor characters seem not important as the major characters, although the minor characters sometimes related to the major characters.

Nurgiantoro (1995:177) says about the minor character:

“Tokoh tambahan dalam keseluruhan cerita lebih sedikit, tak dipentingkan, dan kehadirannya hanya jika ada keterkaitannya dengan tokoh utama, secara langsung ataupun tak langsung.”

These followings show an analysis of the minor characters of the novel written by Nicholas Sparks entitled *Dear John*:

1. **Mr. Tyree (John’s father)**
   
   He Jobs is drove a mail delivery route for the post office. Mr. Tyree and John were very different. He had poor posture and tended to shuffle when he walked. He lived for a routines, he cooked eggs, toast, and bacon every single morning, and listened as John talked about school over a dinner.

   He visits to the dentist two months in advance, paid his bills on Saturday morning, did the laundry on Sunday afternoon and left the house every morning at exactly 7:35 a.m.

   He always spent long hours alone every day, dropping packages and bunches of mail into the mailboxes along his route.
He didn’t like or playing poker. He never complained even when John felt disappointed at him. His collections coin, it is his one great passion in life. When John was born, he had made a will to be all its collections and fell into John hand. He also had drawn up its saving to the expense of its obsequies later if he passed away in order not to weigh against John. He died because of heart attack.

2. **Tim Wheddon**

Tim and Savannah grew up together. They were neighbor. Tim had an open and honest face. They were also in the same college at the same place. Tim had a brother whose named is Alan and Alan is autistic kid. When Tim and Alan parents died, Tim took all the responsibility of Alan. Some years later, Tim was sick. Tim was suffering from Melanoma and stayed at the hospital. No one took a care of Alan. Savannah was feeling pity and made a decision to marry Tim. Tim had to do some operation, but he didn’t have much money. One day Tim was to recover from “Melanoma” because John was selling all his father’s collections (coins) and not to tell Savannah or Tim that John was the really person, who contributed Tim’s operation.
3. Alan Wheddon (Tim brother’s)

Alan is Autistic. Alan was terrified of stranger and the horses. He is always rolling his head from side to side, and also slaps his thighs when he is nervous. Alan is slowly processing the words. He is not talking it well. When Alan and they parents died of a car accident, Tim took care of Alan. After Tim and Savannah got married, Alan left with them.

And Aminuddin (200:79) sayss about major character and minor character:

“Para tokoh yang terdapat dalam suatu cerita memiliki peranan yang berbeda-beda, seorang tokoh yang memiliki peranan penting dalam suatu cerita disebut dengan tokoh inti atau tokoh utama, sedangkan tokoh yang memiliki peranan tidak penting karena kemunculannya hanya melengkapi, melayani, mendukung pelaku utama disebut tokoh tambahan atau pembantu.”

2.2 Data Collecting Method

The library research is applied as the method of the analysis. It is supporting data from several books as the sources of the data. The primary source of the data from the novel which is being discussed in this thesis written by Nicholas Sparks, entitled Dear John. This novel used to obtain the conflict found from the major character to analyze. The secondary data is drawn from others books as references which books are mostly concerned about character, conflict in a novel and the internet helped the writer to complete data for writing this thesis.
The relevant data that found as the source of the idea supports the topic being discussed in this thesis are all collected and then applied in finishing this thesis.

Data collecting method for this thesis is firstly, the data from the novel gathered by reading the novel. Reading the entire novel and identifying the conflicts from the major characters based on the conflict definition itself, and then marked the conflicts in the novel and classified which types of conflicts found from the major character belonged to, Approach-Approach Conflict, Avoidance-Avoidance Conflict, and Approach-Avoidance Conflict.

Secondly, it was the data from several books that related to the topic of this thesis and the information from the books could be used for this thesis and also as references.

2.3 Method of Data Analysis

When all the data and information that related to the topic of this thesis are collected, the data will be used in process of finishing this thesis. Method of data analysis is applied when all primary data from the novel is collected, as the data from the novel which concern about the classification of conflicts found from the major characters that the most significant data from the novel.

After that, the analysis will be started by explaining the conflict of the major characters based on the definition and types of conflict in Nicholas Sparks in Dear John novel.
2.4 Reviews of Related Literature

In supporting the data of the analysis, the writer gets several books have been containing some information which is designed to assist me:

1. *An Introducing to Reading and Writing* (Fourth Edition) by Edgar Robert and Henry E. Jacob (1955)

   In this book, they write about what kinds are about the literature. It is very helpful to anyone who want study about literature.


   In this book Robert states, “Literature is the art of written work. Literature is writing which expresses and communicates thoughts, feeling and attitudes toward life. Many of the things we know called literature, began life without being written at all.”


   In this book Nurgiantoro explains the definition of character which very helpful in understanding the character, how character becomes a very important of a novel.

In her thesis, she also analysis about main character conflict by using Kurt Lewin theory with three types of conflict.

There are: Approach-Approach Conflict, Avoidance-Avoidance Conflict, And Approach-Avoidance Conflict.