

**TOM'S LOVE CAUSES DEPRESSION
IN THE FILM OF *(500) DAYS OF SUMMER*
BY SCOTT NEUSTADTER AND MICHAEL H. WEBER**

TERM PAPER

Submitted in Part-Fulfillment for Obtaining Strata One (S-1) Degree



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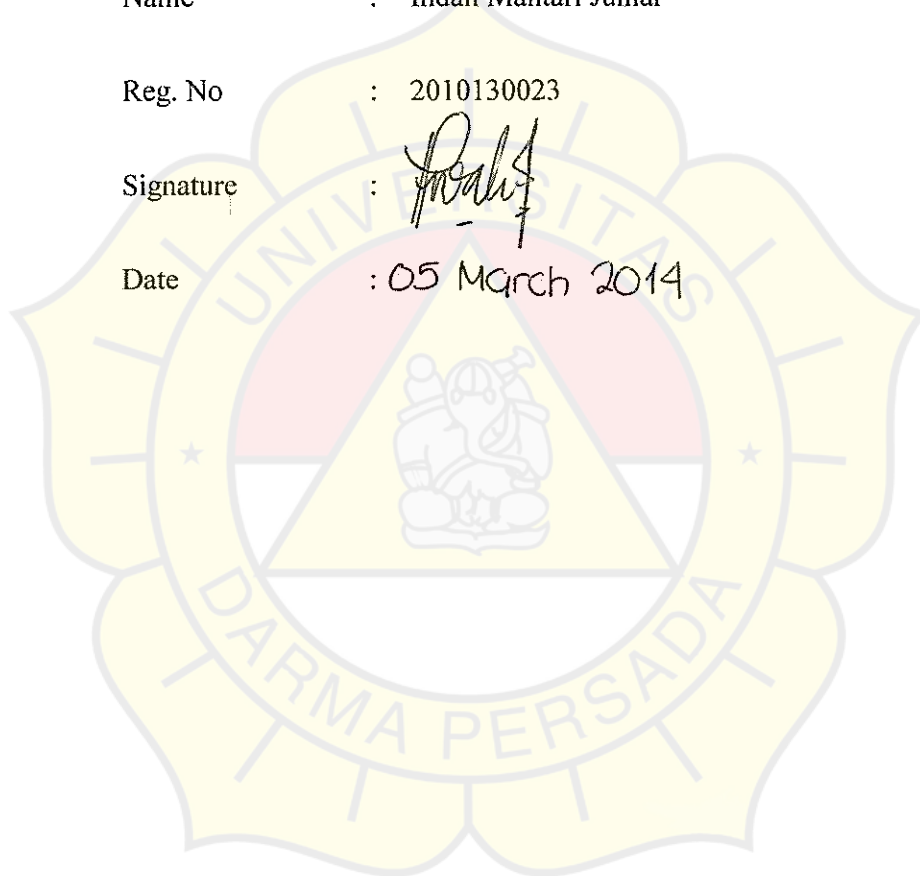
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PREFACE

Alhamdulillahirabbil'aalamiin, I extend gratitude to Allah SWT who has given mercy and blessing so I could complete this term-paper well. The title of this term-paper is *Tom's Love Causes Depression in the Film of (500) Days of Summer by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber*.

This term paper is submitted to the Strata One English Department of Darma Persada University as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for obtaining the Strata One (S1) degree.

Completion of this research cannot be separated from the help and support from various parties. Therefore, on this occasion I would like to say my thanks to those who give contribution for me in the completion of this research, which I listed as follows:

1. Tommy Andrian, SS, M. Hum as the Adviser who has guided me with great detail so I can make an excellent term-paper. And also as the Head of Faculty of Letters. You always give me the knowledge that seems trivial but very meaningful.
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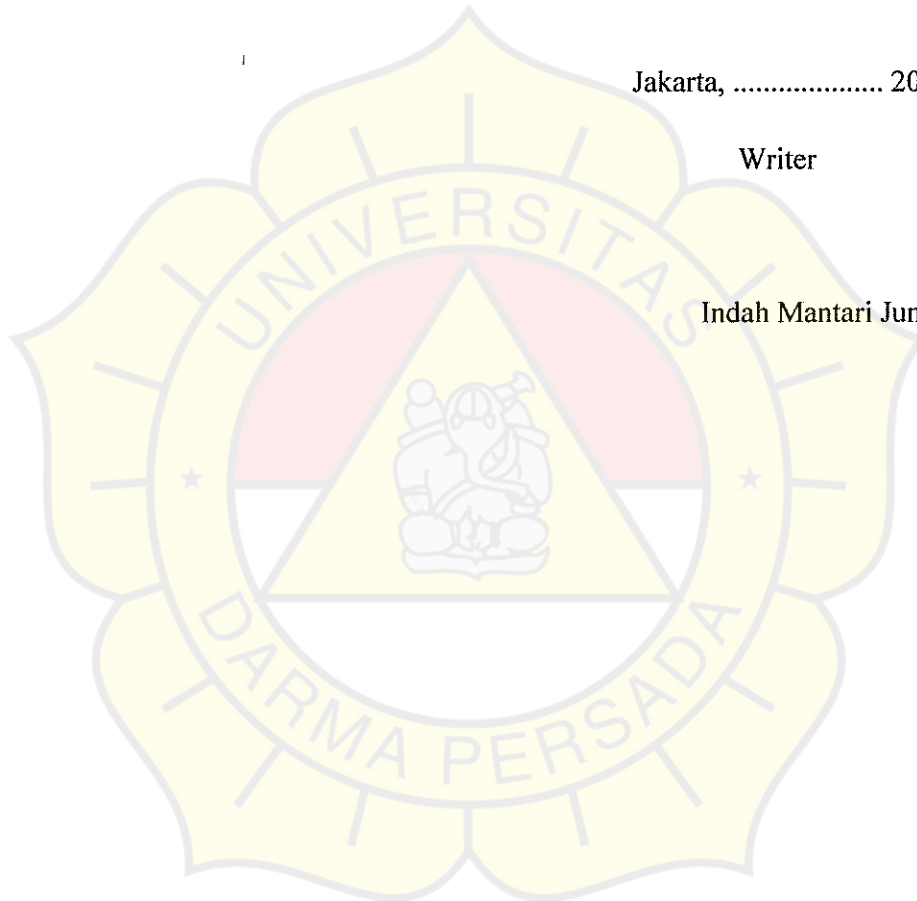
9. All my college friends that I cannot mention one by one for your support.

Nobody is perfect. That is the appropriate aphorism for this term-paper. I realize that this term-paper is far from perfect. There are many lacks and errors because of the limitations and abilities that I have therefore, suggestions and criticisms are welcome. I conclude this preface and I am sorry for any mistakes in the writing of all content on this term-paper.

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ABSTRACT

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Entitled : Tom's Love Causes Depression in the Film of *(500) Days of Summer* by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber

This term paper discusses a literary film about someone's physiological changes because the unrequited love. A problem in this study becomes interesting when depressed because unrequited love can give a profound effect in someone's life. Intrinsic and extrinsic approach is used to analyze the problems in the film. Through the intrinsic approach the author uses characterization, setting, and plot. Through extrinsic approach the author uses psychoanalysis, the concept of love and depression. Method that is used is qualitative method; the kind of method is study of literature, nature interpretive research/analysis with the method of data collection in the form of script texts from *(500) Days of Summer* movie by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber and is supported by some of the literature related to the theory/concepts/definitions that suitable as a secondary source. As the result of this research the readers will understand the importance of status in a relationship.

Keywords:

Characterization, Plot, Love, and Depression

ABSTRAK

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*Skripsi ini membahas karya sastra film mengenai perubahan psikologis seseorang karena perasaan cinta yang bertepuk sebelah tangan. Permasalahan dalam penelitian ini menjadi menarik ketika depresi karena cinta yang tidak berbalas dapat memberikan efek yang besar bagi kehidupan seseorang. Pendekatan intrinsik dan ekstrinsik digunakan untuk menganalisis permasalahan dalam film. Melalui pendekatan intrinsik penulis menggunakan perwatakan, latar, dan alur. Melalui pendekatan ekstrinsik penulis menggunakan psikoanalisis, yaitu konsep cinta dan depresi. Metode yang digunakan adalah metode kualitatif, jenis penelitian kepustakaan, sifat penelitian interpretative/analisis dengan metode pengumpulan data berupa teks naskah dari film *(500) Days of Summer* karya Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber dan didukung oleh beberapa literature yang terkait dengan teori/konsep/definisi yang sesuai sebagai sumber sekunder. Sebagai hasil dari penelitian ini pembaca akan mengerti seberapa pentingnya status dalam suatu hubungan.*

Kata kunci:

Perwatakan, Alur, Cinta, dan depresi

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Scott Eric Neustadter is also known as Scott Neustadter. He is a professional screenwriter of America. He was born and grew up in Margate City, New Jersey. He is the son of Anne (Goldberg) and Michael J. Neustadter. On October 9, 2010, He was married to Lauren Rachelle Levy. He has a writing partner, Michael Weber, and often works with him. They wrote the script for *(500) Days of Summer*, the film that I used as material analysis. They also wrote *The Pink Panther 2* and *The Fault in Our Stars*. He has studied in *Atlantic City High School*, *University of Pennsylvania* and graduates studies at *The London School of Economics*. He wins many nominations and awards. *(500) Days of Summer* wins many award for example in 2009 the film is nominated to *Satellite Award for Best Original Screenplay* and nominated to *BFCA Critics' Choice Award for Best Original Screenplay*¹

Tom Hansen is a writer greeting card. Tom works in a greeting card company in Los Angeles. On January 8, Tom Hansen meets Summer Finn for the first time. McKenzie is Tom's friend and co-worker. At karaoke bar he reveals that Tom is attracted to Summer but Summer just want to be friend. She's telling Tom that she does not believe in true love, and does not want a boyfriend. They grow closer like a couple but still as friend. Tom invites Summer to his favorite spot in the city. The place overlooks a number of buildings he likes, although the view is spoiled by parking lots. When they are dating, Tom fights with a guy who flirts with Summer, and that is their first argument. On day 290, they see *The Graduate*, a film which Tom thinks shows true love, but after they see the film Summer and Tom end their relationship. Tom became sad because of the breakup. McKenzie and Paul call Rachel, his younger sister, to calm him down. On day, Summer

¹ Omnilexica, "Scott Neustadter", available from <http://www.omnilexica.com/?q=scott+neustadter>, on Friday, June 14, 2013

invites Tom to a party at her apartment. He attends the party with wonderful expectations, but the expectations are not same like the reality. He leaves when he sees that Summer is wearing an engagement ring. He enters a deep depression. Then he quits his job, makes a list of firms, and begins to attend interviews. He decides to rededicate himself to architecture. That is a way to rise from adversity because Summer leaves him. He comes to a firm of architects to interview. He meets and acquainted with his Autumn there. At that time Tom immediately attracted to Autumn same as when he is interested in Summer.

From the film I find that Tom's characterization that really loves Summer but he is not assertive to reveal that he is attracted to her. From the psychological side, Tom feels depression because Summer, who does not believe in true love, and does not want a boyfriend, marry to a man at the end of the story.

Based on the explanation above, I am interested in analyzing the film *(500) Days of Summer* by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber and I use it to be analyzed.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on background of the problem above, I identify the problem in the film of *(500) Days of Summer* by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber is about Tom, a writer at a greeting card company in Los Angeles, who really loves Summer. Summer tells Tom that she does not believe in true love, and does not want a boyfriend. During the next few months Summer and Tom grow closer. Initially Tom feels comfortable with that kind of relationship, but soon it makes him depressed. I assume that the theme of this film is Tom's Love Causes depression in the Film of *(500) Days of Summer* by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, I limit the research to the analysis of the characters. Theories and concepts I use to analyze the characters are the telling and showing methods. I also analyze the plot. Through extrinsic

approach I use the social psychology - love and abnormal psychology - depression.

D. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, I formulate the problem whether my assumption is correct that the theme of this film is Tom's Love Causes depression in the Film of *(500) Days of Summer* by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber? To answer this question I formulate the problem as follows:

1. Can showing methods be used to analyze the characters in this film?
2. Can the concept of plot and setting be used to analyze this film?
3. Can the concept of love and depression be used to analyze the characterization of Tom?
4. Can the theme of this film be reinforced through literature and psychological approaches?

E. Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the purpose of this research is to prove the theme that Tom's Love Causes depression in the Film of *(500) Days of Summer* by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber. To achieve this purpose, I take some steps as follows:

1. To analyze the characterization in this film through the methods of telling and showing.
2. To analyze the story of this film through the concept of plot and setting.
3. To analyze the character of Tom through the concept of love and depression.
4. To reinforce the theme through the psychological and literary approaches.

F. Framework of Theories

Based on the objective of research above, in this research I use the concepts of intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. For the intrinsic, I use literary approaches. Meanwhile, for the extrinsic approach, I use social and abnormal psychological concepts.

1. Intrinsic Approach

The word intrinsic means something that is related to the essential nature of thing. Through this approach, I use the concepts of *James H. Pickering and Jeffrey D. Hoepfer* in his book titled *Concise Companion to Literature*:

a. Showing Method (Indirect)

The other method is the indirect, dramatic method of showing, which involves the author's stepping aside, as it were, to allow the characters to reveal themselves directly through their dialogue and their actions.² Showing method consists of several elements,

a) Characterization through dialogue

The task of establishing character through dialogue is not simple one. Some characters are careful and guarded in what they say: they speak only by indirection, and we must infer from their words what they actually mean. To analyze the film I use one element of this concept, what is being said. What is Being Said To begin with, the reader must pay close attention to the substance of the dialogue itself.³

b) Characterization through Action

The single most important and definitive method of presenting and revealing character is through action. To establish character on the basis of action, it is necessary to scrutinize the several events of the plot for what they seem to reveal about the character, about their unconscious emotional and psychological states as well as about their conscious attitudes and values. Some actions, of course, are inherently more meaningful in this respect than others. A gesture or a facial expression usually carries with it less significance than some larger and overt act.⁴

² James H. Pickering & Jeffrey D. Hoepfer, *Concise Companion to Literature* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1981), p. 27.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 32.

⁴ *Ibid.*, pp 34-35.

2. Setting

The setting can make the stories become interesting. Through the setting the audiences can know the atmosphere when a story happens. That is why the setting is very important. I use the theory of Burhan Nurgiantoro. He says that setting has three elements⁵:

a. Physical Setting

There are two branches of physical setting. It consists of place and time. Setting of place can describe the location where the story is taken. Setting of time is talking about the days, month, and anything about the time.

b. Social Setting

The social settings explain about the social condition in the story. It is talking about anything about the social life. For an example is a job. The authors describe the condition in the office. The social setting has close relationship with the social behavior.

c. Spiritual Setting

The spiritual setting is the results from the combination of social setting and physical setting. For the examples are their images, characters, habits and their philosophy of life.

3. Plot

A plot is also a narrative of events, the emphasis falling on causality.⁶ There are five elements in the plot:

a. Exposition

The exposition is the beginning section in which the author provides the necessary background information, sets the scene, establishes the situation, and dates the

⁵ Nurgiantoro, Burhan, *Teori pengkajian Fiksi*, (Yogyakarta: Gajah Mada University Press, 1995), p.227

⁶ Pickering, *op. cit.*, p.13.

action. It may also introduce the characters and the conflict, or the potential for conflict. The exposition may be accomplished in a single sentence or paragraph, or, in the case of some novels, occupy an entire chapter or more. Some plots require more exposition than others. A historical novel set in a foreign country several centuries ago obviously needs to provide the reader with more background information than a novel with a contemporary setting.

b. Complication

The complication, which is sometimes referred to as the rising action, breaks the existing equilibrium and introduces the characters and the underlying or inciting conflict (if they have not already been introduced by the exposition). The conflict is then developed gradually and intensified.

c. Crisis

The crisis (also referred to as the climax) is that moment at which the plot reaches its point of greatest emotional intensity; it is the turning point of the plot, directly precipitating its resolution.

d. Falling Action

Once the crisis, or turning point, has been reached, the tension subsides and the plot moves toward its appointed conclusion.

e. Resolution

The final section of the plot is its resolution; it records the outcome of the conflict and establishes some new equilibrium or stability (however tentative and momentary). The resolution is also referred to as the *conclusion* or the *denouement*, the latter a French word meaning “unknotting” or “untying.”

4. Extrinsic Approach

a. Love

Love refers to a vast territory of human behavior, behavior that usually includes an individual doing something positively toward another individual.⁷ Love refers to that kind of love which is hypothesized to exist between opposite-sexed peers.⁸ R. J. Sternberg (1986) Says that love's social anatomy is made up of commitment, intimacy, and passion.⁹ Robert Sternberg (1986) proposed one of the most popular classifications: the triangular theory of love which can be derived from three components. The first is intimacy; which involves liking, feelings of closeness, and connectedness, bond. Passion is the second component, which encompasses the drives that lead to romance, physical attraction, and sexual consummation. Finally commitment reflects the decision, in the short term, that one loves another, and, in the long term, the decision to maintain that love.¹⁰

b. depression

A mental condition characterized by severe feelings of hopelessness and inadequacy, typically accompanied by a lack of energy and interest in life.¹¹ depression refers to, a state of despondency characterized by feelings of inadequacy, lowered activity, and pessimism about the future or in pathological cases, an extreme state of Unresponsiveness to stimuli, along with self-depreciation, delusions of inadequacy, and hopelessness.¹² Freud believed depression was turning inward of aggressive instincts. He theorized that the child's early attachment to a love object (usually mother) contains a mixture of love and

⁷ Stantrock, John, *PSYCHOLOGY The Science of Mind and Behavior*, (United States of America: Wm. C. Brown Publishers, 1986), p. 589

⁸ A team of Expert, *Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Psychology*, (New Delhi: Anmol Publications Pvt. Ltd, 2000), p. 129

⁹ Stantrock, *op.cit.*, p.589

¹⁰ Social psychology, "liking and loving", available from <http://psypress.co.uk/smithandmackie/resources/study.asp?study=ch11-cs-02>, on Wednesday, February 12, 2014

¹¹ Oxford Dictionary, "Depression", available from <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/depression>, on Wednesday, February 12, 2014

¹² A team of Expert, *op.cit.*, P.56

hate. When the child loses the love object or her dependency needs are frustrated, feelings of loss coexist with anger. Since the child cannot openly accept such angry feelings toward the individual she loves, the hostility is turned inward. Freud said that the clinical outgrowth is depression.¹³

As always Freud (in this case 1917) was the first to offer possible explanations of depression and was also the first to notice the similarity in feelings reported by patients suffering from depression (he called it melancholia) and those who had recently suffered bereavement (mourning).¹⁴

The individual with major depression is sad, demoralized, bored, and self-derogatory; he does not feel well, loses stamina easily, has a poor appetite, and seems listless and unmotivated. The path of depression often begins with crying, agitation, or denial of a problem; depression follows, at which time the individual appears with-drawn, apathetic, and unresponsive.¹⁵

G. Method of the Research

Based on the theoretical framework above, I use qualitative method; the kind of method is study of literature, nature interpretive research/analysis with the method of data collection in the form of script texts from *(500) Days of Summer* movie by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber and was supported by some of the literature related to the theory/concepts/definitions that suitable as a secondary source such as books titled *Concise Companion to Literature* and *PSYCHOLOGY The Science of Mind and Behavior*.

H. Benefits of the Research

Based on the methods of research above, this research is expected to be useful for those who interested in deepening knowledge of the film *(500) Days of Summer* by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber. I think this study is useful because it

¹³ Stantrock, *op.cit.*, p.492

¹⁴ Depression, "Psychological explanations of depression", available from <http://psychology4a.com/Depression%206.htm>, on Wednesday, February 12, 2014

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p.488

is done through a new perspective by applying concepts: love and depression which are covered in the field of psychological social and abnormal that are shown something new and not covered for future research.

I. Systematic Organization of the Research

Based on the benefits of the research above, the systematic presentation of the research is as follows:

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION.

It consists of Background of the Problem, Identification of the Problem, Limitation of the Problem, Formulation of the Problem, Objective of the Research, Framework of Theories, Methods of the Research, Benefits of the Research, Systematic Organization of the Research.

CHAPTER II: TOM'S LOVE CAUSES DEPRESSION IN THE FILM (500) DAYS OF SUMMER BY SCOTT NEUSTADTER AND MICHAEL H. WEBER THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACHES.

It contains a glimpse of characterization through telling and showing methods, setting, and plot by using the concept of plot.

CHAPTER III: TOM'S LOVE CAUSES DEPRESSION IN THE FILM (500) DAYS OF SUMMER BY SCOTT NEUSTADTER AND MICHAEL H. WEBER THROUGH EXTRINSIC APPROACHES.

It contains a glimpse of social and abnormal psychological concepts, love and depression on the main character, Tom.

CHAPTER IV: CLOSING.

It contains conclusion on how the theme reflects Tom's Love Causes depression in the Film of *(500) Days of Summer* by *Scott Neustadter* and *Michael H. Weber*. It presents an overview of the research subjects in the previous chapters as well as implication from studies of other variables.

Attachment: References and Scheme of the Research

