



**Hazel's Struggle Towards Thyroid Cancer Described in  
John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars***

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**Hazel's Struggle Towards Thyroid Cancer Described in John Green's  
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## ABSTRACT

The thesis entitled Hazel's Struggle Towards Thyroid Cancer Described in John's Green *The Fault In Our Starshas* has an objective to analyze the struggle of Hazel as the main character who has a thyroid cancer during sixteen years, and she has to survive herself to face this situation.

Descriptive qualitative method is used to collect and analyze the data. Library research method is also used to gain references dealing with the object of analysis. The structural approach is used to analyze the structural elements like character, conflict experienced by the main character, setting and theme of this novel.

The result shows that the main character is Hazel Grace. She is described as a girl who is struggling, curious, optimistic, bookworm, and friendly. She also experiences both internal and external conflict like she againts herself, she against her mother, she against Agustus, her boyfriend, and she against her favourite writer, Peter. Setting in this novel is divided into setting of place like in a church basement, and in the ICU, and setting of time like after four in the morning and eight p.m. Finally as the correlation among the structural elements, it can be concluded that the theme of this novel is Hazel's struggle towards Thyroid Cancer described in John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*. Based on the theme, the moral messages that can be given for the reader is God has the best way for our life, optimist and enjoy our life, Cancer can not kills the people, if we struggling to make it died, Doctor can not give a decision died or alive, only God who give a decision, and Love can make someone especially who have cancer keep on struggling.

Key words : Hazel, Struggle, Thyroid Cancer

## INTRODUCTION

John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars* it is a Best Young Adult Fiction Goodreads Achieve Choice Awards 2012. This novel tells about a sixteen years old girl namely Hazel Grace. Hazel Grace has a thyroid cancer. She has a cancer since sixteen years old which is the misfortune, because a medicine which is used to killed the cancer cell was not found. This novel tells about a medicine that can treat a cancer cells, namely Phalanxifor. In this story, The researcher tells us about the medicine because he wants the victims of cancer can survive longer. This novel also convience the readers that if there is a will be a way. According to <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/thyroidcancer>, Cancer is a term used for diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control and are able to invade other tissues. Cancer cells can spread to other parts of the body through the blood and [lymph](#) systems.

In *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green, there are a lot of the feelings experienced by Hazel Grace. Hazel Grace feels so suffering about this, but when she is falling in love with Augustus Waters, she becomes struggle to face cancer with her spirit. Cancer in this book related to real life especially to the people who have a cancer. Seven from ten people who are suffering from cancer have a spirit and struggle to keep his/her life getting longer. And most of the people are succeeded killed the cancer cells with their struggle. From the presence of Hazel Grace as the main character, this novel also give us examples how to be struggle in facing cancer in our life. What we can study from this novel is to be struggle is important for every people especially on his/her suffering.

Based on the above explanation, finally the researcher prefers to discuss about "Hazel's Struggle Towards Thyroid Cancer Described in John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*" as the topic of this study.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### **Research Design**

Based on the subject of analysis, the researcher uses the descriptive qualitative method. It gives a description of the subject research based on the data that variable from the subject analyzed. Related of the novel, this method can be used to analyze cause and effect in each event that happen in the story to determine the plot. Harsono (1999: 114) states that, In this qualitative descriptive method aimed to give a description about the subject research base on the data that variable from the subject analyzed and does not aimed for hypothesis testing.

### **Source of Data**

In this thesis the researcher uses John Green's *The Fault In Our Stars* as the object of analysis and source of data. The researcher also uses some theories from books, which are relevant and related to the problem discussed. Beside of that, the writer acquires from the internet to support the analysis.

### **Unit of Analysis**

Since the analysis uses the structural approach the researcher focuses on the intrinsic elements like characters, conflicts, setting, theme, and moral message of the novel.

### **Technique of Data Collection**

To get the data the researcher needs many kinds of material to support her research. The writer takes the data from the library, that's why the researcher uses library research. Library research is a method of collecting data by reading books and other references, which are related to the topic. This method was used complete the data needed for this research. According to Nazir (1999: 111):

“Library research is an activity to find and analyze reference. The writer searches and collects all the necessary and important references, information and ideas from significant sources related to the subject matter to support the ideas in writing the thesis.”

In conducting the research, the researcher uses two steps. First step the researcher reads the text. On it the writer gets the interesting topic that want to discuss and will be analyze it.

The second step the writer collects the data dealing with intrinsic elements such as general description, conflict, setting, and theme. After analyzing general description of the main character, conflict and setting, finally the researcher analyze the correlation among those elements to be a theme.

### **Technique of Data Analysis**

#### **Structural Approach**

According to Jabrohim (2003: 60) “Structural approach is an approach in literary research which focuses on literary autonomy in a work of fiction”.

It is the basic assumption that literary work as a creative work has full autonomy, which has to be seen as a figure, which part from the outside of intrinsic element

The researcher uses the structural approach to analyze the structural elements like general description of the main character and internal and external conflict experienced by Hazel Grace as the main character, setting, theme and to get the moral message of the novel.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **General Description of Hazel Grace as the Main Character**

#### **Struggling**

Hazel Grace is a girl who has a thyroid cancer. She has been struggling for 17 years with thyroid cancer. It shows that she can live longer. The way she struggles is by consume Phalanxifor to treat her lungs. Phalanxifor is medicine that she must eat everyday. She is not only having Phalanxifor, but also always uses oxygen to prevent her respiratory system. She keeps on struggling to be health. It can be seen by this quotation:

I pretended to fiddle with my oxygen tank for a second just to kill me.

“Do you want me to carry it in for you?”

“No, it’s fine,” I said. The cylindrical green tank only weighed a few pounds, and I had this little steel cart to wheel it around behind me. It delivered two liters of oxygen to me each minute through a cannula, a transparent tube that splite just beneath my neck, wrapped behind my ears, and then reunited in my nostrils. (Green,2012:8)

#### **Curious**

Hazel belongs to curious as interested, because she likes reading a novel especially *An Imperial Affliction* by Peter Van Houten. After finish reading the novel, she is very curious about the end of the story. Until one day she tries to write a letter to Peter Van Houten. She writes again and again until a dozen of letters, but he's never responded to any of her letters. It can be proven by this quotation:

I'd written, care of his publisher, a dozen letters to Peter Van Houten, each asking for some answers about what happens after the end of the story (Green,2012:50)

### **Optimistic**

Hazel belongs to optimistic because she always believes about good luck happens to her. Augustus takes a trip to Amsterdam with Hazel and Hazel's mom. When they are in the plane, Augustus and Hazel look the risen sun too bright, and they are so amazed with the sun. Hazel hopes that she can live longer like a sun that always bright the earth. It can be seen by the following quotation:

"Also I'd live longer." He looked at me askew. "You know because of relativity or whatever." He still looked confused. "We age slower when we move quickly versus standing still. So right now time is passing slower for us than for people on the ground."(Green,2012:149)

### **Bookworm**

Hazel tells to Augustus if she likes reading so much. Her favorite book is *An Imperial Affection* by Peter Van Houten. She dreamed to meet with Peter, to asked him about the end of this novel. It can be seen by this following quotation:

"...You read a lot of capital-G great books, dont you?"  
"What's your favorite?"  
"Um," I said  
My favorite book by wide margin, was *An Imperial Affection*,..."  
(Green,2012:33)

### **Friendly**

Hazel belongs to friendly because Hazel hasso many friends. Her mom wants her to hang out with her friends, go to the movie with Kaitlyn or Matt or someone to make her happy, and socialize with her friends from her school. And then she text her best friend Kaitlyn to invite her to go to the mall or to do something after school. It can be proven by this following quotation:

"You don't want to go to a movie with Kaitlyn or Matt or someone?" who were my friends.  
That was an idea. "Sure," I said. (Green,2012:40)

## **Conflict**

### **Internal Conflict**

#### **Hazel against Herself**

Having a cancer is not something easy for Hazel. Her life seems so hard, and this condition always brings her into a bad situation. This makes her experiences internal conflict, since she feels that it's such a burden comes into her life. Sometimes she feels painful with her condition, but she realizes that this is her life. She also realizes that life must go on even her condition doesn't support this. Hazel hopes that she can live like a normal people. She always hopes that she can breathe like a normal person, but it just a dream, because she can not live without having the oxygen. This situation brings Hazel into a desperate situation, and then she experiences her internal conflicts. However, what a big burden is, Hazel still tries to overcome her internal conflict, keeps herself to be strong. It can be seen by the following quotation:

In truth, it always hurt. It always hurt not to breathe like a normal person, incessantly reminding your lungs to be lungs, forcing yourself to accept as unsolvable the clawing scraping inside-out ache of underoxygenation. (Green, 2012:45)

### **External Conflict**

#### **Hazel against Her Mom**

Hazel's mom wants Hazel attend Support Group, to meet with friends and socializes with the other but Hazel doesn't attend because she feels bored with the group, she want to watch ANTM. It shows that there is a clash of idea between Hazel and her Mom which causes an external conflict. After discussing with her mom, finally Hazel follows her mother advice to join with the group. Here the main character resolves the external conflict. If this external conflict is related with the general description of Hazel, it shows how struggling Hazel to keep her stay in this situation. It can be seen by the following quotation:

Me : "I refuse to attend Support Group"

Mom : "One of the symptoms of depression is disinterest in activities."

Me : "Please just let me watch America's Next Top Model. It's an activity"

Mom : "Television is a passivity"

Me : "Ugh, Mom, Please." (Green, 2012:7)

The struggling of Hazel is able to overcome her external conflict against her mom.

### **Setting Of Place**

## **In a Church Basement**

In the heart of Jesus or church basement is a place where Hazel Grace and Augustus meet at the first time. They are friend in the Support Group. Hazel and Augustus tells about herself. After they are acquainted, Augustus make Hazel happy, they have same hobbies like reading a novel, watching movie, and they are have favorite author, Mr. Peter Van Houten. Because they have the same hobbies, they have same problem, Hazel feel comfort with Augustus, it's make Hazel feels in love with him. It can be seen by the following quotation:

"I thought we were in a church basement, but we are literally in the heart of Jesus" (Green, 2012:16)

## **Setting Of Time**

### **After four in the morning**

This is the time when Hazel get her pain after she read Caroline Mather's tribute pages in the facebook. Caroline is a girl who in relationship with Augustus. Hazel gets a pain and make her screaming out. She screamed out to wake up her parents. Then, her parents brings her to the hospital to check her lungs. The setting of time described that Hazel as struggling towards the Thyroid cancer. It can be seen by the following quotation:

I still had one arm draped over Blueie, in fact, when I awoke just after four in the morning with an apocalyptic pain fingering out from the unreachable center of my head. (Green, 2012:104)

## **Theme**

Hazel Struggle Towards Thyroid Cancer is the theme of *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green. This is the result of the analysis on the structural elements, like character, conflict, setting, and theme.

Hazel is describe as a struggling people because she always struggle to face the cancer cells in her body. The conflict experience also shows that Hazel grace is struggle, because she never gives up to be healthy. She always enjoy her life like a normal person.

Hazel believes that God always gives the best way for her to face all of God's decision towards her life. Her struggling shows when she is struggling with her cancer, always consume Phalanxifor to make her lungs stronger, life like a normal person, she is not dying because of cancer, she keep struggling for her mother and father, and also for Augustus. But, in the end of the story, Augustus died after his trip with Hazel to Amsterdam. Although her boy friend passed away before her, she keep on struggling for her live.



From what happened to Hazel, we can see that she faces her cancer strongly and it makes her struggling.

### **Moral Message**

From the above analysis about theme, we can give some moral message to the reader, like :

1. God is have a best way for our life, optimist and enjoy our life it believes that God always has a best way for our life because in the story tells about a girl who has thyroid cancer namely Hazel. She always enjoy her life, she has so many friends, and she has boy friend named Augustus. Augustus is her motivation, (Tuhanmempertemukanmereka) at Support Group. When Hazel feel desperate with her condition, Augustus motivated her, to make her stronger. This situation shows that God always has the best way for our life. God has the best way to make Hazel stronger.
2. Cancer can not kill you, if you struggling to make it died
3. Doctor can not give a decision died or alive, only God who give a decision  
In this story tells that doctor Maria always said that Hazel can not live longer, because her lungs full of liquid. She must live with oxygen and phalanxifor, but she keep on struggling, she has spirit to live longer. So, she can live longer than her boy friend and her friends in the support group.
4. Love can make someone especially who have cancer keep on struggling.  
Since Hazel meets with Augustus, she is always happy and thinks that she can lives longer with Augustus. Augustus is her motivation. She is struggle to kill the cancer cell in her body to make her live longer, and always with Augustus. So, the story tells that Love can make someone being stronger than before, it can make someone keep on struggling.

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

#### **Conclusion**

Based on the previous discussion finally it can be concluded as follows:

John Green's The Fault in Our Stars is the best adult fiction which tells the readers about a struggling girl, Hazel Grace who fights for her life towards her thyroid cancer during sixteen years. Hazel as the main character is described as a girl who is struggling person because she fights for her life. She knows that she has cancer that can not to be healed, but she keeps on

believing that she can live longer. Her struggling is rising up after she meets with Augustus. She belongs to friendly girl that is easy to be a friend with new people, especially Augustus. After knowing Augustus, she becomes an optimistic person. She has spirit to get she wants. Augustus knows that she likes reading. She belongs to bookworm because of her hobby. Lately, she reads the book that makes her curious. So that's she is categorized as curious person. She has so many friends not only in the school but also in the another group. So that's she is categorized as friendly.

Hazel also experiences both internal and external conflicts. Her internal conflict happens when she know that she has a cancer and make her can't breathe like a normal person. Meanwhile the external conflict happens when she againts her mother. It happens when her Mom wants Hazel attends in the Support Group, but she refused this. Finally, the external conflict between Hazel and her Mom can be solved after they have a discussion. The next external conflict is Hazel againts Peter, her favourite writer. It happens when Hazel comes to Mr. Peter Van Houten's house, and she wants to know about the end of the story but Mr. Peter Van Houten reject it. Hazel against dr. Maria, it happens when she tells to dr. Maria if she wants go to Amsterdam to meet with Mr. Peter Van Houten. Even she experiences a lot of conflicts finally she can overcome her both internal and external conflicts because of her struggling.

Setting in this novel is divided into setting of place, they are in the church basement, the place where Hazel meet with Augustus and falling in love with him, in the ICU the place where Hazel get some treatment for her lungs, In the Oranje, the place where Augustus and Hazel take the romantic dinner, in the Mr. Peter Van Houten's house where she met with Mr. Peter Van Houten at the first time, and setting of time, they are after four in the morning, the time when Hazel gets a pain, after five thirty when Mom and Hazel go to Amsterdam, and at eight p.m the time when Augustus invited Hazel to literal heart of Jesus, to make some eulogy for him.

Finally, the researcher finds the correlation among the analysis on the structural elements on theme of the novel. The theme of this novel is Hazel's Struggle Towards Thyroid Cancer Described in John's Green *The Fault In Our Stars*. Based on the theme of this novel, it can be described the moral message that might be usefull for the readers, like :

1. God always have a best way for our life, please be optimist and enjoy your life
2. Doctor can not decide died or alive, only God who give a decission
3. Love can make someone especially who have cancer keep on struggling.

**Suggestion**

In analyzing this study, the researcher uses structural approach to analyze the structural elements of *The Fault In Our Stars* like general description of Hazel Grace as the main character, conflict, setting, and moral message. It is suggested to the next researcher who are interested in analyzing this novel by using psychological approach.