

## **KINDS OF FRIENDSHIP IN JAMES DASHNER'S NOVEL *THE DEATH CURE***

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Received: 2022/05/18

Accepted: 2022/05/26

Published: 2022/05/30

### **Abstract**

The aim of this study is to analyze the kinds of friendship in James Dashner's novel *The Death Cure*. Most importantly, true friendship stands for a relationship free of any judgments. In a true friendship, a person can be themselves completely without the fear of being judged. It makes you feel loved and accepted. This kind of freedom is what every human strives to have in their lives. The data are taken from the novel by using descriptive analysis. The method used is descriptive qualitative method. The results show that there are three kinds of friendship found in the novel. They are friendship of utility, friendship of pleasure and friendship of virtue. Friendship of utility gives the protagonist an advantage in finding the cure. Friendship of pleasure brings the protagonist happiness in life. Meanwhile, friendship of virtue gives the protagonist a convenient life. A good friendship should give a comfortable feeling and form better human beings.

**Keywords:** Friendship, friendship of utility, friendship of pleasure, friendship of good, kinds of friendship.

### **1. Introduction**

Francis & Hester (2004: 2) state that human being is a complex creature. As human beings, people are fundamentally members of society which means that our ways of living are deeply defined by the social world we recognize. It means that a human being needs other humans in life to solve complex problems. Therefore, a human are social creatures. Human beings will form groups that relate and reflect their individual personalities to comport within the group. Family and friends, for example, are the closest group of human beings in our life. Friends are also grouped into several levels, such as ordinary friends, close friends, and best friends. This kind of friendship will bring us something as relevant as our personality with the others. Friendship is important for every human being. Commonly, a friendship will be based on the simple rules of trust and honesty to count on each other when they face a problem.

Not only in reality but also in a novel, a story of friendship exists, for example in James Dashner's novel *The Death Cure*. This is one of best seller novels that is adapted into a movie. It is the third book of maze runner series which tell about Thomas, the protagonist, and his friends who run away from a solitary confinement to be used as human experiments.. This study will analyze how friendship which is performed by the protagonist with his friends brings an advantages for his and his friends life. This is a new study which is never conducted before by other researchers. This is also important

to be analyzed which has been known that friendship is very useful in human beings' life. It can also create a more understanding to the readers about friendship.

## 2. Literature Review

This research analyzes the characters especially the protagonist of Dashner's novel *The Death Cure*. A character is an imaginary person that lives in a literary work which can be major or minor and static or dynamic (Robert, 2001). Minderop (2005) states that character can also be a person, community, race, mental and moral attitude, the quality of reasoning, and famous people in literature. It means that character is any one who appears and is described through behaviour, traits, and description in the work of literature which is the representation of human beings.

Characters commonly are divided into three; protagonist, antagonist and deuteragonist. The author exposes the characters to describe the theme of his work for example friendship in *The Death Cure* novel. Nowadays, the definition and types of friendship has multiplied but all are different one another such as siblings, partners and colleagues. It needs to know the reasons why people tend to start a bond one another. Baron (1991: 14) says that friendship is a relationship which makes two people spend time together, interact in various situations, not involving others in the relationships and give each other emotional support. Craighead & Nemeroff (2004: 381) state that friendship is the important relationship in all cultures.

Lickerman (2013) states that the main reasons why people are together as friends are they have common interest, history, common values and equality. Common interest means sharing an idea, opinion to start a friendship. It gives emotional security sense and sense of belonging among people. History means experiencing the same past life or same experiences again form the basis of bond for example childhood. Common values can be caused of the same society or religion. And, equality means mutual respect and social belongings for example, time sharing and work sharing.

From above, it can be said that friendship provides a source of support and chance in individual to solve problems. Aristotle divides the kinds of friendship into three; utility, pleasure and virtue (Ross & Brown, 2009). Friendship of utility means that people tend to make a friend because of its usefulness. People see the affection for the usefulness than the person. It means that friendship must give advantage to each party to prevent the end of the friendship. Commonly, this kind of friendship occurs among old people regarding their works. Friendship of pleasure is based on the pleasure or enjoyment of a shared activity and the pursuit of fleeting pleasures and emotions by each party. Commonly this kind of friendship occurs among young people. This friendship will create a good friendship because they share pleasure, affection for pleasure and not the person (Sadler, 2013). Meanwhile, friendship of virtue is difficult for people are trying to find virtue in another party. Aristotle describes that this kind of friendship happens between two virtuous people who can invest the time needed to create such a bond. There is a statement that to be capable of being a friend in the primary and noble sense, a person must be courageous, temperate, and generous, and also just. He must also be proud in the sense of being aware of his own virtue and confidence. The more virtuous we are, the more we are able to excel in friendship; the less virtuous we are, the less we are capable of being true friends with other people. To be able to engage in true human friendship is the highest moral condition (Villones, 2017; Sokolowski, 2001).

This research uses the theory of friendship stated above to elaborate the kinds of friendship in the novel *The Death Cure* written by James Dashner.

### 3. Research Method

This study uses qualitative descriptive approach based on Sugiyono (2009). The approach is used to describe the specific kinds of friendship in the novel *The Death Cure* written by James Dashner as the source of data. Data are collected by taking note method proposed by Sugiyono (2009) and quoting method by Sutopo (2005). These techniques are used to select the relevant data to the research problem by selecting information without depending on the the number of information. Triangulation method is used to validate the data. The data are analyzed using the techniques proposed by Creswell (2013). Reduction data are conducted after the data collection to make the data organization based on the kinds of friendship. Then after the data collection, the interpretations of the data are conducted to answer the research problems.

### 4. Result and Discussion

Friendship can be found in every aspect of human life. It is a relation between two or more persons supporting each other or one another. As mentioned above, there are three kind of friendships proposed by Aristotle (Ross & Brown, 2009). The three kind of friendship found in the novel are described below.

#### 4.1 Friendship of Utility

Friendship is a relationship between two people in which each participant values the other and successfully communicates this fact to the other (Leibowitz, 2018). Friendship should be understood as a figure present to be trust-worthy in deep comprehension and can forgive each other. The friendship of utility is conducted from being trust-worthy of each other. A friend is considered as a good friend for its usefulness and affection between two or more peoples. See quotations below.

Janson's expression was blank. "We've been using our data to select a Final Candidate, and you're the one. We need you, Thomas. It all rests on your shoulders." Not in a million years, Thomas thought. But saying that wouldn't get rid of the Rat Man. Instead he cocked his head and pretended to consider, then said, "I'll think about it" (Dashner, 2011: 236).

The statement "we need you" in the quotation above indicates that someone is useful for the other. He is Thomas. Thomas is used by Janson as a human experiment to create the cure of flare virus pandemic. Actually, Thomas and Janson are friends. Jason only looks for Thomas when he considers Thomas is useful. Thomas is one of infected men from the virus. Janson even forces him to be one of the human experiments due to his infection by pretending to save Thomas and the others. Clearly, the ulterior motive he hides make him befriend Thomas. It relevant with the statement that people tend to make a friend because of its usefulness. Janson sees the affection for the usefulness of Thomas than Thomas himself.

The ulterior motive shown by people of WICKED is also a kind of friendship of utility. See the following.

Thomas felt a stirring of familiar anger. "How can you possibly expect me to believe that? You probably knew exactly what Rat Man tried to

tell me—that they needed me, that I'm the so-called Final Candidate” (Dashner, 2011: 309).

Trusting each other is very important for friendship. The distrust of Thomas on his friend in WICKED makes him worried about himself and his friends. It can be seen from the statement that it is impossible for Thomas to believe WICKED in the quotation above. His friend from WICKED only wants to make him the last candidate of the experiment object to create the cure of the virus. They do that by knowing that Thomas has an immunity on the flare virus. Thomas is very useful to create vaccine to cure the world. The statement of 'they needed Thomas' in the quotation above indicates the utility of Thomas for WICKED.

#### 4.2. Friendship of Pleasure

Friendship of pleasure exists when people find each other because of the enjoyment it carries. Commonly they create friendship for pleasure purpose, for example, hanging out due to fitting hobbies, common interest, and fishing buddies. Friendship of pleasure exists in people with the same pleasant interest. This friendship occurs between someone and others in enjoyment. This kind of friendship is also illustrated in the novel *The Death Cure* by James Dashner. See the data below.

The electric sound of the Launcher's charge filled the air just as Thomas got a whiff of burnt ozone. Then Newt squeezed the trigger. A grenade smashed into Greasy Hair's chest and lightning tendrils enveloped his body as he fell screaming to the ground, writhing, legs rigid, drool foaming out of his mouth. Thomas couldn't believe the sudden turn of events. He looked at Newt with wide eyes, glad he'd done what he had, and happy he hadn't aimed the Launcher at him or Minho (Dashner, 2011: 284).

The words or phrases such as *wide eyes*, *glad* and *happy* in the quotations above can be used to indicate that friendship of pleasure exists in the novel. In the novel, Thomas and Newt are close friend. However, Newt are infected by the flare virus. Commonly the virus makes the infected person lose control of his life. But, Newt still remember Thomas as his best friend. Even in uncontrollable situation, he does not aim the launcher to Thomas and his other friends. It implies that he makes a pleasure to his friends. See the the data below.

Minho leaned in to speak. "I can see you're as cheerful as always. So glad to be back in your sunshiny presence." Teresa completely ignored him. "Tom, they'll be moving us soon. Please come talk to me. In private, now." Thomas hated the fact that he wanted to, and he tried to hide his eagerness. "The Rat Man already gave me his big speech. Please tell me you don't agree with him and think I should go back to WICKED." "I don't even know what you're talking about." She paused, as if battling her pride. "Please." Thomas stared at her for a long moment, not sure how he felt (Dashner, 2011: 306 ).

Beside Newt, Thomas has other close friends. One of them is Teresa. The word *cheerful* indicates friendship of pleasure. She makes her friend happy for coming back to them. She warns Thomas that WICKED will move them soon. The enjoyment of

little chit-chat between Minho, Teresa and Thomas illustrates this friendship. They know each other, have a good communication, support each other in bad or good condition.

#### **4.2. Friendship of Virtue**

Pall (2000) states that people will be good friends because they are good. The wishes for 'for friends' sake' are friends in the truest friendship sense since the attitude is by what friends are and not incidental considerations. Perfect friendship is created from the affection for friend due to goodness, and not for the utility or pleasure. Friendship of virtue is commonly based on the mutual respect and admiration of each other. It means that this kind of friendship takes longer time to build but also more powerful and enduring. This friendship grows when two or more people recognize that they have similarity in values and goals and in vision for how their world should be. This kind of friendship is also illustrated in the novel as shown in the data below.

For some reason, at the words friends, Teresa popped into Thomas's mind. He tried calling out to her again with his thoughts, but there was still nothing. Despite his ever-growing disdain for her, the emptiness of her being gone still floated like an unbreakable bubble within him. She was a link to his past and, he knew without any doubt, had once been his best friend. It was one of the only things in his World that he was sure of, and he had a hard time letting go of that completely (Dashner, 2011: 23).

Teresa is an intelligent and smart person and technology is her area of expertise. She is capable of finding a cure of the virus. She is also a caring person. She tries to do whatever it takes to save Thomas even she must sacrifice her life. This kind of caring creates virtue between her and Thomas. The quotation above indicates the statement. Although she ever betrays Thomas, Thomas still considers her as a friend. He feels lonely when Teresa is not around.

See the data below for this kind of friendship.

Minho stared at Thomas, his eyes filled with pain. It hit Thomas that Minho had known Newt for two years longer than he had. So much more time to grow close. "We better check on him somehow," Thomas repeated. "Do something for him." Minho just nodded and looked away. Thomas was tempted to pull Newt's note out of his pocket and read it right then and there, but he'd promised he'd wait until he knew for sure the time was right" (Dashner, 2011: 238-239).

The quotation above indicates that Thomas really loves his close friend, Newt. He does not want to lose Newt. He cannot stand on the fact that Newt has been infected with the flare virus and will leave all of them. Thomas tries everything he could to save Newt. He knows that Newt is generally kinder and tries to look out for his friends. Thomas' desperation to save Newt can be seen in the quotation above on the statement *do something for him*. It indicates that good friends will do anything for the friend's sake. However, to make their relationship to be a friendship, people must each regard the other as a final value.

From the descriptions above, it can be seen that the novel illustrates about the friendship between the protagonist and his friends. The friendship is shown by the

author by elaborating how Thomas tries to save his friends from the virus; how Janson makes friend with him for utility and how Minho, Teressa and Newt make friend with Thomas for pleasure and virtue.

## 5. Conclusion

It can be concluded that there are three kinds of friendship found in the novel; friendship of utility, pleasure and virtue. Friendship of utility exists when Janson from *WICKED* considers Thomas useful and attempts to make him a human experiment object to find the cure of the flare virus. Friendship of pleasure exists on how Newt still remembers Thomas and Minho although he has been infected with the virus. And, friendship of virtue appears almost in every part of the protagonist's life such as among Thomas, Newt and Teressa. However, the portrayal of friendship in the novel shows us that friendship is very important in our life. A true friend will help us in fixing the problem we face.

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