

## THE SIGNIFICATION OF DEATH STORYLINE IN TEENLIT REFLECTED IN “LOOKING FOR ALASKA” BY JOHN GREEN

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### ABSTRACT

Literary works often include the theme of death as part of the story. But it is seldom realized that the theme of death gave a very significant role to the storyline. It is undeniable that the author deliberately put the theme of death as the core issue to convey something behind the story. This article discussed the sociological study of literature related to the representation of death in contemporary literary works. A teen lit novel by John Green entitled *Looking for Alaska* is the source of the data in this article. This article limits the research by referring toward two problem formulations; first, how the representation of death can be expressed in the novel. Second, how the theme of death in the novel is related to the social phenomenon of American society, in this case related to the modern society view towards death. The researcher used Hagin's theory regarding the significance of death in literary works. The method used is descriptive qualitative. The results of the study indicated that the theme of death has a significant role in the story where the death is present in the middle of the story or it is categorized as an intermediate of death (in Hagin concept). Death becomes meaningful in relation to the present, events that are still happening and have not been completed. Using Hagin's perspective, the role of death in *Looking for Alaska* is categorized into three; the manner of establishing the goal, obstacles, and the forming of death. Meanwhile, the relationship between death and the perspective of modern society is explored using Aries concept in the term *Forbidden of Death*. Death is considered a thing to be feared, so everyone tries to deny, reject, and stay away from death. Death is visualization for everyone who is haunted by emptiness, an emptiness that blinds vision and creates the fear.

**Keyword:** Death storyline, *Forbidden Death*, Teen lit, *looking for Alaska*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The theme of death has always appeared in literary works, from the classical story like in Shakespearian until the contemporary story such as

Haruki Murakami, Stephen king, and more recently, John Green. Death in literary works have never been highlighted as anything more than

sparks to decorate the story. It is however, capable of more than just mere 'decorations'. It not only acts as an agent who directs the story, it also has the ability to potentially divert the story from its initial trajectory. This may not always be seen as a good thing, but neither is it bad altogether, as it may be the only thing standing between a good story or a bad one. In this article, the researcher try to reveal that deaths is not rather than just being decorations to the story. Death presents and plays crucial things in story. It relevant with Hakola and Kivistö (2014) opinion in his article said that it is practically hard to track the various ways writers have contemplated death throughout the years, let alone confront the countless modes they've invented for dying, because literature is so entwined with death. There are a lot of deceased individuals in books.

There are numerous forms of death in literature. All of which generally plays an important role in how the story manifests itself. This, in return enables the readers to see the forms of death in literary works. As stated by Hagin (2010) "Death is meaningful in a pragmatic, or performativity, sense, by being a link within a linear cause-and-effect chain of events that considers the traits and goals of individual characters as causes". This also applied to John Green's teen literature (teen lit) work entitled *Looking for Alaska* which places the main character "Alaska" in an accident and then dies in the middle of the story. Death plays a role so crucial that the story depends on death in order to impact the readers in such a way that they, most definitely have had. There are multitudes of forms in

which death may manifest itself, but for the sake of simplicity, only three will be mentioned below.

The theme of Death in looking for Alaska is caused by vehicular accidents experienced by the main character. In the novel, Alaska Young's death in a car accident paves the path for the story to help the main character to look inward, to search his conscience to find things he would otherwise would've neglected had the death not occurred, or had happened at a different place and time in the story. This is one example of how strong death as a factor plays in the advancement of a story. The dynamics of which is significantly different than to that of a death via disease, which is exactly what's next.

Although the concept of death in literature is no longer a stranger to most people, it does beg the question of *why*. Why indeed, is it shown or rather, immaculately described in literature in such detail? Surely the answer to this can't simply be to add beauty to the literary work' because that would be a non-answer to this question.

Death in literary work becomes meaningless in case the work is only regarded as an entertainment. However, death can be meaningful when examined it further for finding the essential element which contained in the novel. In this study, there are three roles that death can have within a linear causal storyline. It can be an initial death, which begins a storyline and is a cause of subsequent events; an intermediary death, which is both an effect and a cause within a storyline; and a story terminating death, which ends a storyline and is an effect of previous events. In this research, the

study is not only stop in the meaning of death in the novel but also relate it with the social phenomenon about American view toward death nowadays. From the identification of problem above, there are two main points that wanted to reveal: (1) What is the representation of death in death in John Green's novel *Looking for Alaska* by using Boaz Hagins Approach. (2) The modern American society view and its relationship to the death role in John Green's novel *Looking for Alaska*.

## 2. THEORITICAL REVIEW

Hagin in his book exposes his research about how to create a portrayal of death into something meaningful in literary work. Hagin (2010) mentions that as long as we still exist, then death does not belong to us, and when death comes, we no longer exist and death means nothing to us, however, death can be meaningful when we leave this world with an impact towards the environment and people that are left behind. Hagin conducts his research on movies by analysing the narration of the movie. Actually, the theme of death is not only conducted in research on movies exemplified by Hagin in his research, however, it can also be done on literary works. In here, the researcher analyses the narration in John Green Novel; *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Looking for Alaska*. Bordwell in (Hagin, 2010) said that the Hollywood narrative consists of two or more storyline involving the same group of characters. Each storyline is linear, causal, and character-cantered." Therefore, the researcher assumes that the theory offered by Hagin can be used to analyse novel by looking at a linear storyline,

has a cause and effect element, and primarily cantered on the character.

Hagin mentions that there are three aspects that can render death in something meaningful on a series of cause-and-effect from the events that happen in the story. First, story-terminating and intermediary deaths can make death into something meaningful regarding the relationships with the past, making the conclusion of the story into a result from the previous events or events that can actually advance the progress of the plot until the end of the story. Then, initial and intermediary death can render death into something meaningful from the relationship in the future, then becomes its cause for the next series of events. Next one is the intermediary death, can be a meaningful death in its relation in the present; the events are still happening and not fully done, so the meaning of death itself is non-existent because intermediary death is used to reveal a particular event (Hagin, 2010).

Hagin explained that "in its present-oriented aspect, an intermediary death has the most difficulties being meaningful, giving sense to that which is still senseless, and absurd death that has not yet ended, to guarantee that a possible failure is rendered successful." So then, on giving the concept of death meanings, intermediary death cannot easily provide them because the death does not make any sense and it is ridiculous, for example, deaths in wars or battles. War movies basically focus on the act of fighting, thus mass death in the war becomes meaningless in the war movie.

The researcher will explain two concepts that are used by Hagin in analyzing movie narration. So that death becomes something meaningful. The researcher assumes that these two concepts relevant to answer the research questions like ones that have been previously shown in the background, which is: *Obstacles and Goals*, and *The Forming of a Cult*. In order to related this issue with social phenomenon, Aries theory about western view about that will be used in this research as additional theory.

**a. Obstacles and Goals**

Initial and intermediary death can become meaningful in the future by making it the cause of the previous incident of death tragedy that has an effect on the movement of the storyline in a work. How death can affect the storyline in relation to the future. The deaths presented by the writer can influence the flow of the story. For example death can affect other characters and can also motivate them in getting a better life by creating goals a more meaningful life. Hagin (2010) called it a set up goals. Character creates a new life goal or fight for a life goal that has been established before the tragedy of death occurred. The representation of death is not only to end the story in a work, but instead to make the story move and give effect to the characters in the future. Death does not make the character left weak, but makes it a stronger character in living his life in the future and able to find new goals in life so that death can be meaningful.

**b. The Forming of a Cult**

Beautiful death is narrated in the story in order to remember the ones who have passed away; hero's

death. Death will meaningful to those who leave by passing on the merits. Hagin mentions that "the fabulation and creativity involved in making death meaningful in relation to the future is not only that of making the facts into a legend but also of the very community the forms the cult that remembers the dead (Hagin, 2010)." Death can be formed into a 'Beautiful death' when the dying person has a community that views him or her as in important part of their lives, like in a family. Family is an organization or a small community. The members within can affect the lives of another member.

Groups that remember people die form after death. Generally, in a work, the formation of Cult is done after the tragedy of death occurs. The deaths occur to move the story line and also make the death meaningful in the lives of the abandoned people. Therefore, the formation of a group to commemorate a deceased person (hero's death) can be done after death occurs.

The good that is done during life impacts the social life of a particular group, so death will not be in vain and even become meaningful to those who are left behind. Sometimes a supporter does not play an important role in a narrative at the beginning of the story, but after death occurs, the character becomes an important part of the story line movement. This happens because the position is only as a supporting figure in which the goodness is not clear. That is, the creator still forms the memories in the character's life before death occurs, but those memories will be visible after death occurs.

**c. The role of death in literary work related with social phenomenon**

The concept offered by Hagin will be used by researcher in answering the first question. Then, the researcher will utilize a sociological approach to answer the views of American modern society related to the role of death in the novel. Ratna (2013) declared that the basic sociological philosophy approach is principally based on the relationship between literary work and its society. This is caused by: a) the literary works produced by the author, b) the author is a member of society, and c) the author use the wealth that exist in the societies, and d) the results of literary works are used by society. Therefore, literary works, the author and the society should be understood simultaneously for gaining the maximum results of the study.

The society's view of death always changes from a period of time. The view of Death also affects how the community faces the issue of death. In this research the relation between literary works with social phenomenon issue will be conducted based Aries theory. Philippe Aries conducted his own research on how the society of the past has experienced a shift in perspective in the face of death. Ariès (1974) in his book *Western Attitudes toward Death from the middle Ages to the Present* categorizes views against death into 4 namely Tamed Death, One's Own Death, Thy Death, and Forbidden Death.

Tamed death was in the 17th century where death is still considered benign, people can still accept the coming of death even society at that time is still very sensitive with the signs of death so many who prepare for the

coming of death. One's Own Death is more directed at the views of individuals and groups in the face of death. Individuality is more emphasized at this time; people will compete to prepare the best for death and goodness in the world then the rewards of heaven that he got so also vice versa. The time of Thy Death has led to the modern society where death becomes frightening and dramatized, while death is also revered. Discussion about death at this time becomes something that has begun to be taboo like talking about sex in earlier times, fear of death on the other hand become a tool to gain economic benefits by some circles such as the imposition of tombstones depending on one's social class and others. The last one is Forbidden Death, where people are more extreme about death. Death Being forbidden, in the sense of the coming of death should be avoided, shunned, and stalled.

In addition, the shift in the view of death grew steadily after entering a period of modernization in which death became a matter of being avoided by society. Raymond (Raymond, 2008) in his modernity journals, *Mortality*, and *re-enchantment* says "death is predicted as a" pornographic "event that should be veiled. The Death Taboo has been depicted as modernity burial of the question of human mortality ". This means that modern societies view the talk of death as taboo as the conversation about sexuality in the past. As the result, modern society is trying to avoid death-related talks.

**3. METHOD OF THE RESEARCH**

This research is used a qualitative research. The method that is used in this study is library research and close



reading. Qualitative research is best suited for literary phenomena because literature is a world of words and symbols that are full of meaning. Literature is not a phenomenon that easily calculated like the phenomenon of natural science (Endraswara, 2011). This research is done through two stages, namely data collection and data analysis. However, before the two stages of the study are described, it is necessary known place of research, population, sample, and data in this research. The research will be conducted that related with library research. It's mean the researcher can get the data and analysed the data depend on literary in librarian source.

Data obtained by conducting literature study. In the librarian research, there are several steps done. First, the observation to determine the literary works that serve as the object of research. Second, the literary works that serve as the object of research, *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Looking for Alaska* novel read to be determined its formal object. Third, the classification of data determine for the sample studies. Fourth, recording data in the form of words, phrases, sentences, and so forth. Fifth, look for other related data, which can support in research. Finally, a tentative conclusion is made of the data already obtained for further discussion in the analysis.

To analyse the data, the researcher used Hagin's theory of representation which considers that the themes considered in the literary works, including the theme of death in the novel, are a meaningful sign system. In the novel will be classified placement element of death in the novel whether the initial death, an intermediary death,

a story terminating death. Furthermore, the sample is led to explain the manner of establishing the goal, the obstacle removal, the forming of "a cult". It does not stop there; the population and sample obtained are associated with social phenomena that occur in the community in the form of American society's view of death.

#### **4. RESULT AN DISCUSSION**

##### **a. Death Representation in LFA**

Looking for Alaska told the story of a teenage boy named Miles "Pudge" Halter is very fond of reading the biography of famous people (or not so famous) and memorized their last words before death. One of his favorites is the last words of a poet named François Rabelais which reads 'I go to seek a Great Perhaps'. During his life, Pudge feels he has not found anything great and fantastic. So, in order to find great perhaps in his life, one day Pudge decided to move to a boarding school called Culver Creek in Alabama, the same place where his father used to go to school. There, he also met with friends who will change his life forever.

"Looking for Alaska" is divided into two chapters, "before / beginning with the title 136 days earlier" and "after". The series of plots before the novel describes the adventure that passes by Miles with his friends. In the middle of the Chapter with the title "end day" is the climax of a story that tells of Alaska's mysterious death. And the final post-mortem headline reveals about the character changes faced by Miles and his friends after the death of Alaska.

LFA novel presents the death that appears in the middle of the story.

Death in this novel is represented by the death of Young Alaska. The uniqueness of this novel as well, Green puts the title "end day / day to zero" from the backward sequence in each chapter starting from the previous 136 days. From the plot made a signal that the death presented in the novel is very influential on the meaning of each story. Quotes about Alaska's death can be seen from the following Miles statement:

The eagle looked down and bit his lower lip. "Last night, Alaska Young was in a terrible accident." His tears came faster, then. "And she was killed. Alaska has passed away." (Green, 2005)

In the Hagin Concept, such deaths are categorized as intermediary of death. Death becomes meaningful in relation to the present that is still happening and unfinished. Thus, the meaning of death itself does not yet exist because intermediary death intends to reveal an event. Hagin (2010) explains that:

"in its present-oriented aspect, an intermediary death has the most difficulties being meaningful, giving sense to that which is still senseless, attempting to envelop with significance and absurd death that has not yet ended, to guarantee that a possible failure be rendered successful.

Therefore, interpreting intermediary death is not easy because the resulting effect cannot be found until the end of the story. For example, deaths were caused by murder. The meaning of death in the film is unknown, but as the story progresses it

will reveal and make death meaningful in relation to the present.

Likewise with the representation of death in *Looking For Alaska*. The death of Alaska in the middle of the story creates its own mystery. The disclosure of the death of Alaska is a secret of its own which must be interpreted by the reader through the clues presented by the researchers. It is also in line with the title of this novel "Looking for Alaska" which includes the disclosure of a mysterious Alaska and her unexpected death. The last words submitted by Alaska give their own cues about the mystery of her death. As they celebrate the victory over a prank committed against a teacher called "the eagle", Alaska and his companion gather to smoke, drink booze, laugh and then Alaska talks by saying: 'Y'all smoke to enjoy it. I smoke to die.' (Green, 2005). The quotation is like a sign that Alaska wants his own death. The quotation indicates that Alaska has a desire to commit suicide. The news of death was revealed after they were asked to see the principal the next day. Miles and his friends got word that Alaska had an accident in a drunken state last night.

In the middle of the night, Alaska receives a phone call which causes her to go into hysterics, insisting that she has to leave. Pudge and the Colonel distract Mr. Starnes and Alaska drives away while drunk, crashes her car, and dies instantly. The Colonel and Pudge are devastated and blame themselves, but learn that Alaska might have deliberately crashed to kill herself. They discover that Alaska was driving to her mother's grave because she had forgotten her mother's birthday. The Colonel insists on questioning Jake, her

boyfriend, but Pudge refuses, fearing that he might learn that Alaska never loved him. They argue and the Colonel accuses Pudge of only loving an idealized Alaska that Pudge made up in his head. Pudge realizes the truth of this and reconciles with the Colonel.

Representation of Alaska's death is ambiguous in its conclusion – neither Pudge nor the reader knows whether her untimely death was an accident or suicide. From Alaska's erratic behavior and Pudge's and the Colonel's research, it appears that Alaska was suffering from some form of depression.

1) The meaning of death  
representation in LFA

The representation of death in the LFA novel which categorized as an intermediary death is also not as a complement to the story. The death narrative presented in this story has certain significance that can be analyzed. By using the study of Boaz Hagin the researchers will describe the significance of death in the LFA novel. It began from death as the manner of establishing the goal, death as the obstacle removal, and death as the forming of "a cult".

a. The manner of establishing the goal  
and obstacle

The deaths presented in the LFA novel also have a correlation with the achievements built by Alaska and some of the obstacles she faces. The researchers finds that the goal Alaska wants to achieve is unlimited freedom. This is in accordance with her character is infinite, brave, intelligent, and do not want to be troubled by the problem. The achievement of the Goal she achieved was Death itself. Death makes

her completely free and apart from all the problems.

Establishment of a goal that Alaska always wants to achieve is freedom. Miles's first encounter with Alaska provided a different figure between the two. Miles is described as a nerdy figure, always following the rules, and dare not do things above normal. In contrast to Alaska, since the beginning of the Alaska's story is described as a wild, unruly, and always looking for freedom. This is revealed from the following quotation in the novel: "So I walked back to my room and collapsed on the bottom bunk, thinking that if people were rain, I was drizzle and she was a hurricane." (Green, 2005)

Miles first goal when deciding to go to school in creek is to find a great perhaps. Instead he found a different thing after he is close to Alaska. He tried new things related to juvenile delinquency such as smoking, alcohol, sex and pranking others. These actions he got from his best friend Alaska. From the narration presented by Miles, can reveal about how achievements of freedom that Alaska wants to achieve by consuming alcohol, smoking and pranking friends. But the culmination of all these freedoms is finally expressed through his desire for death.

The obstacle faced by Alaska is the event of her mother's death. It is also a sign that Alaska suffered from childhood depression because she could not burrow his mother's life. She felt that her mother's death was her fault. She did not even think of doing anything, including calling 911 when her mother lay on the floor. Her father blamed Alaska for her mother's death. This can be seen from the following quotation:



I went into my room, and she sat down at the kitchen table, I guess, and then she screamed, and I ran out, and she had fallen over. She was lying on the floor, holding her head and jerking. And I freaked out. I should have called 911, but I just started screaming and crying until finally she stopped jerking, and I thought she had fallen asleep and that whatever had hurt didn't hurt anymore. So I just sat there on the floor with her. until my dad got home an hour later, and he's screaming, 'Why didn't you call 911?' and trying to give her CPR, but by then she was plenty dead. Aneurysm. Worst day. I win. You drink." (Green, 2005).

This quotation occurs when they are gathering as usual while smoking and drinking alcohol. Everyone in the discussion tells of the best and worst day in their history. Until finally, it was Alaska's turned. He told me that at that time he was 7 years old, after school he saw his mother lying on the floor. He cannot do anything. Until finally her mother was died. His father blamed her for the incident. The quotation above the researchers categorizes as an obstacle faced by Alaska. Obstacles are always haunting Alaska. But this obstacle became traumatic childhood. Obstacle is the burden of Alaska's life.

Another burden facing Alaska before his death is forgetting a very important day for her. Green seems to make a mysterious new labyrinth of Alaska's life. However, after Alaska realized the alarm was booming and she shouted then she decided to leave. She shouted that she forgot something.

She drove the car in a drunken state. That same night when she drove a car, Alaska had an accident and was reportedly dead. An excerpt about Alaska that forgets a special day and decides to drive a car in a drunken state can be seen from the following statement:

And then I was asleep. That deep, can-still-taste-her-in-my-mouth sleep, that sleep that is not particularly restful but is difficult to wake from all the same. And then I heard the phone ring. I think. And I think, although I can't know, that I felt Alaska get up. I think I heard her leave. I think. How long she was gone is impossible to know.

But the Colonel and I both woke up when she returned, whenever that was, because she slammed the door. She was sobbing, like that post-Thanksgiving morning but worse.

"I have to get out of here!" she cried.

"What's wrong?" I asked.

"I forgot! God, how many times can I fuck up?" she said. I didn't even have time to wonder what she forgot before she screamed, "I JUST HAVE TO GO. HELP ME GET OUT OF HERE!"

(Green, 2005)

The quotation above has a correlation to Alaska's death. Every year she always visits her mother's grave and brings her flowers. That night she also brought a flower of a tulip flower in a car and she died with him. The quotation is seen from the splashes of Miles and Takumi "She put it behind her ear, and when I asked her about it,

she told me that her parents always put white flowers in her hair when she was little. Maybe she wants to die with white flowers " (Green, 2005).

From the signs in the author's story, it is interpreted that this is the obstacle facing Alaska. Obstacle is what makes him depressed and decided to commit suicide. The accident was made on purpose. The correlation with Goal that Alaska wants to achieve is freedom. Freedom from the burden of his past guilt that he was the cause of his mother's death. The tulip flower tucked in his hair is a symbol of love saying his parents. Every day, people put tulips in their hair. That's the happiness he wants to get back. The way to achieve it is to face death accompanied by a flower of tulips that he carries.

b. The forming of "a cult"

In the Hagin concept, the forming of "cult" means how the death of a person in a literary work gives an unforgettable memorable effect to another abandoned person. The death of Alaska, of course, gives its own memory for friends who especially left Miles. Miles greatly admired the figure of Alaska.

I am sleeping, and Alaska flies into the room. She is naked, and intact. Her breasts, which I felt only very briefly, are in the dark, are luminously full as they hang down from her body. She hovers inches above me, her breath warm and sweet against my face like a breeze passing through tall grass. "Hi," I say. "I've missed you." "You look good, Pudge." "so do you" "i'm so naked," she says, and laughs. "How did I get so naked?" "I just

want you to stay," I say. "No," she says, and her weight falls dead on me, crushing my chest, stealing away my breath, and she is cold and wet, like melting ice. Her head is split in half and a pink-gray sludge oozes from the fracture in her skull and drips down onto my face, and she stinks of formaldehyde and rotting meat. I gag and push her off me, terrified. I woke up falling, and landed with a thud on the floor. (Green, 2005)

The quotation above is a form of memory left by Alaska against Miles. At first miles have a boring life, he lives with all order. He was a naïve feminine so called as "nerd". Until finally he decided to study at Culver Creek in order to get a great more. Upon arriving at Culver Creek School on the contrary, he met Alaska, Chip Colonel, Takumi, and Lara. They even do a lot of juvenile delinquency. He was introduced to cigarettes, drinks, and friends, including "the eagle" teacher killer school. On the one hand, the form of delinquency is regarded as Miles as a form of freedom, "great perhaps itself. He can escape from boredom and do a lot of fun. Alaska's death was not entirely acceptable to him. Alaska's shadows always surrounded him. He felt that it was Alaska that enabled him to see the world in another way as it is today. This is also evident from the following quote:

"But ultimately I do not believe that she was only matter. The rest of her must be recycled too...There is a part of her greater than the sum of her knowable parts. And that part has to go somewhere, because

it cannot be destroyed.” (Green, 2005)

As he reflects on Alaska's death, Pudge faces two important things about their relationship. First, he does not know everything about Alaska. Second, Alaska may be physically lost but she will continue to influence Pudge. One of Pudge's concerns after Alaska's death was that he would lose some of himself from her, but here he understood that the things he learned from Alaska would always stay with him forever. He is more than anyone he knows. Alaska's death has also transformed Miles to make life more enjoyable. It is doing new adventures that are not boring.

The death of Alaska also gives effect to The Colonel chip. Among his companions, the colonel comes from the poorest of them. He also felt himself useless. Meeting Alaska makes him look forward to the future. This can be seen from the following quote: "After all this time, it still seems to me like straight and fast is the only way out — but I choose the labyrinth. The labyrinth blows, but I choose it." (Green, 2005)

The quotation above occurs when Dr. Hyde asked the class to write about their personal expectations. Here, the Colonel asserts that he will be the agent to determine his own course of life. He writes this is inspired from Alaska's words to find the labyrinth of his own life. Freedom taught by Alaska makes the colonel more confident that the future is in his hands. He alone determines what adventure life he will face in the future, without doubt and

fear. Death, Alaska, nevertheless had a significant impact on his life in the future.

#### **4.1. The role of death in literary work relates with American views**

Literary works present not in empty condition. There are conditions that background the emergence of literary works. Literature displays a picture of life and life itself is a social reality (Faruk, 2012). Literary works mirror the lives of people in the form of imaginative imaginary stories. Literary works was created by authors with certain storylines and backgrounds to convey real-life events coherently and fictively.

Literary works present a complexity of the reality of human life in society, but the relationship of literary work to human life in society cannot be understood directly. Therefore, literary works are regarded as a product which has no autonomy and does not have a formative character to society. So is death in literature. Behind the representation of death that plays a role in the storyline of the story, the death in the novel also reflects how humans perceive death. From the data in the form of text obtained in the novel, literary critics can draw conclusions about how people view the death.

The quotation at the beginning of this section is a statement expressed by Hazel in the TFIOS novel about death. In the text Hazel felt she was very close to death due to cancer stage 4 that suffered by her. In the beginning the story of Hazel has a cover character, introverts, and self-confidence. This reflection of the attitude is an image of modern society characteristic that is

not ready to face death. Hazel in her statement said; "And yet still I worried. I liked being a person. I wanted to keep at it. Worry is yet another side effect of dying." (Green, 2012). Worry is a shadow that always blankets a person every time as a death threat. The attitude of worry also affects the way Hazel acts which is closed, introverted and not confident.

Entering the Modern Era, Society sees death as something taboo to talk about, tends to lend time, and avoid it. Aries calls this view the Forbidden Death. It is listed in his book; In our day [...] death, so omnipresent in the past that it was familiar, would be effaced, would disappear. It would be shameful and Forbidden (Ariès, 1974). Death became a frightening specter and the conversation was forbidden. In today's modern society, the shadow of death makes people afraid of death whereas they have never experienced death itself. The shadow of death was gained by humans from visualization of death. Many factors caused people to fear death like fear of leaving their loved, ones afraid to experience the painful dying process, or to be afraid of the shadow after the death which is still abandoned. All these fears then lead people toward denial of death or forbidden death.

The representation of death fear or called the forbidden death is also very clearly reflected in the TFIOS novel. Not only Hazel, her parents, family, friends all think death is something that is scary and should be avoided. Though, death is a great secret that is never solved by humans, especially the vagueness the "time" of the tragedy. This also corresponds to Deborah (2003) "Death was denied, distanced,

sequestered, and hidden in institutions and the old and the dying were marginalized and avoided". In addition to frightening, death is also a sure thing; not knowing old and young, poor and rich, beautiful and ugly, good and bad, healthy and sick. If that time has arrived then death will come without any human being who can hinder his arrival. Like it or not, want it or not, and accept it or not, man must face it all, without exception.

How about the LFA Novel! Death is even expected by Alaskan characters. Death is a form of freedom that releases it from the shackles of the past. Alaska in his statement once said 'Y'all smoke to enjoy it. I smoke to die " (Green, 2005). The burden of living out of feeling guilty for the death of her mother made her depression. That obsession then led him to commit suicide. Although not explained in detail, Alaska did want the death. What about the concept of Aries that says that death is categorized as forbidden death?

Forbidden death is not reflected through the figure of Alaska because suicide is an act that violates the norm in the community. Death is still considered something that is avoided and rejected reflected from the attitude of mourning. This is evident from Miles's difficult attitude in accepting Alaska's departure. "No," I said. "I want to be here ... I still cannot believe it," which was still partly true (Green, 2005). Ross (2003) in his book death and dying categorizes this attitude as a denial attitude. When death approaches then that is when they are aware of the existence of death. One of the ways in which modern society does is to oppose it, as

Ross says that if denial is impossible, we will seek to control death by opposing it. As well as Miles's attitude to Alaska's death, a deep mourning is a form of rejection of death because of the view that does not accept death.

## CONCLUSION

This article tries to discuss the role of the death theme found in literary works. Death often becomes inseparable in literature such as in popular works of romance, adventure, detective, comedy, etc. Literary works are present not only to spice up the story but also to influence the storyline to become more complex. Hagin through his theoretical concept formulated a research on death in literature and gave birth to it in a theoretical concept. The application of this theory in the novel "Looking for Alaska" can be seen from the importance of the presence of the death of the main character which is the core of the conflict in the story. The main character who becomes the core of the story, which the reader certainly desires, is narrated to die in the middle of the story. The adventures of Pudge, a geeky boy who is inspired by Alaska, seeking the truth about Alaska's cause of death. But until the end of the story, Pudge and his classmates are only haunted by the shadow of disbelief that Alaska really died in an accident. On the other hand, Aries views that the representation of the theme of death shows that the identification of forbidden death in modern society is almost the same. All try to deny death even though it is clear that death will be faced by humans.

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