

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter concludes the research by summarizing the entire research as a whole. Suggestion is also given to the reader for those who want to further elaborate the subjects of this research further.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

This research has shown the similarities and differences in the portrayal of “journey” in John Green's two books (*Looking for Alaska* and *Paper Towns*) and how they contributed to the construction of the main character's identity. The similarities and the differences in the portrayals of the journey construct the main character's identity by showing how the journey taken contributed to the changing of their identity. The similarities of the portrayals of the journey showed that the journey taken by the main characters is due to a loss of someone. The differences of the portrayals of the journey create different kinds of matured main characters in the end.

To understand the similarities and the differences of how the two books use journey to reflect the stages of change in the main characters' identity, the writer uses Barthes' *Hermeneutic Code* and *Proairetic Code* as tools.

The journeys were seen through the use of Barthes' *Hermeneutic Code* and *Proairetic Code*. The result was that these codes actually show how the journey is experienced by the main characters in the two books by pin-pointing the patterns of clues to the conclusion of the two books.

The similarities of the two books are the fact that both *Looking for Alaska* and *Paper Towns* share similar themes in their beginnings, which are big events that impact the main characters' (Pudge and Q) identity construction, involving the two girls, Margo and Alaska. Both novels also share the fact that the two big events are the cause of the change of the two main characters' identity.

construction. The two novels are narrated by an adolescent male. Also, the two novels use sections to separate the phases that the main character went through. In *Looking for Alaska* there are simply two sections which are quite clear in their meaning: “before” and “after.” In *Paper Towns*, three sections are used: “The Strings,” “The Grass,” and “The Vessel.” However, the way that the story constructed the change in the main character’s identity was seen through the difference in the way the journey is portrayed. One journey metaphorical and the other a literal journey.

These differences are the fact that Green’s *Paper Towns* is a story about someone’s beginning that shapes another’s ending and *Looking for Alaska* as a story about a person’s ending that shapes another’s beginning. The metaphorical journey can be discovered in *Looking for Alaska*. It can be gathered that the journey to find the cause of Alaska’s death portrayed the changing in Miles “Pudge” Halter’s identity: from the rebellious teenager that could not accept the death of a friend to a more mature version of himself that can let go of his guilt and accept the loss. The literal journey can be revealed in Green’s *Paper Towns*. Basically, in *Paper Towns*, Margo’s disappearance was the cause of Q’s change in identity: from someone who once was so blinded by idea of a person to someone who appreciate human complexities, both the good qualities and the flaws. The differences of the two books are that the big events in the beginning which are the first sections of the books. In *Looking for Alaska* the girl died and in *Paper Towns* the girl ran away. In *Looking for Alaska*, Alaska’s death became the reason why Pudge became more accepting about the unknown future and in *Paper Towns*, Q is more aware that people should not judge other people when they do not know them very well.

Both journeys portray different pictures, *Looking for Alaska* construct a journey from a tragedy and *Paper Towns* construct a journey from a mystery. *Looking for Alaska* shows how a person’s life started after tragedy hits and *Paper Towns* is about coming to a harsh realization after the mystery is solved. Both novels may both portray journeys but both portrays different *kind* of journey, in *Looking for Alaska* “looking” has a more metaphorical meaning whereas in *Paper*

*Towns* “looking ” has a more literal meaning, as mentioned in the second chapter of this research.

This research reveals that since both novels are young adult novels, they both portrayed youth initiations. The similarities and the differences in the portrayals of the journeys construct the main character's identity by showing how the journey taken contributed in the changing of their identity. The journey, be it metaphorical or literal, still both contributes to the change in one's identity. In a sense, each of the main characters from those two books may have different challenges that they faced but the ultimate outcome is becoming a better version of themselves after the journey is over, be it a death that made one realize the importance of letting go or a disappearance that made a person realize that we cannot impose one's idea to define another human being, one intrapersonal change in Pudge from *Looking for Alaska* or one interpersonal change in Q from *Paper Towns*, both journeys are portrayed through the growth in the main characters.

## 5.2 Suggestion

John Green's *Looking for Alaska* and *Paper Towns* are good example of books appropriate for teenagers to read, since the books explored issues that can be easily relatable to the problems that adolescence face. In Indonesia, books as the means of coping with changes is not a common thing. It can be said that by using these books, the teenagers cope with the changes through reading. Through these particular type of reading, they can discover their sense of self and their place in the world since the adolescence phase is a crucial time in human's life where one is transitioning from childhood to adulthood.

The writer gathers that if further research can be conducted, the implication in the educational aspects of the books can be explored, the two books can also be taught in class and discussed in the class as reading recommendations (especially in Indonesia), and the books also explore controversial issues so it would be appropriate for those controversial issues to be discussed in future research.