

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents the conclusions of this research. This chapter is divided into two subchapters. They are conclusions, which will conclude this research, and suggestions, which presents the suggestions for other who are interested in conducting studies related to this research.

5.1. Conclusions

This research aims to discover the portrayal of grieving in *The Thing About Jellyfish* (2015), a children novel written by Ali Benjamin. Based on the analyses and discussion using the five stages of grief theory by Kübler-Ross and Kessler, (2014) strengthened by a theoretical framework for analyzing the portrayal of death, dying and bereavement in children literature by Schroth (2017), it is found that the novel portrayed grieving through the construction of five stages of grief. The stages portray the child main character's, Suzy Swanson, grieving process. Each of the stage has different intensity or depth and frequency of appearance in the novel's grieving contexts. However, the author of the novel may unintentionally employ this theory in portraying the grieving process.

The acceptance or healing stage and the depression stage are the more intense stages compared to the others and it may reveal a particular intention. It appears that the novel portrays grieving as a long and difficult process or a struggle, which involves denial, anger, depression and other efforts to cope with the loved one's death. However, the grieving process ends with the need to truly accept the reality, move on from grieving and start living a normal life.

The stages also do not follow a certain pattern. Although in the novel, the main character's grieving process ends with the acceptance stage, the appearance of the stages in the plot does not exactly follow 'denial-anger-bargaining-depression-acceptance' pattern as the stages sometimes intertwined. This shows that grieving is portrayed as a complex process with no particular rules that a grieving person has to go through. It is a personal process that each individual experienced differently.

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PORTRAYAL OF GRIEVING IN ALI BENJAMIN'S THE THING ABOUT JELLYFISH (2015)

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The portrayal of grieving in children's literature and the existence of the children's literature about grieving and death itself appear to be proofs of the importance of learning how to grief for children. They need to learn about grieving and death because the society want to embedded particular values in children. In *The Thing About Jellyfish* case, the value is that while grieving process can be a difficult and painful process for a grieving person, in the end, they need to accept the reality and move on with their lives. However, the awareness of the importance to introduce these topics to children emerges in the developed countries such as the U.S. and the U.K. In developing countries such as Indonesia, it seems that the number of children's literature in-depth exploration of these topics is very limited. This is proven by the very limited number of studies that analyzed these topics in children's literature. It seems that this reflect the reality of Indonesian society which sees grieving and death as things that need to be dealt privately and immediately. It may also reflect the reality that Indonesian adults have a hard time explaining these concepts, which is similar experience to the adults in the developed countries such as the U.S. and the U.K.

5.2. Suggestions

There are several recommendations for researchers who are interested in conducting studies about grieving in literary works, more specifically children's literature. First, it is suggested that studies about newer children novel on grieving is conducted as there are a possibility that there are more novels which explore these topics. As the number of studies on this topic is limited compared to studies of children literature on other topics, therefore, it is important that analysis on grieving portrayal is conducted in the future. These new studies may help develop the limited number of studies on this topic and discover new findings.

Besides children's literature, future studies can also explore portrayal of grieving in literature targeted at other age group such as young adult or adult. This will further expand the number of studies on grieving. Furthermore, researchers can also compare portrayal of grieving in literary works targeted at these different age groups, which may bring new and interesting results.

Lastly, future studies can also analyze portrayal of grieving in other medium such as film because, currently, it is one of popular media of entertainment. Five stages of grief theory by Kübler-Ross and Kessler (2014) might be employed in films portraying grieving and death. However, other supporting theoretical framework should also be employed as the foundation of analysis. Thus, it may result in a combination of two theories, which are the theory to reveal the grieving process and film theory.