

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter concludes the findings and discussion of the research, as well as suggestions for further research regarding power dynamics.

5.1. Conclusion

Based on the findings, power dynamics is portrayed through the conflicts between the six main characters. Through these characters, there are four pairs of characters in which the power dynamic is most seen in: Kaz Brekker and Matthias Helvar, Matthias Helvar and Nina Zenik, Kaz Brekker and Nina Zenik, Kaz Brekker and Inej Ghafa. Power is exercised in different ways, the most notable through exploitation of one's desires, use of resistance, as well as expressions of judgment and hatred. It is seen between Kaz Brekker and Matthias Helvar that when Kaz exercises power, it is through the exploitation of Matthias' deepest desire. Kaz uses this as leverage to undermine Matthias and assure Matthias' compliance and loyalty. Matthias, on the other hand, exercises power through resistance by challenging Kaz's authority, both through verbal and physical action. Between Matthias and Nina, power is exercised through expression of judgment and hate. Through textual evidence, Matthias and Nina exercise power by judging and threatening each other of their different backgrounds and morals. When it comes to Kaz Brekker and Nina, it is mainly by expressing distrust and hatred, with Nina expressing distrust towards Kaz's ways; and Kaz by reminding Nina of his influence. Furthermore, Kaz Brekker and Inej Ghafa are seen exercising power towards one another through exploitation of their shared feelings towards each other. Both Kaz and Inej use this as leverage to constantly attempt to gain each other's sympathy, therefore attempting to dominate one another.

It is further found that out of the four pairings, Kaz Brekker holds the most power over the other characters. Kaz is seen using both verbal and physical action when it comes to exercising power and has a reputation among the citizens of Ketterdam, as well as his crew. Kaz

is a morally gray character who is showcased as the novel's protagonist to oppose the typical morally good character that most young adult novels have in their main protagonist. His motives and decisions throughout the novel makes him a fascinating character, as he presents a character who is not perfect, and that he will make mistakes along the way. While he holds the biggest power over the others, Kaz has his own strengths and weaknesses. His flawed characterization allows readers to be able to relate and sympathize with Kaz, especially young adult readers.

Moreover, among the six characters, power is mostly exercised through verbal conflicts in the form of arguments and bickers. This goes to show that from the novel's portrayal of power dynamics, power can come in different forms, and that it is not limited to those with a clear hierarchy. Power dynamics can appear in a parent-child relationship, but it can also appear in a conversation between friends and co-workers, similar to how power is used in arguments among the six main characters in *Six of Crows*. *Six of Crows* also presents the types of characters with the determination that young adults aspire to be, yet filled with flaws and gray motives that makes the characters human and in the end, relatable. Their struggles of having to survive in a society could perhaps reflect on the struggle that young adults have to face today.

5.2. Suggestions

Based on the study, there are two suggestions to future writings, those regarding the novel *Six of Crows* and the study of Foucault's power theory. In regards to the novel, *Six of Crows* is worth analyzing, especially in terms of its literary elements. The characters are fascinating to analyze in terms of their characterization and arc. Future research should perhaps consider analyzing the characters from a different lens such as elements of the hero's journey or portrayal of young adult characters. In addition to its characters, power could be analyzed based on the plot of the novel, as the characters face conflicts outside of their own group, mainly through their past figures that constantly abused and oppressed them.

In terms of Foucault's (1982) theory of power, it is suggested that Foucault's perspective could be used on other young adult novels. Power dynamic is not limited in fantasy and dystopian stories. Future research should look into the power dynamic seen in other genres, perhaps in slice of life stories that are closer to reality. In doing so, power dynamics can be analyzed through a variety of different perspectives and interpretations that can open the door to new voices.