

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter is divided into two sections: the conclusion and the recommendation. These sections are derived from the findings of the analysis conducted by the researcher.

5.1. Conclusions

Upon completing the analysis of Joseph Conrad's novel "Heart of Darkness" using Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, specifically focusing on Esteem Needs, the researcher arrived at several conclusions based on their findings. The analysis revealed evidence of two categories of esteem needs manifested by the major characters: self-esteem and respect from others. In addition to identifying these esteem needs, the researcher also uncovered three impacts resulting from unfulfilled esteem needs affecting the major characters. In examining the data related to each form of esteem needs in the novel, the researcher categorized twenty instances: eight instances of self-esteem, including two data of achievements, one data of competence, one data of inner strength, one data of independence, one data of freedom, one data of mastery and one data of confidence in dealing with the world; and twelve instances of respect from others, encompassing one data of reputation, one data of prestige, one data of status, one data of fame, one data of glory, one data of dominance, one data of recognition, one data of attention, one data of importance, one data of dignity, and two data of appreciation from others. Both categories of esteem need in "Heart of Darkness" are thoroughly explored, but most data come from Kurtz, followed by Marlow, the Manager, and the Harlequin (the Russian

trader). In the first category, self-esteem, much of the analysis centers on Marlow and Kurtz. Marlow, as the main character and one of the narrators, naturally drives the narrative. Kurtz, though introduced later, has a profound impact on the themes and direction of the story, serving as a focal point throughout Marlow's journey. In the second category, respect from others, Kurtz again takes center stage. His insatiable thirst for power and external validation highlights his struggles with esteem.

In addition to the findings related to esteem needs, the analysis revealed six instances categorized as impacts of unfulfilled esteem needs: inferiority, weakness and helplessness. It consists of two data that shows inferiority, two data that shows weakness, and two data that shows helplessness in the major characters. These findings reveal the significant role esteem needs play in the characters' motivations and behaviors, as well as the profound effects that arise when these needs are not met. Many of these needs remain unfulfilled due to factors such as moral corruption, disillusionment, isolation, and existential crises. Kurtz's relentless pursuit of power ultimately leads to a loss of respect, while the brutal realities of colonialism challenge the ideals of both him and Marlow. Their disconnection from society exacerbates feelings of emptiness, and the confrontation with their inner darkness prompts deep reflections on life.

5.2. Recommendations

In analyzing how major characters in "Heart of Darkness" are affected by their esteem needs, the researcher encountered two main challenges. Firstly, defining the different types of esteem needs as outlined by Maslow proved difficult

due to the lack of explicit definitions in his theory. This led the researcher to rely on interpretations from other experts to accurately define these needs. Secondly, the researcher faced time constraints, necessitating extra effort and careful planning in the research design phase. To address the challenge of defining esteem needs future researchers should gather and combine definitions from different expert. This will help create a clear method for identifying and studying esteem needs in characters. To save time, researchers should use a simple plan with clear goals and a schedule. Digital tools can help organize and analyze data faster.

In this section, the researcher proposes both theoretical and practical recommendations for future studies. Theoretical recommendations include applying Maslow's theory of esteem needs to identify esteem needs in literary work and exploring the impacts of unmet esteem needs within the psychological context of literary analysis. This approach aims to deepen students' comprehension of psychological themes in literature, highlighting how esteem needs influence characters and narratives. The researcher suggests junior scholars apply Maslow's esteem needs theory to analyze other literary works through a psychological lens.

Practically, there is currently a limited body of research that focuses exclusively on Maslow's theory of esteem needs to analyze literary works. The researcher identifies a significant opportunity for future scholars to explore this theory further within the context of literary analysis. The researcher anticipates that future studies will build upon this groundwork by examining a broader range of characters and narratives, using Maslow's framework to uncover deeper insights into the psychological dimensions of literature.