

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This chapter summarizes the conclusions drawn from the analysis in the previous chapter and provides numerous recommendations based on the research findings. The conclusions aim to summarize the essential results gained from applying Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory (1954) in analyzing the psychological aspects of the main characters in *Purple Hearts* by Tess Wakefield (2017). On the other hand, the suggestions aim to guide further research and offer wider applications of the theory in literary studies. The summary of both results and recommendations highlights the theoretical and practical contributions of this study.

#### **5.1. Conclusions**

After applying Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory (1954), especially the third level, namely love and belonging needs, in analysing the novel "*Purple Hearts*" by Tess Wakefield (2017), the researcher forms several conclusions based on the findings of the analysis that has been done. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory (1954), particularly the need for love and belonging, was discovered to have a major impact on the psychological state of the characters in the novel. The fulfilment of love and belonging needs is important to attribute the main characters' motivation, behavior, and perspective through a psychological perspective. According to Maslow (1954), the fulfilment of love and belonging needs affects an individual's overall well-being and their approach to life's challenges, hence determining the condition of each character's journey. An individual's perspective on the situation of their interpersonal and personal relationships is determined by the context of

their needs, leading to various results. In the novel, the problems that the main characters, Cassandra Lee Salazar and Luke Joseph Morrow, face individually and socially with other characters are mostly the result of their struggles and obstacles in fulfilling their love and belonging needs.

As for the findings, the researcher displays twenty-six data that are found to prove the existence of various struggles and obstacles in fulfilling love and belonging needs in the “Purple Hearts” novel by Tess Wakefield (2017). As Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs theory (1954) proposes, the third level needs, particularly love and belonging needs, are crucial for psychological well-being and involve complex processes. Based on the findings, twelve data are revealed for struggles undertaken by the main characters, Cassandra Lee Salazar and Luke Joseph Morrow. These include four data in struggling to build trust, four data in balancing social, financial, and health pressures, and four data in developing genuine emotional connections. It is revealed that the characters, despite their initially contractual marriage, consider their social relations and personal stability critical, requiring efforts to overcome foundational trust issues, manage external life pressures, and develop authentic bonds.

As for the obstacles to fulfilling these needs, the main characters in the novel face a total of fourteen data. These consist of four data illustrating personal insecurities, especially in Luke, who grapples with feelings of unworthiness and guilt. Four data are presented for mistrust, reflected in Cassie’s difficulty in trusting Luke due to past wounds and their marriage’s origin. Medical issues represent four data, shown through Cassie’s health condition impacting her ability to fully engage.

Furthermore, one datum highlights military life as an obstacle for Luke, imposing limitations on emotional expression and closeness. Finally, one datum relates to other external pressures, such as Luke's harsh environmental background, exacerbating isolation and emotional instability. As the book comes to an end, the main characters come to terms with the fact that their past psychological and personal issues no longer define who they are. They decide to embrace love and acceptance of one another in spite of the uncertainty that lies ahead. It reflects the fulfilment of their need for love and belonging, as they overcome internal conflicts and gain a renewed sense of emotional connection and purpose.

## **5.2. Recommendations**

In conducting this research, the researcher faced a primary limitation in the analysis process. The research was specifically narrowed to focus exclusively on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory (1954), particularly the third level, the love and belonging needs, in finding out the struggles and obstacles in fulfilling the love and belonging needs by the main characters. Despite the limitation, the researcher proposes some general recommendations regarding the significance of this research, both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research applies Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory (1954) can be used not only to analyze a person's motivation but also to understand deeper emotional and psychological conflicts in fictional narratives. Therefore, future researchers are encouraged to apply this theory to other literary works, especially by exploring other levels of needs, such as esteem needs or self-actualization, which can provide richer psychological insights into character development.

Furthermore, while this research specifically focuses on the fulfillment of love and belonging needs affecting the psychological behavior of the main character in the novel “Purple Hearts,” future researchers are advised to consider using other psychological theories, such as the Two-Factor Theory proposed by Herzberg, which can also provide further depth of analysis. Integrating such theories can present further depth and a more comprehensive psychological approach to literature.

Practically, this research can serve as a valuable reference for future researchers interested in the psychological approach in literary studies. The researcher hopes that this research can open wider opportunities to understand the theory of the hierarchy of needs put forward by Maslow (1954), especially in fulfilling the needs of love and belonging. Additionally, the novel “Purple Hearts,” written by Tess Wakefield (2017), has not been widely used in literary studies with Maslow’s needs theory approach, despite its significant psychological and emotional depth that deserves exploration through various literary approaches.