

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the main character in the two novels *Boyhood* and *Youth* by J. M. Coetzee, I conclude that John is facing identity crisis and alienation. The cause of identity crisis of John is the psychological conflicts that he faces during his childhood, they are: John's struggle to fit in to society, John's love and hate relationship with his mother, and John's confusion about his true identity. These psychological conflicts are caused by John's relationship with his family, school, and society. Therefore, these conflicts also influence the personality development in three stages of John's life. Based on Erikson's idea, these three stages are industry vs. inferiority, identity vs. role confusion, and intimacy vs. isolation. John's experiences and conflicts in his childhood lead him to the sense of inferiority. Through all the conflicts, John feels that he have no support from everyone even his family. Therefore, based on Erikson's theory John is considered fail in his personality development on childhood stage. In his adolescence stage, John is also suffering to understand and find his true identity. John believes that his true identity is an artist and he also goes to England to pursue his dream. At the time he starts his new life in England, John finds that the reality is different from what he imagined. John is forced by the society to live a normal life which makes John feel miserable and lonely. This fact is caused by his bad relationship with other people because of his inability to socialize as the result of his failure in personality development in his childhood. From this fact John is considered facing role confusion and leads him into identity crisis.

Based on this analysis on identity crisis, I have found some evidence that shows John is also facing alienation in his life. Further analysis of alienation is done using Melvin Seeman's theory of alienation. This analysis shows there are several evidence in every stages of John's life started from his childhood, adolescence, and adulthood that indicate John is also facing alienation. Furthermore, on the last stage of John's personality development, John is facing isolation due to the lack of intimacy in his relationship with others started from his childhood stage until adulthood stage with his family, friends, women, and society. This failure of John's personality development is the first indication that he is also facing alienation based on Melvin Seeman's idea of alienation. From the conflicts and personality development of John on each stage, it is shown that John is facing five aspects of alienation by Seeman: powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, self-estrangement, and isolation.

5.2 Suggestions

There are lots of topics that can be analyzed in both novels *Boyhood* and *Youth* by J. M. Coetzee. This research on identity crisis and alienation is the indication that there are more possible psychological issues that can be discussed in these novels. Furthermore, I would like to suggest for the future researcher to do a research on other psychological issues that is possible be found in these two novels.