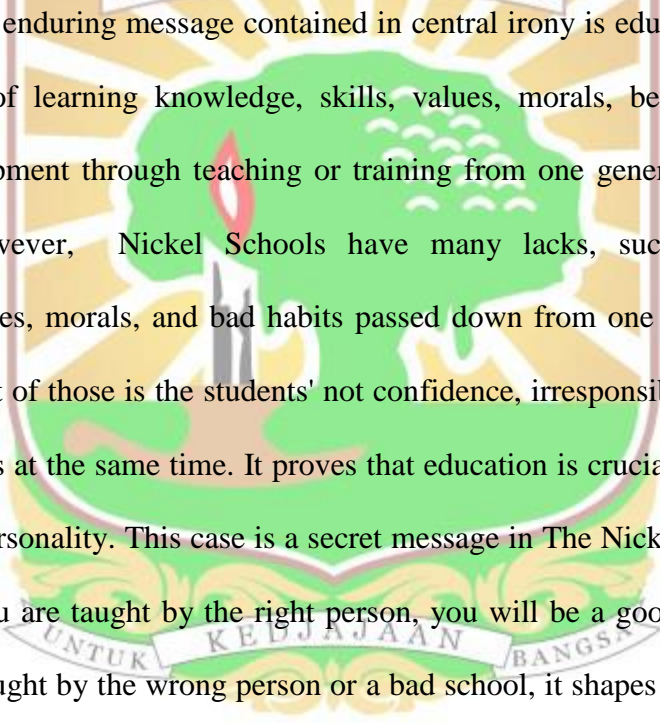


CHAPTER V

5.1 Conclusion

After analyzing *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead through the use of tensions, I concluded that there are some secrets and manipulate in *The Nickel Boys*. It was founded on analyzing tensions such as irony, paradox, and ambiguity. The enduring message in each point I conclude in a general form.



First, the enduring message contained in central irony is education. Education is the process of learning knowledge, skills, values, morals, beliefs, habits, and personal development through teaching or training from one generation to the next generation. However, Nickel Schools have many lacks, such as inadequate knowledge, values, morals, and bad habits passed down from one generation to the next. The impact of those is the students' not confidence, irresponsibility, dishonesty, and hopelessness at the same time. It proves that education is crucial to shape human character and personality. This case is a secret message in *The Nickel Boys*. It shows us that when you are taught by the right person, you will be a good person too, but when you are taught by the wrong person or a bad school, it shapes you into a bad as well.

The second is the enduring message through the central paradox, especially in appearance. Appearance is a mode or way of seeing something or how someone shows something as opposed to what they hide. In public, the Nickel School looks like a great school, but it is different in reality. Nickel School hides its secrets, such

as discrimination, corruption, torture, and others, by manipulating them to make it look like nothing happened. It teaches us not to judge someone or things through the cover. When something looks great, it does not mean that it is great, and the same is true for the bad one.

The last, central ambiguity, conveys a message related to action. An action is a behavior that humans take throughout their lives to achieve certain goals. In *The Nickel Boys*, the action performed by several characters has a specific purpose. The purpose of the action is not necessarily good or bad things. It can be manipulated in various forms, such as loss of evidence or increase in evidence, which makes those actions difficult to understand. Therefore, it teaches us to judge a person's actions from the evidence first, and someone might do something to achieve something else.

To sum up, after analyzing *The Nickel Boys* novel through the element of tensions, I concluded that there are some secrets and manipulations in *The Nickel Boys*. It shows that the secrets, such as discrimination, torture, poison, etc., are hidden from the public and make those cases look like did not happen before. The Nickel School manipulates the students to be fine on the cover. They make the students think that discrimination, torture, etc., are normal. It teaches us to judge something or someone from various points of view. If we only see one side of that, misunderstanding may happen, and an accident may occur in the future.

5.2 Suggestion

After the analysis I did and explained before, it is undeniable that many other topics could be explored and developed from this novel. One of them is an analysis of how an institution treats children in the past and present. Another one is the influence of the treatment received by children on their psychology. At first, Elwood's character has a high level of self-confidence. He always expresses his opinion, which he thinks is right. However, after entering Nickel School, he no longer dared to express his opinion because of the pressure there. At Nickel School, students who do not obey the rules or become students whom the teacher does not like will receive persecution, such as bullying, torture, discrimination, and so on. It could have an impact on Elwood's psychology. The topic above can be an example for further analysis concerning the novel *The Nickel Boys*.

