

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

After reading and analyzing *The Book Thief*, the writer concludes that this novel is not merely a story about a young girl who likes to read and steal book during the era of Nazi Germany, but this novel is also a story about a young girl who tries to deal with her life after the loss she has experienced at her young age. The analysis brings two major conclusions.

The first conclusion is that Liesel Meminger suffers from traumatic stress and anxiety after witnessing her own brother's death and being abandoned by her own mother. It is depicted through the symptoms of children with traumatic stress that fit to explain Liesel's condition. Children with traumatic stress will show these particular signs: they will be having nightmare or other sleep problems; they will be developing unfounded fears; they will feel depressed, emotionally numb, or guilt over what happened; and the last sign of children with traumatic stress is that they will be in a state of becoming irritable, disruptive and angry.

The second conclusion, the writer finds out that the loss which is experienced by Liesel, has also caused her to feel empty, for the loss includes the most important people in her life, which is her family. This loss and emptiness then become the gateway for Liesel to enter her symbolic order, an order where she forms her ego and where she finds a book as her object petit *a*, a replacement for her loss object. This book then leads Liesel to be able to read and write and makes the book as her passion

for the fulfillment in her symbolic. This book is also a tool for Liesel to drift back to her imaginary order whenever the reality struck her and reminds her to the loss. By stealing the book, Liesel fantasies herself reunite with the loss object and feels like she is being a complete self again. Liesel keeps on stealing until one day, realization comes to her that the loss is a part of her reality and it will keep happening for the rest of her life.

The writer personally expects that this research could contribute to the enrichment of literary studies. Then, the writer also hopes that this research can be used as the references for the upcoming research both in the field of psychoanalytical criticism. Finally, the writer expects that in the future there will be a further discussions on this topic.

