

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

After reading and analyzing *The Gathering*, the writer concludes that this novel is not merely about a family gathering on the family's member funeral, but there is a trauma that needs to be coped with by accepting the death of the loved one. The acceptance of the death relates to the main character's effort in order to find the source of her trauma which causes her to be stuck on her grief for so long. The analysis of the novel brings three major conclusions.

The first conclusion is that the death of Veronica Hegarty's brother, Liam, causes her to experience deep grief. Her painful loss is triggered by their close relationship in the past. Liam loves her unconditionally, but she cannot love him when he does several mistakes and forgets her love for him. Her regret for not loving Liam as much as he does which she realizes it after he dies tragically in an unacceptable way, gives her sorrow that she cannot bear.

The second conclusion is that Veronica suffers from Prolonged Grief Disorder (PGD). It is mainly proven by the intensity of her grief and the length of its duration. It is also depicted through the discussion of PGD's symptoms that fit to Hegarty. As for the people with PGD, the difficulty in accepting the loss would cause them to be unable to move on with their lives. It gives them a bad effect which causes them to abandon everything involved in their lives.

The last conclusion is that Veronica could heal her PGD by her own effort without no therapist involved. The healing process actually happens

unconsciously because she does not realize having this psychological problem. The process happens since she recalling her mind in order to find the cause of her brother's death. But after she finally finds the cause of why her brother commits suicide, it does not lighten up her grief. Her brother dies because of the childhood trauma that has a great impact to him. Veronica has seen his painful experience directly but she does not help him out of this and she forgets it has happened until she remembered it on thirty one years later. His unacceptable death leads by this mistake which she thinks it is hard to be forgiven. It causes her falls into the deep grief and makes her suffers from PGD. But her sorrow does not damage her permanently. The healing process happens after she does self-forgiving by intending to reveal Liam's dark secret to her brother Ernest. The healing process also leaded by her family support when Emily says she loves her that makes her finally becomes brave enough to confess the truth. This self-forgiveness makes her be able to find her peace and she could continue her life again.

The Gathering is another work from Anne Enright that shows a person could deal with her grief by herself. The healing process of PGD in this novel could be done without any help from the therapist. Observing our mind by recalling the past memories relates to the loss could give us an enlightenment about what cause that makes us could not accept the loss. Actually, the therapists have used this method for a brainstorming session with the PGD's patients in the process of healing this psychological problem. The writer assumes that Enright has applied this method into this novel because it assumedly applicable for anyone and could be done without any therapists. This method is mixed with the use of

self-forgiveness because the people who suffer from bearing their mistakes through the loss could not be forgiven by them since they are no longer alive. Besides, support from family like showing their affection on the time the patient suffers from PGD is also needed in healing the grief. Therefore, by forgiving ourselves through our biggest mistakes could bring us peace and makes us be able to face the reality, especially in coping with our grief.

