

CHAPTER V

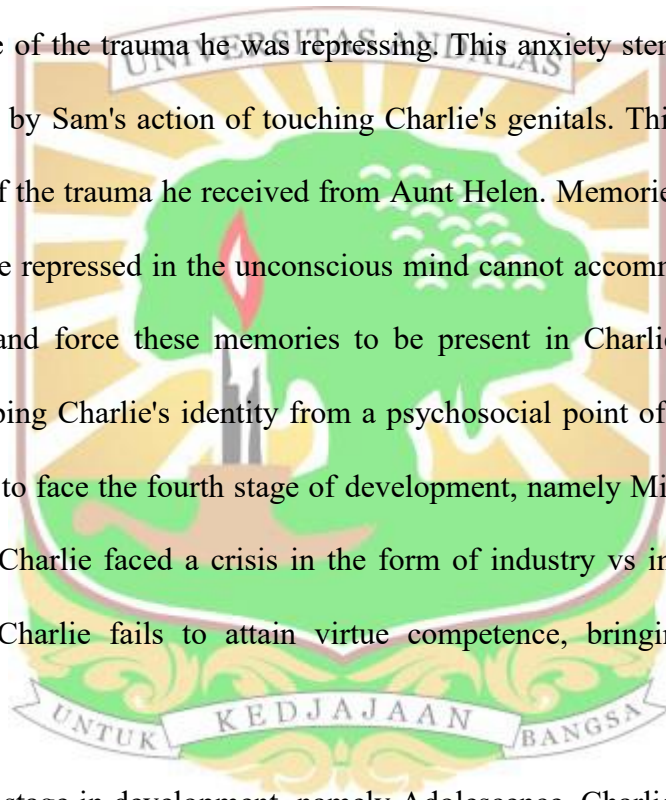
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the character Charlie in the novel entitled *The perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky, I as a researcher come to the conclusion that Charlie as the main character in this novel has a trauma that impacts on the shaping of identity within himself. The trauma Charlie has to face includes the death of his close friend, Michael, and the death of his favorite family member, Aunt Helen. Traumatic events shape Charlie's personality, which make him a person who has difficulty participating in his society. Indirectly, the trauma has also shaped Charlie's personality, which makes him into a person with low self-esteem, self-blaming, fear of intimacy, and abandonment issues. As time goes by, Charlie represses his traumatic memories of sexual abuse committed by Aunt Helen when he was a child. Evidence of this repression is found in the form of anxiety neurosis, in which the sufferer is not aware of the cause of the anxiety. Charlie does repression by not mourning Aunt Helen's death. Apart from that, repression is also present in the form of Charlie's experience in exploring his sexual desires by masturbating. When masturbating, Charlie is faced with a conflict in the form of feeling guilty when he makes Sam the object of his sexual fantasies. This feeling of guilt is the proof that Charlie blocks out his sexual sensations and he also subconsciously avoids the sexual trauma he has experienced as a child.

Meanwhile, Charlie's fear of Christmas which coincides with his birthday is also an indication of Charlie's repression. His birthday and Christmas are the days

Charlie wants to pass as quickly as possible, because on that day Aunt Helen died in an accident when she wanted to buy Charlie a present. Shortly after Aunt Helen's death, Charlie has trouble remembering the day Aunt Helen died. Difficulty in remembering traumatic things indicates long-term repression. Repression is present due to pressure from id's impulses due to pressure from the id trying to recall memories in the form of past trauma. The climax of Charlie's repression was when he had sexual intercourse with Sam, this actually triggered the emergence of the trauma he was repressing. This anxiety stems from the id's urge triggered by Sam's action of touching Charlie's genitals. This action reflects the memory of the trauma he received from Aunt Helen. Memories in the form of trauma that are repressed in the unconscious mind cannot accommodate impulses from the id, and force these memories to be present in Charlie's dreams. The results of shaping Charlie's identity from a psychosocial point of view show that Charlie failed to face the fourth stage of development, namely Middle Childhood. At that stage Charlie faced a crisis in the form of industry vs inferiority. In the fourth stage Charlie fails to attain virtue competence, bringing Charlie into inferiority.



In the fifth stage in development, namely Adolescence, Charlie is faced with a crisis in the form of identity vs role confusion. Peer influence and support from people around are very influential in the success of achieving virtue fidelity at this stage. Charlie's encounter with Patrick, Sam, and Bill at school leads Charlie to many new experiences. From them, Charlie began to explore and convey the impulses of the id and also re-evaluates the failure that occurred in the fourth stage, engenders a sense of participation. The desire to take part and participate

appears in the form of Charlie's initiative to try to join school events and activities, for example when Charlie participates in fanzine work. Bill, as Charlie's favorite teacher, also encourages Charlie 'to participate', because by taking part he can provide concrete directions and goals which represent the ego in humans, which is having a purpose in life.

Finally, this study concludes that traumatic events can affect the shaping of identity in Charlie. His personality as a quiet person and chooses to be an observer in his environment is the result of the process of repressing traumatic events that he has done in the long term. Sam, Patrick, and Bill finally managed to form Charlie's new personality and get him out of his comfort zone as an observer and an emerging sense of 'to participate'. This also shows Charlie's success in dealing with the crisis in the fifth stage which leads Charlie to an identity and achieves virtue: fidelity.

5.2 Suggestion

This research still has many shortcomings and is far from perfection. This research is only limited by the analysis of the character's identity, the repression he does on his traumatic memory, and also the results of identity development in psychosocial theory. The research does not include the indications of PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) that Charlie suffered due to the trauma he repressed. There are still many interesting things in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* that can be studied. Therefore, I hope there will be further research that explores the issues in this novel more deeply.