

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1. Conclusion

Based on the previous chapter, this study concludes that Ian McEwan represents how class dynamics and power can be intertwined and significantly impact social control. In the novel *Atonement*, various methods are employed by the upper class to maintain their control over society, such as providing scholarships and accommodations for those who live under their constraint to create a circle of dependency and a kind of manifestation for the future. Besides that, through the character Marshall, McEwan portrays how he exploits the crisis of the outbreak of World War II and Briony, who manipulates the narration for her personal gains.

In Ian McEwan's novel *Atonement*, false consciousness arises due to the class dynamics between the upper and lower classes. The interaction between these two classes leads to several elements contributing to false consciousness, with McEwan portraying Robbie as someone trapped in this situation. One form of false consciousness is Robbie's ambition to elevate his social status, as evidenced by various events. First is Robbie's belief that he can upgrade his social status through a romantic relationship with Cecilia. However, McEwan clearly creates obstacles, reflecting British society where someone from the lower class has no chance to marry someone from the upper class due to the upper class's conservative nature regarding their choice of partners. Moreover, Robbie's misinterpretation of social class is evident in his personal relationships with the Tallises, which blur his

awareness of his social position. Lastly, McEwan depicts Robbie's false consciousness in the realm of education. Robbie believes that by obtaining a medical degree from Cambridge and becoming a doctor, he can transcend his social status. However, McEwan dispels this notion by placing Robbie in situations that make him realize that the upper class still controls the life of a lower-class individual. Robbie thinks he will become part of the upper class by acting like them.

5.2. Suggestion

After conducting this research, the writer realizes that the scope of the study is not limited to the current findings. This research focuses on how the social class dynamics represented by Ian McEwan in his novel contribute to false consciousness. Through the analysis, the writer identifies specific motives of the ruling class to dominate the entire social structure, which could be explored further. Future research will likely examine these motives in greater depth, as found in the novel *Atonement*.

