

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

After reading and analyzing *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owen, I conclude that Kya suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and employs defense mechanisms to deal with psychological problems. The trauma Kya experiences always haunts her at all times, significantly impacting her personality and causing her to become very withdrawn, avoiding social interaction. Therefore, Kya tries to survive with the defense mechanisms she uses. As a result, I describe this conclusion with several points.

The first point is that Kya suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder due to several traumas that greatly impact her. The first trauma is physical abuse, trauma inflicted by her father, which subsequently leads to other traumas. This violence causes Kya to be abandoned. The second trauma is abandonment, this trauma resulting from the physical abuse perpetrated by her father. As a result, all of Kya's family members leave the house without her, when she is just 6 years old. The last trauma is childhood neglect, because of this trauma Kya became introverted and unwilling to open up to others.

The next point is the conclusion of the effect of the trauma on Kya's personality. The earlier trauma causes Kya to become very closed and introverted, leading her to avoid forming close relationships with others. I identify several characteristics of personality disorder problems that Kya exhibits after enduring these long-term traumas; intrusive memories, avoidance, and changes in physical and emotional reactions.

The last point shows how Kya copes with her Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, I find that Kya uses three types of defense mechanisms. The first is denial, Kya uses this mechanism to try to forget the trauma she has experienced which initially keeps her distant from people around her but gradually allows her to accept Tate into her life and improve her social interactions. Next is displacement, Kya carries out this action by replacing the sadness of her bad memories of trauma by writing a book about the collection of shells, feathers, and insects. The last action is rationalization, which Kya uses when she maintains her self-esteem by justifying what she has thought and said, this makes Kya more courageous to express what she thinks is good for her.

Where the Crawdads Sing is Delia Owens' bestselling work in the young adult novel genre. In this novel, Owens tells a fictional story with the theme of a murder mystery intertwined with the background of an abandoned child, which opens our eyes to the hidden secrets behind her very private life. This novel raises psychological issues that make it very interesting to read, adding a touch of psychology that can impact changes in a person's personality

This research still has many shortcomings and is not in the perfect category, this research is only limited to analyzing the influence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder on the main character's personality, along with defense mechanisms to overcome the trauma. There are still many interesting topics that can be discussed in the novel *Where the Crawdads Sing*. I suggest that future researchers explore other psychological approaches that might be found in this novel for example, why

Kya is accused of being the murderer of a rich man in her town and why Kya becomes very interested in writing a book that makes her a famous writer.

