

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter consists of conclusion and suggestions that might be useful to future researchers who choose Graham Greene's novel *The End of The Affair*.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

After analyzing *The End of The Affair*, the writer can consider this novel as a great literature. The intricate interplay between illicit love and faith serves as a deep exploration of human condition, which highlights the complexities and contradictions that define personal relationships and moral choices. In *The End of The Affair*, Greene can combine the deep and often entwined themes of illicit love and faith, presenting a narrative where personal desire clashes with spiritual convictions. Through this illicit relationship, Maurice Bendrix and Sarah Miles in Greene's novel not only tell the story of infidelity, but by using it as a way to look deeper into this human struggle, for example, in desire, guilt, sacrifice, and an effort to find meaning that is more alive than just worldly things.

The characters in this story have experienced a spiritual crisis, where love is always accompanied by pain and desires that have often conflict with their conscience. Sarah's decision marked the end of the affair after making a promise to God that, at the time of the war in London, it became a symbol of redemption amid her personal suffering and spiritual transformation, reflecting the presence of divine intervention in secret. Meanwhile, Bendrix's journey shows a process that he has gone through which has made illicit love a test of his faith, where he has transformed from an atheist to someone who is more of a believer even though he

will be reluctant to change this which has been triggered by his sense of loss, jealousy, and confusion.

This novel will be very suitable if analyzed literally because it not only talks about ordinary love but also has touched the moral and spiritual side of a human life. Greene's background as a Catholic writer has made this story interesting where if analyzed using the approach of new criticism it will focus on a symbol, image, irony, paradox, ambiguity, structure, and the deep meaning of a text, with the use of various rich narrative devices in this novel. It will show how inner conflicts will arise when passion collides with spiritual belief. Bendrix's obsession and turmoil for Sarah will be juxtaposed with Sarah's commitment to her faith which has depicted the struggle of man to be able to balance worldly desires with a spiritual need with this tension that will fill in the story and will be the core of the main theme of the novel. In addition, the change experienced by Bendrix will begin with excessive jealousy where with the search for the meaning of life to his struggle with faith that will show how this illicit love will be able to destroy as well as to pave the way for a reflection and spiritual growth.

Greene uses symbolism and imagery to convey the characters' emotions, intensifying the tension between their desire and duties. Through this symbolism as well as rain, the bombing, Sarah's diary, and the cross, they help us comprehend the emotional problems and moral gray areas that define their relationships. These components are not only improving the narrative but also invite readers to consider the complexities of love, the difficulties of faith, and the often-painful choices that shape the human experience, which ultimately describes the deep impact of illicit love on the character's faith and their search for purpose in a morally ambiguous

world. Meanwhile, through imagery such as religious, urban, and emotional imagery, illustrates the emotional struggles and moral dilemmas that define Sarah and Bendrix's relationship. The character's moral quandaries are emphasized through the basic conflict between earthly and divine love is embodied using imagery from churches and prayers as potent symbols of sacrifice and redemption. The character's emotional and spiritual instability is powerfully symbolized by the imagery of a war-torn city. Furthermore, the story's emotional imagery powerfully conveys the character's psychological metamorphosis by illustrating a profound jealousy of a subtle picture of spiritual awakening. By highlighting the tension between the character's desire and their spiritual obligations, this clear imagery helps readers in understanding the character's depth. Ultimately, the use of imagery invites readers to consider the nature of love, faith, and the human experience, emphasizing the deep impact of these themes on the character's lives.

Furthermore, Greene employs narrative devices such as irony, paradox, and ambiguity to highlight the emotional turmoil experienced by the characters and emphasize the tension between their desire and their moral obligations. Greene's portrayal of human experiences as fundamentally contradictory and paradoxical is further supported by the novel's use of irony, where love leads not to happiness but to suffering, and faith is built out of loss rather than fulfilment. Based on Abrams, the irony is separated into three parts, the writer found two parts in the novel such as situational and dramatic irony (Abrams, 1999). The situational irony of Bendrix's love leads to jealousy and despair, coupled with the dramatic irony of Sarah's hidden vow to God, highlights the misunderstanding that often occur in intimate relationships. Through the use of irony in its various forms, exposing the

contradictions and complexity present in the characters' lives ultimately strengthens the thematic development of the novel. The contradictions inherent in the character's experiences reveal the complexities of love, guilt, and spirituality. Greene invites readers to consider the difficult relationship between morality and desire by exposing their condition in this ironic way. He concludes by saying that love can cause a lot of doubt in their faith and hurt their feelings, even though it seems very human. This exploration shows that people do not only want illicit love but also cause them to think deeply about themselves and undergo personal transformations, which changes their beliefs and who they are.

As shown by Sarah's attempt to adapt her love for Bendrix to her faith, the characters paradoxically find themselves separated between their desire and spiritual responsibility. This is her final decision to release their relationship for her spiritual beliefs, which explains the moral difficulty reflected in the decisions. It is a striking example of this dilemma. The use of paradox throughout the novel, especially in Bendrix's narrative when hatred becomes indistinguishable from love, adds levels of complexity to the discussion of faith and doubt. In addition to the characters' relationship, the elements such as rain, the cross, and the devastation of wartime London also symbolically depict the paradoxical coexistence of love and treachery, faith, doubt, freedom and sacrifice. Besides the clear imagery of isolation and longing, these symbols increase the emotional intensity and moral ambiguity that define the character's journeys. By highlighting the dual nature of love and the internal conflicts it creates, Greene invites readers to consider the complex interactions between desire, faith, and the moral dilemmas that arise from human relationships. Ultimately, the paradoxes in the novel highlight the idea that love can



lead to intense spiritual reflection and emotional turmoil, which in turn shapes the identities and beliefs of the characters.

Similarly, ambiguity can be found in the novel as the boundaries between love and faith, betrayal and loyalty, sin and salvation are blurred and unsolved, which puts the characters and readers in a condition of existential and moral doubt. Particularly, Sarah's character embodies this ambiguity because her final sacrifice is both sad and redemptive, and her faith can be seen as either a true spiritual awakening or an escape from guilt. The ambiguity surrounding Sarah's religious conversion, alongside the novel's treatment of potentially miraculous events creates a narrative space that allows for multiple interpretations can coexist, reflecting the mysterious nature of both human and divine love. The reader is left struggling with the unsolved conflict between faith and doubt because of the novel's ambiguous ending, in which Bendrix's anger against God continues alongside hints of divine presence. The narrative's ambiguity invites readers to engage with the complexities of human emotion and ethical doubt. By avoiding oversimplified moral judgments and highlighting the inherently complicated nature of illicit love when confronted with the demands of faith.

In addition to studying how religious belief may be sufficient and relieve human love, Greene creates a story that explores how illicit love might leading to faith. *The End of The Affair* is an important literary work that continues to convey profound insight into the nuanced relationship between human desire and divine grace because of its intricate interweaving, combined with a skilful completion of the novel's memory, time, and narrative viewpoints. The tension between worldly passion and this divine calling is not presented as a moral judgment but as a lived

and painful contradiction, making the novel always relevant to discussions about how love, faith, and free will shape human identity.

Based on the analysis above, the writer concludes that Graham Greene's novel *The End of The Affair* uses rich formal elements including symbolism, imagery, irony, paradox, and ambiguity to examine illicit love and faith topics. All serve to illuminate the complicated interplay between the topics. Choosing this novel as the subject for a critical study of illicit love and faith is very important because it goes beyond a simple love story to examine the moral and spiritual aspects of human relationships, offering rich material for scholarly exploration. Through an analysis of these elements using New Criticism as a critical framework, the novel can be analysed as a self-contained literary artifact, where its complex use of language, imagery, and structural patterns illustrates the unavoidable entanglement between human desire and divine will. Thus, this New Critical analysis emphasizes *The End of The Affair* as a timeless reflection of how love and faith shape human identity and morality within the delicate realm of the human heart.

*The End of The Affair* by Graham Greene is not just about an affair but it is about how love can lead to spiritual revelation even in its most flawed and forbidden form. This makes the novel a deeply philosophical and literary masterpiece that continues to speak to readers who are interested in the frailty of love and the mystery of faith. This novel challenges readers to consider the contradictions and complexity of love that defies social and religious conventions, making it a significant and enduring work in both literary and religious experts' discourse. Additionally, in a world that is increasingly questioning the boundaries between the sacred and profane, this novel invites readers to confront uncomfortable truths and

consider that faith may be born not in purity but in brokenness. Then, with Greene's deep narrative skills make this novel as an exemplary text through which to examine how illicit love intersects with faith, ultimately highlighting the contradictions of the human condition and the search for redemption amid imperfections.

## 5.2 Suggestion

After conducting this research, the writer would like to give suggestions to future researchers who wish to analyze Graham Greene's *The End of The Affair* for further study about this novel. Many objects and aspects of this novel could be analyzed. The writer recommends that future researchers analyze the intersection of memory and identity in the context of illicit love and faith. This study could focus on how the character's memories of their affair shape their identities and influence their moral and spiritual dilemmas. For further research can be analyzed using psychological theories related to love and identity. The writer hopes this study will be a useful reference for other researchers who want to analyze other topics in *The End of The Affair*.

