

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

After analyzing Vonnegut's five science fiction short stories (EPICAC, Harrison Bergeron, Report on The Barnhouse Effect, Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow, and Welcome to The Monkey House) from his short stories collection book titled *Welcome to the Monkey House: Special Edition* (Vonnegut, 2014). The author found that Kurt Vonnegut always displays his world creation within his story as dystopian futures as much as possible, where technology and humanity as the main objects of his satirical science fiction. Vonnegut use pessimism and irony as a form of humanity critique. Vonnegut focuses out the contradiction that exist in a civilized society, the state is limiting off human life itself. In addition, there was also an optimist yet pessimistic view of humanity that Vonnegut continues to portray in his narratives.

First, the author sees that Vonnegut follow the five stages of narrative structures. Vonnegut frequently starts all five stories with the depiction of dystopian or futuristic settings in which technical and sociological advancements have radically altered the human situation. By presenting a dystopia of enforced equality, overpopulation controlled by suicide parlors and sexual suppressants, or common exploitation of psychic power or computer sentience, as normal, in contrast to traditional Equilibrium stage. In Vonnegut's work, the disruption stage is crucial and given a lot of attention. The story's Recognition stage, a moment of tragic action or forceful clarity, is this resistance. The recognition phase comes quickly after, during which the ruthless, frequently systemic instruments of the established

order brutally reclaim control. For example, Harrison is killed live on television, the Nothingheads and Barnhouse's action results in a standoff, the consequences of eternal life expose their struggle, and EPICAC self-destructs. The oppressive system is too strong, or the resistance to change is too tremendous for any attempt to bring about a true Equilibrium stage. In Harrison Bergeron and Welcome to the Monkey House, the rebellion is quelled or has no major impact, and the original, seriously flawed societal order is grimly restored. In Report on the Barnhouse Effect, the system's dominance is reinforced by a victory at a higher cost. In Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow, the consequences of the initial premise are revealed. And in EPICAC, the one who went against the norm is poignantly sacrificed. These are all examples of the New Equilibrium stage.

Second, from the structures, the author sees that Vonnegut shows his concern for humanity's advancement. In terms of thematic resonance, the narrative structures closely mirror Vonnegut's views on modernity and technology. The systematic progression of conflict, as well as the eventual anticlimactic or ironic ending, reflect the futility and absurdity he perceives in modern civilization. In these stories, modernity is defined by the decline of individuality, the increase of government authority, and the ethical issues brought by scientific advancement. Technology, while sometimes promising convenience and advancement, has been found to degrade fundamental humanity characteristics such as free will, empathy, and emotional depth. Each story talks about the depiction of a struggle in the advancement of science, such as a humanity traits suppressant, human immortality, oppressive government or authority, and weaponized technology that leads to a depressing future. Then the themes in the structures are reinforced when someone,

like Harrison, the Nothingheads, Professor Barnhouse, Lou Schwartz, or EPICAC itself, deliberately acknowledges the harshness or absurdity of the system and actively rebels against it. The irony is shown when any attempt to change the situation fails. It is strengthened Vonnegut's view of humanity that reality does not always support good change as any effort has been made in humanity's advancement. As an example, the development of technology that should be used as a way to improve human qualities have instead led into a way to hinder the humanity of the human itself.

Vonnegut's unique use of narrative structures and thematic in his short stories of science fiction is hopeful yet depressing, showing the irony in humanity's advancement. As a result, Vonnegut's utilization of traditional narrative structures becomes an intentional distinctive approach. It gives a familiar framework within which he defies expectations and delivers significant social critique. His short stories do more than only describe stories set in imagined futures; they also reflect current fears about the course of modern society. The chosen narrative patterns assist readers in grasping the entire scope of these challenges while emphasizing the complexities of opposing or transforming the institutions in which they live. Vonnegut skillfully delivers devastating satirical punches mostly about the irony of conformity, authoritarianism, the dehumanizing effects of technology, and the tragic futility yet necessity of individual defiance within oppressive systems of humanity.