

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 5.1. Conclusion

This research explores the psychological resonance between Hazel Grace Lancaster and the fictional novel *An Imperial Affliction* through the lens of psychoanalytic literary criticism. By applying Freud's theory of the id, ego, and superego, Holland's identity theme theory, as well as Schultz and Schultz's concept of self-defense mechanisms, this study reveals how Hazel's deep identification with the novel reflects her fear, anxiety, and subconscious emotional conflict. Hazel's attachment to *An Imperial Affliction* is not just a preference for literature. Still, it serves as a psychological mirror that shows her inner world, especially in relation to illness, death, and emotional isolation.

Hazel's defense mechanisms also reinforce her fear of intimacy, making her believe that forming close relationships will only cause greater pain when her life ends. Hazel unconsciously identifies herself with Anna, the protagonist of *An Imperial Affliction*, and this identification shapes her perception of herself and her relationships. Through Anna's unfinished story and the novel's emotional ambiguity, Hazel finds a symbolic narrative that helps her process her trauma and fears. Her projection towards the figures, especially Anna and her mother, reveals her hidden desire for love, memories, and emotional security. Furthermore, the repeated reading of the novel, her reluctance to share it with others, and her intense emotional response show that the book serves as a refuge where she can explore complicated feelings indirectly. These behaviors reflect psychoanalytic defense mechanisms such as repression, rationalization, suppression, and intellectualization, which Hazel uses to overcome the fear of being burdened and dying young.

Furthermore, the psychological impact of *An Imperial Affliction* extends her personal reflection to affect Hazel's behavior and emotional choices. Her fear of establishing a relationship, especially with Augustus, stems from her internal belief derived from the novel that emotional closeness leads to pain and loss. This belief strengthens her image as a "grenade" and limits her ability to feel intimacy and vulnerability. Hazel's existential anxiety, which is shaped by her terminal illness and reflected in unresolved novel themes, illustrates how literature can function not only as a coping mechanism but also as a guiding force in shaping psychological responses. In conclusion, Hazel's resonance with this novel reveals how fiction can reflect and even direct the subconscious mind and emotional behavior.

## **5.2. Suggestion**

For future researchers, this study opens up the opportunity to explore how fictional narratives affect the psychological development of characters, primarily through the lens of psychoanalytic criticism. A similar study can be done on other literary works where the characters resonate strongly with the fictional text in the story. Researchers can also explore how terminal illness is described in other young adult novels to examine general psychological patterns and literary representations. By expanding Hazel's scope and her relationship with *An Imperial Affliction*, this study can further investigate how literature serves not only as personal therapy but also as a social commentary on illness, loss, and meaning in contemporary youth narratives.