

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

#### 5.1. Conclusion

After reading and analyzing *Ugly Love* by Colleen Hoover, it is concluded that the novel represents the fulfillment of the hierarchy of human needs, as portrayed by the two main characters, Miles Archer and Tate Collins. This analysis is based on Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, in which the writer found that some needs are fully fulfilled, while others are not or are only partially fulfilled. Both characters materially fulfill the physiological and safety needs, but are emotionally blocked at love and belonging needs, which stalls esteem and delays self-actualization.

Starting with the most basic needs, namely physiological needs, both characters fulfill these needs, although Miles Archer appears to be quite neglectful in fulfilling them. Even though Miles' character is depicted as neglecting to fulfill these needs, the unique nature of humans encourages him to fulfill them, such as sleeping and eating, as a result of human survival instincts. His behavior is different from Tate's character, who consciously realizes that she must optimally fulfill her physiological needs in order to achieve her ultimate goal of self-actualization. The second level of needs, after physiological needs, is safety needs, which Miles Archer experiences as emotional insecurity. Physically, he has achieved security, but emotionally, Miles feels unsafe. Meanwhile, the character Tate also obtains physical security because she grew up in a supportive family, has a protective brother, and lives in a comfortable environment. Tate experiences the same thing in fulfilling her safety needs, namely, emotional insecurity due to the uncertain relationship with Miles. This leads to the fulfillment of both characters' love and belonging needs. The novel frames love not as romantic sweetness, but as a site of psychological damage and repair. They appear unfulfilled, which becomes the novel's

primary conflict. The character Tate longs for reciprocated love and a relationship that makes her feel valued and emotionally loved. Meanwhile, the character Miles cannot give that love to Tate because he himself cannot fulfil his need for love due to past disappointments and deep feelings of guilt. Therefore, Tate cannot fulfil her need for love and belonging because of her one-sided love for Miles. Both show that their needs for love and belonging are not fulfilled. Continuously, the need for self-esteem that Tate's character feels remains unfulfilled. Tate begins to question her value and her self-confidence. Meanwhile, Miles has long since lost his self-esteem due to a tragedy in his past, leaving him feeling useless, unable to protect the people he loves, and unworthy of love again. The tragedy makes Miles feel he has lost the legitimacy to be appreciated, which destroyed his self-esteem. Due to these unfulfilled needs, neither character has yet reached the ultimate peak of self-actualization. However, in the end, both characters are in the process of approaching self-actualization after healing and accepting themselves.

In the process of fulfilling these basic needs, several effects occur, especially when they are not fulfilled successfully. In this case, unmet needs such as emotional security needs, as expressed by Miles, have a psychological effect, causing him to avoid involving feelings in a relationship with Tate. Miles's emotional insecurity builds a psychological effect in himself that he does not want to be hurt again, so he sets strong boundaries in his relationship with Tate. Meanwhile, Tate's character, who is rejected by Miles, is emotionally affected, feeling insecure, questioning her worthiness, and becoming dependent on Miles. Because these needs are not met, it becomes difficult for both characters to fulfill their subsequent needs. They have obstacles in fulfilling the next level of the basic needs, including self-esteem and self-actualization.

## 5.2. Suggestion

Many other topics could be explored in Colleen Hoover's *Ugly Love*. This research helps readers understand how unhealed trauma affects intimacy, which is socially relevant for young adult readers. This research is far from perfect due to the writer's subjective and objective limitations. The novel could be further examined by analyzing its psychological perspectives. The current study could also be expanded by adopting a different literary psychological approach, which would offer a broader understanding of the characters and readers. Therefore, the writer suggests that future researchers investigate potential issues in this novel.

