

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The previous chapter has presented the findings and discussion of stylistic analysis in Flannery O'Connor's *A Good Man is Hard to Find*. This final chapter provides the conclusion drawn from the overall analysis and offers suggestions for future research. The conclusion summarizes how micro-level and macro-level stylistic devices operate in the short story, while the suggestions highlight possible directions for further and academic value of this research.

#### 4.1 Conclusion

Based on the analysis of Flannery O'Connor's *A Good Man is Hard to Find*, it can be concluded that the integration of micro-level and macro-level stylistic devices plays a crucial role in shaping the narrative style, atmosphere, and thematic depth of the story. At the micro level, O'Connor employs linguistic features such as repetition, deixis, and foregrounding to highlight the psychological tension of the characters, to construct perspective and social relationships, and to draw attention to key moments of thematic significance. Repetition emphasize states of panic, obsession, and nihilism; deixis situates speech in context, marking power relations and existential detachment; and foregrounding heightens the intensity of atmosphere and underscores the narrative's moral climax. At the macro level, the use of irony and Gothic elements contributes to the Southern Gothic tone of the story. Irony appears in verbal, situational, ambiguous, and dramatic forms to expose the discrepancy between

morality and action, while Gothic elements such as nihilism, skepticism, grotesque imagery, and foreshadowing create an unsettling atmosphere that reinforces themes of moral corruption, loss of faith, and existential despair.

Together, these stylistic devices demonstrate how O'Connor's language operates both technically and thematically: at the surface, they create aesthetic and emotional impact, while at a deeper level, they communicate the story's critique of superficial morality and the struggle between grace violence, and nihilism. Thus, the study confirms Simpson's (2004) view that stylistics bridges linguistic form and literary meaning, as O'Connor's stylistic choices reveal not only her Southern Gothic artistry but also her exploration of profound human concerns.

#### 4.2 Suggestion

This research is limited in scope to the analysis of stylistic devices in a single short story, and therefore future studies are encouraged to expand the analysis by applying the framework of micro and macro stylistics to a wider range of literary works, including O'Connor's other stories or novels from different authors within the Southern Gothic tradition. Further research may also combine stylistic analysis with other approaches, such as discourse analysis, semiotics, or cultural studies, to enrich the understanding of how language interacts with ideology, history, and society. For students of literature, this study suggests the importance of paying attention to linguistic details since even small features like repetition or deixis can reveal deep insights into characterization and theme. For future researchers, this work also highlights the usefulness of distinguishing between micro-level and macro-level stylistic devices, since it allows for a more comprehensive exploration of how texts operate at both the linguistic and thematic

levels. Finally, the researcher hoped that this research will contribute to the appreciation of Flannery O'Connor's work and inspire further inquiry into the relationship between style, morality, and meaning in literature.

