

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the character in the novel entitled *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead, I as a researcher come to the conclusion that the story in this novel focuses on three important things: violence, trauma, and the healing struggle. Through the main character named Cora, readers are shown how broadcasts in America cause various forms of very severe violence, such as physical violence, emotional pressure, and psychological wounds.

Cora experiences many moments that hurt her physically and also mentally. Cora was not only sees the various forms of violence that occurred around her, but also experienced them firsthand in her life as a slave. The violence she experienced and witnessed included brutal acts such as beatings, torture with whips, hanging on the trees followed by burning, and other extreme cruelties such as cutting out slaves tongues to prevent them from speaking or resisting. In addition, slaves were often left to starve without mercy, even when pregnant so that the children they gave birth to were malnourished from the womb.

Not only physical abuse, Cora also faced deep emotional suffering, such as the loss of loved ones and betrayal from others, which added to the traumatic burden on her soul. All of these atrocities were part of a system of oppression that stripped slaves of their rights, dignity, and even their hope for a decent human life.

All of these incidents make her traumatized Based on Freud's psychoanalytic theory, Cora's reaction to violence can be understood as a form of self-protection, such as suppressing bad memories (repression), diverting emotions (displacement), and freezing due to fear (freezing), which arise unconsciously due to trauma that is too severe.

Despite experiencing a lot of suffering, Cora still tries to survive and slowly begins to heal herself emotionally. The struggle to heal that Cora did was marked by her daring to

run away with Cora to find a better life and also Cora began to have deeper feelings for Caesar. However, after Caesar's death, Cora's relationship with Royal referred as a healing struggle. From them, Cora begins to learn to be open, honest about her past, and tries to trust others again. This is a form of releasing emotions and pent-up feelings that helps her begin to recover psychologically.

At the end of the story, although Cora is still trying to continue the process of healing her trauma and living safely and comfortably, she still has not fully recovered from the wounds of her past, She has succeeded in proving that trauma does not have to be forever shackled. She begins to take control of her life, showing that she is no longer a victim, but someone who is brave, strong, and able to rise again.

