

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Cassandra Clare's *The Infernal Devices* trilogy shows the hierarchy in a society is determined by the group who possess more power their survival. Nephilim, who are born from the descendants of angels and humans, become the most powerful group in their society. With exceptional fighting skills and weapons, the capability to be good leaders, and organized community, Nephilim secures the position as the dominant group in the Shadow World. Through the perspective of Literary Darwinism, this is the human motive to gain and keep power as adaptive mechanisms, as they are necessary for Nephilim to maintain order and safety in the Shadow World. Buss' evolutionary psychology further sees this dominance as gaining more access to resources that contribute to their survival.

Nephilim's dominance is sustained through three mechanisms. First, competence-based authority. Nephilim's innate abilities grant them divine powers which reinforce their role as the protectors of The Shadow World. This further allows them to take control and create laws. The making of these laws are related to the second mechanism, that is persistent threat-perception towards the Downworlders. They are still considered as potential threats due to their connection to demons. Lastly, resource exclusivity. Nephilim possess special resources that can gain their survival chance, but cannot be used on other creatures. Moreover, they control their mate choices to ensure their unique traits, abilities, and divine lineage stay pure across generations, thereby supporting the continuity and survival of their race.

Downworlders, on the other hand, use their subordination as survival strategy. The Accords, which were made to govern the peace between the two groups, became their tool to be free from Nephilim's old-age predation.

Cassandra Clare's *The Infernal Devices* trilogy encapsulates that maintaining the same survival strategy is not always sufficient, because the nature of organisms and the environments will always evolve. A group must also have their own weaknesses that are meant to be complemented by the other. The resources Nephilim possess are not enough to face threats resulting from the Industrial Revolution. This is where the abilities of Downworlders are needed, although they were being dismissed before. Turns out, the groups that have been constantly facing discrimination and being targets of killing are the ones that ultimately hold the key to survival of their collective. Natural selection favors those who adapt, and the situation requires adaptation that involves cooperation across different groups.

Ultimately, speculative fiction is not merely a form of entertainment; it is a medium in which human nature and problems are reflected and explored. Humans are essentially adaptive creatures. Thus, in the trilogy, flexibility becomes a crucial trait, where the characters have adapted into new survival strategies instead of sticking to their initial approach. This is the essence of literary Darwinism, that literature is adaptive tools that humans have explored, learned from, and shared experiences related to survival for generations.

5.2 Suggestions

Future research may look at the Nephilim's dominance over Downworlders through a postcolonial lens, by drawing parallels between the Shadow World's power

structures and real-world colonialism. The laws Nephilim have established to limit Downworlders mirrors the way colonial systems have historically been used to oppress marginalized people. While the Darwinian framework helps see the story in terms of survival and strategy, postcolonial theory shows that control can cost the marginalized group's culture, dignity, and rights to define who they are. This can provide additional perspectives for the research and gain more insights into how the trilogy delivers its message.

