

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

In *The Bluest Eye*, the depiction of low self-esteem is seen through the absence of several sources that build and increase one's self-esteem. The writer finds that to show low-self-esteem in her characters, Morrison omits the sources of self-esteem in them. The absent of approval from others, appearances and family supports are three main sources that these two characters frequently suffer from. As black girls, Morrison portrays these two characters experience difficulties to face their surrounding racist society. At that time people tend to set the standard of life based on someone's wealth and associate the beauty with white people. This situation leads Pecola and Claudia to be not respected and neglected.

However, Morrison also describes the way human beings overcome their low self-esteem by using these two characters. They create defense mechanism differently. The differences which are shown lead the writer to conclude that Morrison shows contradictory attitudes in overcoming low self-esteem. Claudia MacTeer develops three kind of defense mechanism. They are displacement, intellectualization, and acting out. Based on these three types of defense mechanism and actions that developed by Claudia, the writer sees that Morrison, through this character, Claudia MacTeer, represents the attitudes of the black people who stand against discriminative society. On other hand, Pecola Breedloves merely two types of defense mechanism, namely displacement and reaction formation. As an opposite to

the way Morrison describes Claudia MacTeer, the depiction of Pecola Breedloves is as the black people who admire and adore the majority.

As the conclusion, the finding of the research shows that Morrison depicts the existence of low self-esteem of black people at that time (Great Depression) in her novel *The Bluest Eye* through two major characters, Claudia MacTeer and Pecola Breedloves. Claudia MacTeer, as the representation of black people who feel proud of her blackness, shows some attempts against the surrounding discriminative society even though she has to go through many miseries, yet in the end she manages to overcome her low self-esteem. Meanwhile, Pecola Breedloves shows the opposite attitudes, her existence as the representation of black people who shows exaggerated admiration towards majority and it causes her failing to overcome her low self-esteem in the end. And possibly she experiences something even worse than low self-esteem.

Based on the result of the analysis, the writer believes that Morrison emphasizes the importance of creating and maintaining a good relationship within the family and the society, because it supports in terms of creating self-appreciation. If a person measures his/herself-appreciation based on the appearance or beauty that has been standardized by the majority, then it should not be necessary to find the attributes of the beauty because it is completely an arbitrary thing and undeniably never existed. The lack of self-appreciation can cause self-hatred and self-hatred can create a severe self-destruction.

Hopefully, this study will give some contributions to the development of literary studies and provide information for scholars on related study. In a way, those

who are eager to study Black American Literature, especially anything related to racism, this writing will provide very useful information.

