

## CHAPTER 4

### CONCLUSION

*Disgrace* is a novel by South African author J. M. Coetzee, which sets mainly in a rural area, Eastern Cape. After analyzing the male characters from the novel, I conclude that a white men can experience a masculinity crisis for some reasons. David Lurie and Petrus are two male characters who become the object of this research. Coetzee depicts the masculinity that presents in this novel by showing Lurie as the alpha male who possessed white masculinity. Whereas Petrus is showed to us as someone who shows African masculinity.

The white masculinity that Lurie possesses is included in the group of hegemonic masculinity due to where it is exercised. Lurie's masculinity peak is when he was in the city. He is included in the hegemonic masculinity group because he exercises his power in white areas. Lurie does not have any difficulties in any aspect, including in making a relationship with women. Socially, he is a white man who has a good career as a professor in a good university, and physically, he is good-looking that he can make any woman falls in love with him. Hence, when Lurie decides to pursue his desire towards his student, Melanie, and creates a scandal, it becomes a boomerang and destroys his private sphere and his life as a professor and a white man. Escaping to Eastern Cape, Lurie has to accept the fact that he is nothing compared to Petrus, the other male character, who is introduced to us as an African man who succeeds in living his life. He becomes the token of masculinity in the new ruling regime. He makes a significant development from

merely a dog-man to a farm manager with the support of the historical event in post-apartheid. His rapid changes due to his visionary and optimistic values scare Lurie.

Lurie's state of crisis is happening due to the traumatic experience and social hegemony that happens around him. Thus, he fails his writing and explicitly implies that he becomes a dog that is going to be euthanized, emphasizing his unworthiness. The hegemonic masculinity that white men once held is being transferred into African masculinity, showing that Petrus is the winning party.

Hopefully, this study will contribute to academic research development and provide new information to other researchers. This research is suitable for those who want a new perspective from Coetzee's work. Masculinity in gender views is also something new and exciting to explore. However, in doing this research, the writer met with various obstacles and limitations. Because this is a new topic to explore, the writer has to find many sources and differentiate between the study of intersectionality and whatnot because masculinity always has a close link to another study. The next researcher could examine another masculinity from the minor characters or compare between masculinity or femininity. Therefore, further study would be possible.

