

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This chapter contains two parts which are conclusion and recommendation. The conclusion part is to conclude the discussion about the triggering aspects of Johannes' obsessive love, Johannes' behaviours showing his acts of obsessive love, and the issue of obsessive love. Meanwhile the recommendation part provides some recommendations for further research.

5.1 Conclusion

The object of this research is a novel entitled *Caging Skies* by Christine Leunens which was published in 2004. It is a fiction novel about the life of a Viennese boy named Johannes Ewald Detlef Betzler. In the novel, Johannes is written as a boy who grew up during the period of World War II, was indoctrinated, and grew obsessed with a Jew his parents had been hiding named Elsa Kor. During that period, the Jews were despised and eradicated that even the people who were not Jews but caught helping them would be hanged, just like Johannes' mother. Detested Elsa's existence at first, Johannes eventually became obsessed with her throughout the novel. Due to this issue, this research analyses obsessive love in *Caging Skies* (2004), focused on the aspects triggering the obsessive love, Johannes' acts of obsessive love, and the consequences of obsessive love.

To answer the research question, which is how is Johannes Ewald Detlef Betzler's obsessive love portrayed in the *Caging Skies* (2004), family communication pattern and attachment theory are used to analyse the aspects that triggered Johannes' obsession. The first theory that is family communication pattern by McLeod and Chaffee (1972; 1973) is chosen to find out Johannes' family type from the communication between him and his parents. From this analysis, it is found that the type of Johannes' family was the protective type of family since it is high on conformity but low on conversation. It is also considered as protective family because the communication between Johannes and his parents is done with an emphasis of obedience to the parental authority, lacks of openness that resulted in topic restrictions during the communication process, also the hierarchical state where the parents put themselves on a higher status; which sometimes let them make the decision for Johannes without prior explaining the reasons.

The second theory used to analyse the issue is attachment theory by John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth (1957; 1966). Using this theory, it is found that his attachment style is considered as ambivalent attachment. The characteristic of ambivalent attachment showed by Johannes in the novel is the distress he showed due to the absence of his father, yet he does not seem to be comforted when his father is returned. This condition has made Johannes failed to consistently interact with his father and grew distant with him, resulted in his ambivalent attachment style. Apparently, anxious ambivalent in children is the attachment that will grow into preoccupied attachment in adulthood. It is the attachment in which the

individual becomes preoccupied with their romantic relationships, have fear of abandonment and rejection, and they tend to be the pursuer in the said relationship. Evidently, Johannes has showed all the three signs above in *Caging Skies* (2004). Given these points, it is concluded that both protective family type and Johannes' ambivalent attachment style are correlated and assisted his obsessive behaviours over Elsa in the future.

After found out the two triggering aspects of Johannes' obsessive love, we can also see Johannes' acts of obsessive love in *Caging Skies* (2004). There are two points of Johannes' acts of obsessive love, the first is Johannes' behaviours of obsessive love and the second is psychological control of his obsessive love.

The first point which is Johannes' behaviours of obsessive love is divided into three behaviours: overwhelming attraction for the love interest that shows how much Johannes relied on Elsa, crossing boundaries due to inability to tolerate distances that shows how Johannes disrespected Elsa's boundaries, and last is extreme jealousy in the category of delusional where Johannes felt an extreme jealousy over an imaginary person that is Elsa's late fiancé. As for the second point that is psychological control of Johannes' obsessive love is the control Johannes has done to Elsa in the form of lying and manipulation.

Lastly, there are also consequences of obsessive love. In *Caging Skies* (2004), the consequences showed through the novel were the consequences for the sufferer and not for the object of the obsession. These consequences experienced by Johannes are the loss of interest to make a connection with other

people, excessive anxiety due to his lies, and losing all of his possessions because he had been fulfilling almost Elsa's entire request with everything he got before she decided to leave after he told the truth about everything.

In conclusion, Johannes' protective family type and his ambivalent attachment are the aspects that triggered his obsession over Elsa. Moreover, his acts of obsessive love can be seen as he had showed three obsessive love behaviours and psychological control in the form of lying and manipulation. It is also found that the obsessive love Johannes experiences has some consequences such as losing the interest to make a connection with other people, experiencing excessive anxiety, and losing all of his possessions.

5.2 Recommendation

There is a recommendation that emerged while conducting this research which may be made for further research. It is the use of borderline personality disorder theory to examine the same object of this research, *Caging Skies* (2004). This recommendation may be helpful for those who are interested in conducting the research related to literary works.

There are still plenty of aspects from the novel *Caging Skies* (2004) that have not been examined yet. For example, future researchers could examine Johannes' behaviours using borderline personality disorder theory. Future researchers then could find out whether his unstable emotions are due to the borderline personality disorder or something else. This research could be

beneficial to widen the scope of the research from the novel *Caging Skies* (2004), especially within the psychology in literature branch.

