

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

This research examined Eurocentrism, a postcolonial notion, and Maleeka's personal growth in *The Skin I'm In* (1998). Popular culture has long emphasized pale skin and straight hair as Eurocentric beauty standards. These standards have shaped media, fashion, and popular culture. Eurocentrism has idealized and maintained European beauty qualities. In entertainment and literature, the media has promoted this narrow definition of beauty. From the start, white skin and a limited beauty image have been emphasized. Fashion has also stigmatized natural, curly, or kinky hair textures since it prefers European-style haircuts.

Eurocentric face criteria have perpetuated this restricted and homogenous beauty ideal. People with different identities may have low self-esteem and mental health issues when harmful stereotypes are reinforced and cultural variation is lost. Colorism is prejudice based on skin color, whereas socioeconomic position affects access to opportunities and resources. Eurocentric beauty standards contribute to intra-racial racism in the novel. This discrimination makes Maleeka's mother, Maleeka, look unusual. In publications, schoolgirls have long, straight hair and comparable skin hues. The Eurocentric view of beauty has shaped social norms of attractiveness. Maleeka is bullied for her skin color, and her father's romanticism and love affect her inner strife. Her self-image is shaped by society as her schoolmates tease and judge her appearance. Pressure to conform to beauty standards, which prefer specific skin tones, causes insecurity and a distorted self-image. The story's concept of internalizing worth contrasts an individual's internal sense of identity with society's input.

Economically deprived people internalize Eurocentric ideals and standards, which fosters intra-racial prejudice. Discrimination and prejudice

among same-race people can result. Life gives Maleeka many reasons to feel vulnerable and self-conscious. Her mother knits all her outfits, showing their financial struggles. The novel's main themes include self-acceptance, social conformity, and peer pressure's destructive power. Nonconformists can develop low self-esteem and mental health concerns due to damaging preconceptions. Eurocentric beauty standards cause prejudice and marginalization, especially for people of color. Standards reinforce undesirable hierarchies and discourage diversity.

Mentorship and empowerment are fundamental to the story's transformational path to end race-based bigotry. It shows how positive counseling and assistance help people facing colorism and socioeconomic inequality. Mentorship promotes resilience, self-discovery, and collective empowerment, leaving a legacy of strength, inclusivity, and upliftment. Education helps Maleeka develop a stronger sense of self and critical thinking skills. The story stresses how information and education can change one's identity and fate. Miss Saunders serves as Maleeka's newfound source of support following her father's passing, and so plays a crucial part in motivating Maleeka to question and defy the prevailing Eurocentric ideals of beauty.

The transformation that Maleeka has undergone is a demonstration of the strength of the human spirit and the value of the process of self-discovery. In the process of contemplating her journey, readers are pushed to think on their own ways of coming to terms with themselves and the influence that society expectations have on their own personal identities. In the end, this novel by Sharon G. Flake, *The Skin I'm In* (1998), leaves readers with a powerful message of empowerment and authenticity due to the fact that it encourages us to reconsider the criteria of beauty and self-worth.

5.2 Recommendation

The Skin I'm In (1998) by Sharon G. Flake is an engaging literary canvas that allows the author to investigate the complex nature of bullying from a variety of perspectives. With the help of this study chapter, we have

investigated the ways in which bullying manifests itself within the novel, as well as the responses and coping methods of the characters, as well as the broader societal reflections that are incorporated throughout the narrative. This research makes a contribution to the continuing conversation about bullying by deconstructing these characteristics. It provides significant insights into the intricacies of bullying as well as the ways in which literature may shed light on and solve this prevalent issue. This novel offers a profound investigation into the phenomenon of bullying, effectively incorporating it within the larger framework of identity, self-esteem, and the expectations of society. The purpose of this thesis is to dissect the various expressions of bullying that are depicted in the book, investigate the reactions of the characters, and extrapolate ideas for tackling bullying dynamics based on the insights that are gleaned from the story.

This can be focused on character defense mechanisms that can be applied in analyzing this novel because some characters such as John-John who bullies Maleeka because he feels insecure about his ability in academics. Through the establishment of counseling programs within schools that explicitly address the emotional impact of bullying, we are able to construct support groups and counseling services. It is possible for support groups to provide secure environments in which students can discuss their experiences and methods of coping. Constructing a comprehensive strategy to counteract bullying should involve working together with parents, influential members of the community, and organizations. Participation in community activities helps to cultivate a sense of collective responsibility to address the underlying causes of bullying.