

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

Jeff's portrayal in *Bottoms* (2023) exemplifies Alpha Male Syndrome through deliberate cinematic techniques such as framing, camera shots, and dialogue that emphasize his tendency to dominate others through fear, control, and intimidation. His manipulation of Isabel and his hypercompetitive rivalry with other characters reveal how aggression, control, and emotional suppression function as core behaviors of the alpha archetype. These characteristics not only reflect toxic masculine traits but are also reinforced and glorified by those around him, framing Jeff as an idealized masculine figure. This glorification is directly tied to the concept of hegemonic masculinity, where traits such as aggression, dominance, emotional detachment, and physical strength are culturally exalted. Jeff embodies this hegemonic ideal, and his elevated position is maintained by institutional and social validation from school authorities to peers who view him as the perfect embodiment of masculinity, unquestioned and exalted. Importantly, Jeff's dominance is also shaped by racial privilege. As a white male, he benefits from societal structures that implicitly associate the "ideal" masculine body and authority with whiteness. In contrast, his Black teammates, despite possibly possessing similar or greater physical traits, are not afforded the same visibility or power. This racialized dynamic reinforces how hegemonic masculinity is not only gendered but also deeply racialized, privileging white masculinity while marginalizing others.

5.2 Recommendation

While this study has explored the representation of alpha male syndrome and hegemonic masculinity through the character of Jeff, future research could benefit from a more intersectional approach. Specifically, scholars are encouraged to investigate the role of racial identity, skin color, and national ideals in shaping who is allowed to embody hegemonic masculinity in mainstream media. In *Bottoms* (2023), the alpha male figure is not only defined by strength, dominance, and charisma but also by his alignment with whiteness and nationalistic ideals of manhood. Exploring how Jeff's authority and desirability are reinforced by his whiteness and perceived "American-ness" would offer valuable insights into how hegemonic masculinity functions through racialized and nationalized frameworks. Such research could deepen our understanding of how media continues to uphold narrow, exclusionary standards of masculinity that privilege certain bodies while marginalizing others.