

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This is the last chapter of this research. In this section, the conclusion from the previous chapter's discussion is presented. In addition, the recommendation for further research is also suggested.

5.1 Conclusion

The four characters in Australia Love on the Spectrum series Michael, Kelvin, Andrew, and Maddi show that Dr. Koegel theories (priming, teaching listening, and exploiting strengths) can be effectively applied to help people on the autism spectrum interact socially, albeit with different experiences. Michael got instruction and briefing prior to a date (priming), demonstrated active listening skills (teaching listening), and used his capabilities in understanding facial expressions (exploiting strengths), resulting in increased confidence and ability to form relationships. Kelvin also showed successful application of the theory, particularly when he learned how to greet and discuss (priming), listened even when the topic did not appeal to him (teaching listening) and openly expressed his interest in Japanese culture (exploiting strength), all of which improved his social skills. Andrew had a similar experience: he was prepared through conversational practice (priming), guided to keep his interlocutor's attention (teaching listening), and showed his positively through hobbies such as puzzles and K'Nex (exploiting strength), which helped improve his comfort and interaction skills. Meanwhile, Maddi's parents taught her social skills such as shaking and keeping the conversation flowing (priming), listening respectfully even if the topic was uninteresting to her (teaching listening), and highlighting her strengths as an independent, smart, and funny person (exploiting strengths). Dr. Koegel theory is relevant and helpful in assisting individuals in developing more meaningful and confident social interactions when approaching relationships in the social world.

The four characters from *Love on the Spectrum Australia* version (2019) Michael, Kelvin, Andrew, and Maddi, it can be concluded that Dr. Koegel theory of priming, teaching listening, and exploiting strength is effective and useful for helping individuals on the autism spectrum build romantic relationships. Each character showed significant social development after applying these strategies. Even though they had trouble understanding and communicating in social settings, the appreciated strategy helped them become more prepared, self-assured, and capable of developing strong emotional bonds with others. This shows that even if someone is on the autism spectrum, they still have the capacity to love, be understood, and form healthy romantic relationships. Love is universal, and with the right support, every individual can feel it.

In my personal experience by watching the documentary series *Love on the Spectrum* (2019) I have learned from the series in psychoanalysis and Dr. Koegel theory as. My fellow autistic people have the same id (in goal) as them, namely wanting to feel more than just friends, namely having a love relationship, and falling in love with the opposite sex, then going on dates, getting married, having children and descendants. But it is not easy because I have to restrain my ego to manage my emotions such as anger, disappointment, and sadness when I am not liked or not chosen by my parents or partner approval. Despite that I will try to follow my superego, which guides me to continue to behave properly, understand the conditions and situations even though I am liked or not. In addition to that, I need guidance from my parents to learn how I would act if I were to start dating or falling in love for the first time. Dr. Koegel's strategies can help, starting with priming, such as getting to know your partner, inviting them to sit down while on a date, The second strategy is teaching listening, namely talking to your partner while listening to the conversation when your partner is talking, paying attention to eye contact to see whether the partner likes us or not, then third exploiting strengths, looking for strengths that we like can be through our favorite hobby skills. Parents can help their children to find their strengths through hobby skills so that their children are not ashamed or inferior when meeting their partners.

Therefore, it can be said that, with the correct assistance, people on the autistic spectrum can develop love relationships and start families. They can acquire the social skills required to communicate, comprehend others, and form close emotional ties by using Dr. Koegel theory, such as priming, teaching listening, and exploiting strength. The experiences of Michael, Kelvin, Andrew, and Kelvin show that love is a universal emotion that anyone, even individuals with autism spectrum disorders, may experience. In addition to being able to love and be loved, they also have the capacity to lead a cozy and fulfilling family life given the right direction.

5.2 Recommendation

Based on the results of this study, the researcher makes many suggestions for further research. *Love on the Spectrum* series Australia's version is a documentary movie with psychological, social, and cultural values, so it has the potential to be further analyzed through various scientific approaches.

Firstly, from a psychological perspective, the series can be analyzed in more depth using other theories such as Erikson developmental theory (1950), Maslow needs theory (1943), or Bandura social cognitive theory (1977) to illustrate how individuals on the autism spectrum disorder build identities and social interactions.

Second, from a sociological standpoint, the series is also interesting to review through theories of social sigma, symbolic interaction, and social construction of relationship norms. The researcher can investigate how society views autism in the context of romantic relationships, as well and how people with autism negotiate their social identities.

Third, more study might be conducted using cultural or media studies perspective to examine how representations of persons with autism are depicted in the media, as well their impact on public perception this can help identify whether the media promotes understanding or reinforces stereotypes.

In addition, *Love on the Spectrum* can be used as study material in the fields of social education, interpersonal communication, psychosocial intervention, and as its content is very relevant to concerns of social skill development in people with

special needs. With these various approaches are expected to increase cross disciplinary understanding of the social and emotional lives of individuals on the autism spectrum.

