

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

After analyzing *Washington Black*, through intrinsic approach which consists of stream of consciousness by indirect interior monologue, setting, and plot elaborated with analysis through extrinsic approach by using cultural trauma theory based on Jeffrey Alexander and Ron Eyerman, it can be concluded that the novel *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan reflects cultural trauma.

Washington Black, as the main character of this novel, displays cultural trauma in his actions and characteristics. I use the characteristics of cultural trauma as a former slave from Ron Eyerman to analyze Washington Black character. Cultural trauma in Washington Black can be seen when he had left the Faith Plantation and lived in Shelburne, Nova Scotia. Even though he is no longer a slave, the effect of slavery still remains within him. It also bothers his daily life. He is trying to move on and start a new life as a freeman. He is talented, smart, and has a strong desire in science, but there is a gap between what he wants and what society sees in him. The social process of cultural trauma also appears in this novel. Slavery not only affected the social life of former slaves but also black people in general, even though they are not experiencing slavery, its effect also occurs to them.

I try to give the values to the reader through the story of this novel. From Washington Black's life, people can learn several things. We can learn that we should not judge someone based on their race and ethnicity. We must treat humans equally. The stereotypes experienced by black people from Africa have harmed them for years. Discrimination and racism towards blacks is like a normal thing. It is time for us to be fair regardless of race and ethnicity.

According to this research, it is potential for the next research. There are only a few journals and researches that discuss and analyze literature works by using cultural trauma theory, especially the theory from Jeffrey Alexander and Ron Eyerman. This research can introduce about cultural trauma theory and its application in literary works. This novel, *Washington Black*, is also still new by the time this

research is conducted. It is still wide open to new possible findings that can be analyzed in this novel. The result of this research can become a reference in analyzing cultural trauma in literature work as well as next research about novel *Washington Black*.

