

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

Based on the movie script of “The King of Staten Island” by Judd Apatow, I identified the core problem from the protagonist character, Scott Carlin. This research aims to analyze the psychological journey of Scott Carlin's character in The King of Staten Island (2020) through the Five Stages of Grief theory by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross. By applying an intrinsic approach (characterization, plot, and setting) and an extrinsic approach in the form of literary psychology, specifically the stages of grief theory, this research shows that Scott's character experiences a complex grieving process after losing his father. I identified the five stages of grief. Contained denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance on the protagonist character, Scott Carlin, which the key to understanding Scott's emotional dynamics throughout the storyline.

The characterization of Scott's character develops significantly, from someone who is full of denial and anger to someone who slowly accepts the reality of his life. This characterization is done indirectly through interactions and behavioral choices, which emphasize his psychological state. The plot of the movie follows a linear structure with stages of exposition, complication, climax and resolution that show Scott's gradual psychological development. His stages of grieving are connected to each change in the movie's storyline, making the plot a narrative medium that supports Scott's emotional process.

The denial stage is visible in Scott's attitude of trying to cover up his grief, denying his loss, and avoiding reality by hiding in his comfort zone with his friends. In the anger stage, Scott begins to vent his anger at those closest to him, including his mother and his mother's new boyfriend, Ray, who is also a fireman like his father. This anger signifies feelings of abandonment and unresolved trauma. The bargaining stage is shown through Scott's attempts to control the situation, such as convincing his mother to cancel her relationship with Ray, or finding temporary housing after being evicted from the house. The depression stage comes when Scott feels lost, drowned in a sense of emptiness and uselessness, and realizes that the

loss of his father had a major impact on his development. He feels left behind and unprepared for the future. Finally, in the acceptance stage, Scott begins to accept reality and tries to improve his life. He opens himself up to change, develops a better relationship with Ray, and begins to take responsibility for his own actions. This process shows significant character development and illustrates gradual emotional healing.

Through this research, it can be concluded that the movie *The King of Staten Island* successfully represents the stages of deep grieving through a complex main character. Scott Carlin becomes a real representation of someone who struggles through the trauma of loss in a way that is not always linear. This research also shows that literature or film can be an effective medium in understanding human psychological dynamics, especially the process of grieving and healing. Thus, Kübler-Ross' theory proves to be relevant for analyzing the emotional development of characters in fictional works.

According to the results of the analysis and findings of this research, the researcher provides several suggestions that can be beneficial for readers and future researchers. I would like to suggest that for other researchers interested in the study of literary psychology, Kübler-Ross's five stages of grieving theory can be applied to analyze characters in other literary works or films that have themes of loss, trauma, or emotional healing. The theory is highly flexible and can be applied to a variety of genres. Lastly, this suggestion is also aimed at individuals who are currently struggling with loss. Through Scott Carlin's character, the audience can understand that the grieving process is a complex but still human journey, and that everyone has their own personal story to go through the pain to finally achieve an acceptance.