

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter, the writer concluded by summarizing the entire chapter that has been explained previously. Several suggestions were also written by the writer as a closing of the contents for this research.

A. Conclusion

Mourning Becomes Electra was a 1931 play by Eugene O'Neill. This play was inspired by the Greek tragedy of Aeschylus best known for his trilogy called *The Oresteia*, but the story was made with a different setting in the era of the American Civil War. Based on 30 data found in this research, the writer provides the conclusions below:

1. The writer has identified different types of defense mechanisms used by the female characters, Lavinia Mannon and Christine Mannon. From the overall data collected, the writer found 9 types of defense mechanisms, where denial was the most frequently used by these characters, with 6 data with a percentage of 20%. Furthermore, regression and displacement were found in 5 data each with a percentage of 16.7%. followed by rationalization with 4 data with a percentage of 13.3%. furthermore, reaction formation appears in as many as 3 data with a percentage of 10%. repression, projection, and fantasy each appeared in 2 data with a percentage of 6.7%. intellectualization was found in only 1

datum with a percentage of 3.2%. There was only one type of defense mechanism that the characters did not use, namely sublimation.

2. Lavinia and Christine used defense mechanisms which showed that both of them reacted in different ways when faced with a stressful situation. Lavinia often avoided reality by denial. For example, when she was confronted with the reality of her mother's affair, the death of her father, and also the similarity between herself and her mother. She also used denial as a way to avoid feeling guilty about her decisions or actions, trusting that her actions were not wrong or had no negative impact. On the other hand, Christine often used regression as a defense mechanism. She tended to regress to childish behaviors as a form of escape from responsibility or severe consequences when she was in conflict situations with threatening traits. Her actions can be seen as crying, asking for more attention from people she cares about, or acting irrationally when she was unable to cope with significant emotional distress.

B. Suggestions

The writer has several suggestions based on the research outline above. These suggestions are expected to be used by researchers and readers in the future. The advices were as follows:

1. For the researcher

- a. The writer expects that future researchers can explore how social, cultural, and gender contexts may influence the use of defense

mechanisms in characters. For example, can gender roles, social norms, or collective trauma affect defense mechanisms? This kind of research was expected to look at how gender stereotypes affect the way men and women construct and display their defense mechanisms.

- b. After finishing this research, there is one type of defense mechanism that was not found in this research, namely sublimation. The writer would like to suggest to future researchers to examine how a character's internal impulses or conflicts are transformed into creative and productive activities that are socially acceptable. As well as looking at the character's development throughout the story to see how the sublimation plays an important role in their personal growth, such as the transformation into creative works by the character can help them overcome their conflict or trauma.

2. For readers

- a. After reading this research, the readers can easily recognize that a defense mechanism used by a character is not just a characteristic of personality, but also a narrative tool used by the author to deepen the complexity of the story. By knowing this, the reader can see how a story writer uses psychological elements to develop the plot, build atmosphere and tension, and bring each role of the characters to life.
- b. With an understanding of how this defense mechanism was used, hopefully, readers can increase self-awareness through reflection

when they want to analyze more deeply about the character. This form of reflection will not only increase understanding of the character, but also provide personal insight into how individuals cope with challenges and pressures in real life. In this way, reading not only involves a logical analysis of the text but also allows readers to connect emotionally with the characters in the story.

