

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

In this thesis entitled *Morrie Schwartz's Life Situations against the Old Age Negative Stereotypes in Mitch Albom's "Tuesdays with Morrie"* the writer has analyzed the problem related to the old man and society by using social gerontology approach. After analyzing the problem, the writer finds a fact about the situations of the elderly which are contradictive with the negative stereotypes labeled to them.

The negative stereotypes labeled to the elderly cannot be avoided because in a society, there is a tendency that the elderly are viewed as the undesirable ones due to their decreases of their quality of life. However, not all of the elderly not doing anything to face those negative stereotypes. Morrie Schwartz, the main character in Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie*, is one of the old-aged person whose characters are not like those negative stereotypes.

From the analysis in the previous chapter we can conclude that there are five negative stereotypes which are not suitable to Morrie's situations mostly. They are role-less, lonely, senile, conservative, and un-productive. He escapes from being role-less because in his old age he still has a role as a teacher, although it is not in a formal academic institution, and an inspiring person to other people. He defeats loneliness because he is surrounded by

loving and caring people. He survives senility since he can talk about many things in details. He also violates the stereotypes that elderly are conservative when he insists that people should not only follow the culture if it does not conform. He is productive since he still has some projects to do.

There are three theories of aging which can explain how Morrie's attitudes are not suitable with those stereotypes. They are role theory which explains that old-aged person has their own role based on their social clock, activity theory which explains that old-aged person who is still active will be healthier, and the last is continuity theory which explains that old-aged person has internal and external tendency to continue their role when they were young. Morrie has role in the society as a leader who leads institution and transfers values. He actually leads the project with Mitch and he transfers many values of life through that project and he continues his roles and activities in his old age as the roles and activities he used to do.

Based on Erikson's stages of psychosocial development, Morrie was on maturity stage since he passed away when he was 79 years old and having Ego Integrity vs. Despair conflict. This stage represented what Morrie did in his life. In this stage, he looked back on his life and felt a sense of fulfillment. Success at this stage led to feelings of wisdom, while failure resulted in regret, bitterness, and despair. Besides, it can be concluded that Morrie was successful in this stage because he led to feelings of wisdom as shown in the novel that he gave inspiration to many people by his act.

4.2 Suggestion

By the end of this study, it is hoped for the next researchers to conduct a deeper research which explores more about the psychological aspects of the main character and how a social change can affects psychological condition of the elderly. There are many theories of psychology that can be applied to analyze this novel, such as behavioral theories, development theories, personality theories, and many more. The psychological side in the old age is an interesting topic to be analyzed because in this time, humans have to face some challenges due to the decrease and change of biological and psychosocial sides.

