

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

The main character's problem of identity crisis has been analyzed in the previous chapter. From that analysis, it finally comes to the conclusion that Saleem's crisis of identity, as it viewed from postcolonial perspective, leads him to the finding that he is rootless. This finding causes him despair since he knows that the search of identity actually has no end. It will never reach the fixed one because it is always in process. Identity always undergoes constant transformation. It is never quite fixed, but it is fluid due to its constant transformation. It leaves him in ambivalence until the rest of his lifetime.

Crisis of identity usually comes when a person feels that the image of him given by the dominant power (in this case, it can be the real colonizer, or the society and environment as the colonizer in the context) is not suitable to him. They may give him an under-determined or over-determined image. Since he feels that this pre-given image is 'not right', he begins to search for an identity to re-construct his image. It also happened to the main character in Rushdie's novel *Midnight's Children*. Based on the analysis in Chapter III, it can be concluded that there are three pushing factors for the cause of Saleem's identity crisis. The conflict arises within his self becomes the first cause. This factor leads him to the crisis of identity since he finds that his pre-given image, which he gets since he was born, estranges him from his recognition to himself. Conflict in his family, which involves quarrel between his parents and conflict between his father and him, becomes the second cause. This conflict contributes psychologically to frustrate him so that it draws

closer the crisis to him. The last factor is conflict from environment. It is categorized as one of the causes for his identity crisis because it confronts Saleem to some clashes and gaps between his opinion and his environment's culture, rule, and custom.

The conflicts above make Saleem feel the urgency to re-define his identity. Since he comes to the crisis, he feels alienated within difference around him so that he finds that he himself is different from others. This self-alienation leads him to uncertainty and splitting image as the result of his ambivalent position in any place. Finally his desperate effort to search for identity leads him to hopelessness because he finds that he will never get it until he dies. That is why, in the novel, Saleem in the end is wishing to die due to his pessimism to his future.

Beside the conclusion above, the analysis also gets several findings:

1. Identity crisis can be seen as the deep-impact of colonialization. It happens because during the colonialization, the colonizer always sees and treats the colonized based on prejudice and stereotype. By using their hegemonic power over the colonized, they depersonalize the colonized from their root and origin. This depersonalization leads the colonize to dispossessed and dislocation feeling. This identity crisis lasts longer than it may be ever imagined. Since the problem of losing identity comes to the first generation of the colonized, it still continuously troubles the next generations even though they live in independence.
2. Unsuccessful adjustment to new environment cannot simply be judged as the usual initiation process of culture shock. For the immigrants, this 'unhomeliness' may last for a lifetime. It happens because they are rootless so that they find that

their culture is already different with the origin but is not the same with the new place. They shortly do not belong to the old but also so not mingle with the new. They must build a resistance to this ambivalent position. In fact, some of them succeed and the others fail. Those who succeed will survive to the next generation, while those who fail will be annihilated from the civilization.

# **BIBLIOGRAPHY**