

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Holden Caulfield is a young adolescent who has to undergo his adolescence as his developmental period without the kind of parental guidance. His school fails to take the place of his parents, while his schoolmates are too obsessed with their own business.

Holden is an adolescent figure who attempts to search for identity by getting himself into the adult world. His flight from his prep school leads him into a series of adventures in which he can observe and see that adult world is evil, corrupt, and full of hypocrisy, a kind of world that he does not wish to enter or live in. He rejects to grow up since he realizes that there is no place and role for himself in adult world. Therefore, he wants to be "a catcher in the rye," his own private vision in which he becomes the one who prevents children from falling off the cliff, meaning that he prevents them from growing up and from entering the phony adult world.

In conclusion, it can be stated that in *The Catcher in the Rye* Holden Caulfield emerges as a young adolescent who fails in his search for identity not only because he has nobody to guide him to undergo his adolescence, but also because he has no ability to distinguish between

important and unimportant experiences or to realize that he cannot retain them all; he cannot integrate past experiences and cannot identify with the present role expectations. Holden becomes the victim of adult society or of society of modern life since he never learns to love the pervasive phoniness of modern life. The world is generally "phony," but Holden must accept it as it is and must work out his own salvation. So what Holden calls phoniness is unavoidable in adult life that he never gets well until he accepts this kind of behavior in himself and others. If Holden can take a lesson from all his experiences, he will realize that an individual who is ready to enter adult world is the one who can decide what is right or what is not for himself as the signal of maturity.

Holden is a sensitive person who feels painful, disappointed, and sickened by human behavior, therefore, he finds it difficult to adjust himself to society. If Holden is willing to do so, he will be successful in attaining his identity. But he prefers to isolate himself from society, the outside world. This action then not only brings him to unable to face the realities of the adult world and fail in the discovery of self, but also trapped in a state of role confusion.

BIBLIOGRAPHY