

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

This thesis has discussed Joe Christmas's self-destructiveness which is conveyed in Light in August using the objective theory under literary approach which is supported by psychological approach. Those approaches are used to analyze the novel from its intrinsic elements.

Light in August can be classified as a psychological novel which is commonly dominant for its stream of conscious technique. The novel has a long plot and several themes which are embodied in the story of Joe Christmas's life and in his wandering mind. Joe is a protagonist who is considered as a "mulatto" struggling for the acceptance of his individuality. His failure to prove his manhood leads to his isolating himself so that he is unable to assert his racial division. He never acts either as a white or a black while the society, the people of Jefferson in the South, demand his determination. Joe is entrapped by his origin and by the primitive view on racialism. So far, the view itself has been destructive while Joe has ruined himself as well since he refuses to proclaim one of his racial division. His denial to reality and his rejection to any social responsibility, therefore, convey the self-destructiveness of Joe Christmas.

The silent racial hostility depicted as one of prevailing settings in the novel is representative to the problem of human life. The hostility can be seen as a product of a primitive civilization since basically it is based on Christianity, especially the Calvinism, but its practice is more puritanical. It refers to our modern civilization which somehow has frequently deprived men of humane sense. Together with characterization and plot, the setting develop themes to achieve the desired understanding of self-destructiveness. By presenting Joe as a "mulatto", the conflicts and the problems are more focused on Joe himself. With his being conditionally entrapped, Joe becomes a fatalist as well as a pessimist, that is the self-destructiveness of Joe Christmas.

If the literary approach has been used to reveal self-destructiveness of Joe Christmas through theme, characterization, plot, and setting of the novel, on the other hand, psychological approach has been applied to do the same thing through the psychological aspects. Although the use of the stream of consciousness technique is merely meant to be an artistic way of expressing feelings and thoughts, consciously or unconsciously one will get some psychological knowledge. Faulkner completes the novel with Joe's life adventure from his childhood until his adulthood which shows the strong link between Joe's childhood experiences and his crucial problem in adulthood. The rigid discipline and the racial hostility,

from which Joe suffers during his childhood, for example, are the intended conditions. Therefore, the psychological evidences provided by the application of psychological approach support the understanding of Joe Christmas' self-destructiveness which has been first revealed by the use of the objective theory under the literary approach.