

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

The objectives of the study entitled *Masculinity Crisis and the Related Symbols in Edith Wharton's Ethan Frome* are (1) to describe the crisis of masculinity suffered by the main character, (2) to know the causes of the masculinity crisis, (3) to analyze the symbols that convey the crisis of masculinity. The writer applies the library research including Internet browsing in collecting data. The writer finds conceptual models of masculinity crisis, its causes and symbols. The conceptual models are used to find the data in the novel. The data corpus is in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and discourse that refer to the masculinity crisis in Ethan Frome's Characters in Edith Wharton's *Ethan Frome* published by Charles Scribner's Sons in New York by the year of 1970. The psychological approach is used to analyze the masculinity crises of main character descriptively.

Ethan appears as a man who has masculinity crisis in his life and it can be seen from his characters that suffered masculinity crisis are: cowardice, despair, powerlessness and inferiority. Ethan's fear is described as one of his character that show his masculinity crisis because a man shall be brave to face every condition in his life. Ethan's cowardice shown since his father's death. He becomes fear in facing his life. Ethan's cowardice is also shown when he facing his wife. Moreover, it also has shown when he commits affair with Mattie. Ethan tries to keep his affair because he does not want to raise Zeena's curiosity. Ethan's

despair happens because he feels that he has nothing to build his life and he has loses his self-confidence to reach a happy life. Ethan's powerlessness is seen from his attitude in marrying Zeena, event though Zeena is not women his dream. He seems to be powerlessness man since his mother's death and then he lives by himself. So based on this condition, he considers to marry Zeena though he knows that he never love her. Ethan's inferiority is shown by his action in facing his wife. As the head of family, Ethan is not superior husband, while the wife is the inferior one. Based on this reality Zeena can controls the family.

The causes of Ethan's crisis of masculinity are interrupted education, female superiority, and poverty. The interrupted education is shown when he has to stop his study at Worcester because of his father's death. The female superiority is seen from Zeena's power to control in the family. Poverty also causes Ethan's masculinity crisis. It can be seen when he want rent money from Andrew hale to make up his economic life.

The symbols related masculinity crisis are winter, money, letter "L", and suicide. Winter symbolize irony, satire, and tragedy. Money becomes the symbol of authority, prestige, and courage. It is seen from Ethan's condition that needs money to solve his poverty. The letter "L", which connects the main house with the woodshed and cow barn, is missing from the house. In New England's tradition, this "L" shape is kind is long-roofed that is built at right angles to the main house. The last symbol is suicide. Suicide is related to some one desperation, because it shown someone's last decision to end his life. Some one who decides to commit suicide believes that he does not have a way to go out from all his trouble.

Ethan's masculinity crisis is symbolized by his action of committing suicide with his mistress, Mattie. His last decision to suicide comes in his mind when Mattie says that she cannot leaves him and they better die than separate.

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