

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

As presented in the previous chapter, the focus of this study is on the main character of *Light in August*, that is Joe Christmas. The characteristics of Joe Christmas and the revealing of the plot towards the character development of Joe Christmas are analyzed in order to expose the theme of this novel.

Joe Christmas is an unpredictable and a sly person. It happens because he does not have self-confidence in his mulatto condition. It is because he lives in a racist environment. Those two characteristics can be seen when a 14 years old Joe finishes his sexual intercourse with a black girl and when he wanders fro 15 years by tricking the whites and the blacks. Furthermore, Joe is rebellious and a stubborn person, because he refuses to accept his condition and refuses to be treated in ways he dislikes. Joe rebels towards McEachern, Mrs. McEachern, Joanna Burden, the environment, and God. Joe is stubborn when he finds out that he never leaves out the searching identity circle for his lifetime. Even though he knows about the answer already. The answer is that he is a mulatto.

Joe is mulatto who lives on the racist environment. For most of his lifetime, Joe wanders from one place to another place in order to search his identity. He is confused whether he belongs to the black or the white communities. He lives in a racist environment in which an identity based on the skin color since it determines the lifestyle of a person. Therefore, Joe insists that he has to define his proper identity,

which is he known already. He realizes that he is a white person and a black person, which his environment cannot accept this phenomenon, unfortunately.

The theme as seen from the character development of Joe Christmas as the main character of the novel is that some people search their identity because of the race they have and the searching identity may create inner conflicts in their lives.

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