

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

This thesis discusses the hierarchy of needs experienced by Briony Tallis in Ian McEwan's *Atonement*. Based on the analysis, the writer concludes that Briony, the main character in the novel, can fulfill all five needs in Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory.

The intrinsic elements discussing Ian McEwan's *Atonement* are character, characterization, and conflict. In character and characterization, it is explained that Briony is autistic, controlling, immature, self-centered, and impulsive, but in the end, she becomes self-learning person. Briony's internal conflict stems from her insecurity, which she finds difficult to balance with the development of the people around her. Besides that, she also feels guilty about her false accusation against Robbie, which ruins many people's lives. The external conflict that Briony experienced occurs between Robbie Turner and her sister, Cecilia Tallis. As a result of the false accusation, Cecilia has severed her relationship with her own family.

The extrinsic elements explore the fulfillment of the five hierarchy of needs experienced by Briony. She fulfills her physiological needs, which include air, food and drink, shelter, health, and physical safety. Briony can fulfill her safety needs because she feels safe at home and with her mother. She also satisfies her need for stability, which contributes to her overall safety. Briony can fulfill her needs for love and belongingness because her family loves her. They support her writing passion. Briony is able to fulfill her self-esteem needs due to the attention she finally receives from Leon Tallis, the appreciation she receives from her mother, and the

dominance she feels through her creative pursuits. Ultimately, Briony's life journey of experience and reflection fulfills her self-actualization needs. She becomes a successful writer and a better person, indicating that she can finally achieve the highest level of human needs based on the hierarchy of needs theory by Abraham Maslow.