

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The current study is focused on analyzing Esther Greenwood's depression through her using of expressive speech acts (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985) and their relation to negative cognitive bias theory (Beck & Weishaar, 1989). The results reveals that Esther produced 23 utterances containing expressive speech acts that is related to depression during her depression.

Among the 12 types of illocutionary forces in expressive speech acts, Esther only produced three types which are complaint, protest, and lament. Complaint, as the most dominant type, indicated that Esther often felt dissatisfaction, frustration, and discomfort regarding her condition and situation. Protest is used to express Esther's resistance and rejection toward situations that she considered unfavorable and disadvantageous. Meanwhile, lament is used to convey Esther's sadness, despair, and hopelessness toward her mental condition. These expressive speech acts indicate that Esther's responds to her situations tended to be influenced by her emotional and psychological distress which reflect her depression.

The findings also show that negative cognitive biases are reflected in Esther's expressive speech acts. The negative cognitive biases found in the data are arbitrary inference, selective abstraction, overgeneralization, and minimization. Arbitrary inference is found in how Esther drew negative conclusion without enough evidence. Through selective abstraction, Esther tended to focus on negative aspects of her condition or situation while ignoring the positive aspect. Overgeneralization is found in how Esther imposed negative evaluation of limited

situation or condition to broad ones. Meanwhile, minimization appeared when Esther reduced the importance of her condition. These negative cognitive biases are reflected in the way Esther evaluate events or situation and the way she used expressive speech acts during her depression.

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that Esther's use of expressive speech acts can provide us the understanding of her emotions and psychological condition. These expressive speech acts which are complaint, protest, and lament express Esther's dissatisfaction, resistance, hopelessness, and emotional distress. Moreover, these expressive speech acts reflect negative cognitive bias associated with depression. These negative cognitive biases are reflected in how Esther perceive herself, others, and situations, causing her to evaluate them in negative way. Therefore, by using negative cognitive bias, Esther's depression could be reflected through her use of illocutionary forces in expressive speech acts. In addition, the researcher hopes this study will give understanding on how expressive speech acts could reflect the speaker's depression.