

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **4.1 Conclusion**

This study highlights the significant role of expressive speech acts in shaping the evolving relationship between Dexter and Emma in “One Day” by David Nicholls. Through the analysis of their key dialogues, it becomes evident that the characters’ use of expressive speech acts—particularly disapproval and volition sarcastically—creates emotional barriers that prevent them from achieving true intimacy and understanding. The misinterpretations of intention and emotional deflections evident in their interactions delay their ability to connect and ultimately delay the development of their relationship. These findings underscore how language not only reflects but also actively shapes character development, emotional distance, and relational dynamics. In the case of Dexter and Emma, their failure to communicate their genuine emotions directly leads to the tragic nature of their love story. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex ways in which language and speech acts influence narrative outcomes and character development in literature, demonstrating how misinterpretations of intention can shape the course of relationships.

#### **4.2 Recommendation**

Given the findings of this study, future research may benefit from exploring expressive speech acts in a broader range of literary texts, particularly

those that centre on complex emotional relationships. Comparative studies could examine how different authors use indirect characterization and speech acts to portray romantic tension, emotional misalignment, or personal growth across various genres and cultural contexts.

In addition, further analysis that incorporates narrative voice, inner thoughts, and descriptive prose—elements that were beyond the scope of this study—would offer a more comprehensive understanding of how characters' emotional and psychological dimensions are constructed. Combining speech act theory with other linguistic or psychological frameworks (such as pragmatics, affect theory, or cognitive narratology) could also enrich the analysis of character interaction and development.