

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

A theme in a novel may reflect the novelist's opinion about the experience of life. There are many ways to make an approach to the theme. Some of them are through characterization and conflicts. Since people are social beings, they need others to live. However, living with other people can influence the development of people's personality and conflicts. Through the study of Eugene's personality and conflicts, the thesis writer finds that the theme of loneliness and alienation can finally be revealed.

Materialism has led people to worship money and social status more than anything else in their lives. This tendency brings bad influences in people's minds. They become selfish, greedy, and prejudice. In Look Homeward, Angel, this condition affects the society where Eugene lives, unexpectedly his mother, brothers and sisters. Since they are busy in running

their own business, they tend to neglect each other. Moreover, they are always in quarrels. The one who feels the influences greatly is Eugene. He finds that they do not really know each other since they do not have time to share. It shows the absence of love in their family relationships.

The materialism and the absence of love in addition to his physical weakness such as a brooding face, being ill-clothed and having an awkward appearance, bring influences in the development of Eugene's personality. Being underpressured to live in such condition Eugene becomes melancholic, strong-hearted, introverted, and furthermore immaterialistic. As a melancholic and an introverted person, it is not easy for Eugene to express his feelings to other people. He usually keeps his feeling and his thought as a secret for himself. Meanwhile, as a strong-hearted and an immaterialistic person, he is different to his society such as in the way he looks upon his life. He does not like hypocrisy, he does not regard people based on their social status, and the most important thing is that he does not worship money more than anything else.

The thesis writer discovers that the materialism and the absence of love as well as Eugene's personality also causes his conflicts. They become the reasons of Eugene's loneliness and alienation.

In the end of the story, it is said that Eugene decides to leave his family and go to Harvard University to fulfill his interest in Arts. Furthermore, he wants to be free and released. It means that he is finally courageous to seek for his own existence. He is ready to be lonely; he is not afraid to face the loneliness through his life for it is the consequence of his will to make himself as his own.

Finally, the thesis writer finds out that in Look Homeward, Angel, Wolfe wants to convey that under the materialism pressure people should not become easily affected, since money is not the most important thing in life. But, the more important thing is love since love means sharing in its implication of take and give as J. Link S.J says in his Man in the Modern World (Link, 1967: 26). Wolfe also suggests that people must have a better understanding about themselves in order to find their own existences. Besides, by understanding their own existences, people will also be able to understand his surroundings well.