



CHAPTER III

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of Jane Austen's *Emma* (1815) using Erik Erikson's Psychosocial Development Theory, particularly the stage of Identity versus Role Confusion, several conclusions can be drawn to answer the research questions of this study. The analysis focuses on Harriet Smith and examines the signs of her role confusion and the factors that contribute to it. The findings show that Harriet experiences difficulties in developing a clear sense of identity, which is influenced by her background, social environment, and relationships with others.

First, this study successfully identifies the signs of role confusion experienced by Harriet Smith. The analysis shows that Harriet demonstrates several characteristics of role confusion throughout the novel. The first sign is her dependence on others in making important decisions. Harriet often relies on Emma Woodhouse's opinions instead of trusting her own judgment. The second sign is her uncertainty about her social identity. Because Harriet does not know her family background, she is unsure of her place in society and easily accepts the identity created by Emma. The third sign is her low self-confidence and lack of independent judgment. Harriet frequently changes her opinions after hearing Emma's advice and rarely believes in her own decisions. The fourth sign is her excessive need for social acceptance. Harriet often measures her self values through the approval of people from a higher social class rather than through her own values.

Second, this study explains the factors that cause Harriet Smith's role

confusion. The first factor is her unknown parentage and lack of family identity. Since Harriet grows up without knowing her parents or social background, she has difficulty developing a clear understanding of who she is. The second factor is Emma Woodhouse's dominant influence. Emma often shapes Harriet's opinions, decisions, and expectations, causing Harriet to depend heavily on Emma instead of developing her own identity. The third factor is the ambiguity of Harriet's social class. Her uncertain social position makes it difficult for her to understand where she truly belongs, leaving her vulnerable to confusion about her identity. These factors work together and gradually strengthen Harriet's role confusion throughout the novel.

Overall, this study shows that Harriet Smith's role confusion is influenced not only by her uncertain family background but also by the strong influence of her social environment, especially Emma Woodhouse. Through Harriet's character, Jane Austen illustrates how uncertainty about identity, social class, and external influence can affect an individual's personal development. Viewed through Erikson's theory, Harriet's experiences demonstrate that a stable identity can only be achieved when individuals learn to understand themselves and make important life decisions based on their own values rather than on the expectations of others.