CHAPTER III

CONCLUSSION AND SUGGESTION

3.1. Conclusion

Based on the analysis using Vladimir Propp's theory of narrative functions, this study concludes that Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist* incorporates only nine out of the thirty-one traditional functions: interdiction, violation, departure, the first function of the donor, receipt of the magical agent, struggle, victory, return, and recognition. These elements form the structural core of Santiago's journey, presenting a streamlined yet meaningful version of the hero's quest. Santiago leaves his home by choice, receives spiritual guidance, overcomes challenges not through force but through inner transformation, and ultimately achieves both literal and spiritual fulfillment. The presence of these functions reinforces the novel's central theme: the pursuit of one's Personal Legend, and the idea that true transformation comes from following the signs and trusting one's destiny.

What most clearly sets *The Alchemist* apart from traditional folktales, however, is the notable absence or reinterpretation of several key narrative functions — particularly villainy and its associated elements such as reconnaissance, pursuit, punishment, exposure, and false hero. The novel does not feature a central antagonist who actively blocks the hero's path; there is no evil figure to defeat, nor is there any narrative justice to deliver. This significant omission or reinterpretation redirects the story's focus inward: the primary conflict is not between the hero and an external enemy, but between the self and its internal fears — fear of loss, failure, and change. By removing the need for a villain, Coelho reframes the tale as a spiritual allegory rather than a traditional conflict between good and evil.

This narrative shift transforms *The Alchemist* into a story centered on self-awareness, personal responsibility, and faith. It becomes a meditation on inner growth and mastery rather than outward conquest. This structural departure from Propp's model deepens the novel's philosophical resonance, inviting readers to reconsider heroism not as the act of defeating others, but as the journey toward inner peace and alignment with one's true self.

3.2. Suggestion

Based on the conclusions of this study, several recommendations can be made. For future researchers in the field of literature, it is encouraged to explore the values embedded in novels from various perspectives — such as examining the moral, philosophical, or cultural dimensions within literary texts. This exploration can be enriched by applying a range of literary theories, which may uncover deeper layers of meaning, particularly in texts like *The Alchemist*, which are rich in symbolic and spiritual content.

For students of literature, this study hopes to inspire the use of theoretical frameworks — especially Propp's theory of dramatis personae and narrative functions — in analyzing literary works. Applying such frameworks helps students better understand character roles and how they contribute to a story's structure and overall message. Structuralist approaches, in particular, can enhance critical thinking and reveal how narratives are built beneath the surface, fostering a more profound appreciation of literary craft.