

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

In this thesis, the writer has tried to find how *Grave of Fireflies* by Isao Takahata in 1988 describes war in the movie. As a result of studying the movie, there are two aspects of war emphasized in the movie. First, in general war is described as cruelty judging from the setting of the movie. Second, in more specific aspect the movie describes that war causes sufferings to children. By focusing on two intrinsic elements of the movie, setting and character, the writer is able to answer both questions about how the cruelty described in the movie and also what the effects of war are suffered by children during the war in the movie.

In general, the theme of the movie, cruelty of war is clearly described in the movie through the setting. As mentioned in previous chapters, setting is not only limited to space and time but also the atmosphere, a series of details, nuances, and gestures, which give a certain shape to theme and plot. Responding to the theory, the writer divides how cruelty described in the movie into four aspects. The first is the physical representation which shows that the cruelty of war can clearly be seen and heard, such as in the material loss, injuries, people screams and cries. The other aspect is dehumanization indicated by many people died in terrible condition, improper burial, and also the violence caused all of that. Another aspect is about the war causes family separation such as when their family falls victim due to war, missing when they are trying to save themselves, or because the

communication is cut out when they live far from each other due to war. The last aspect, responding cruelty described in the movie is about how the war affects people behavior to be egocentric.

Seita's and Setsuko's suffering are a reflection toward what happens to children in time of war. The fact that Seita is not the only one died in the train station can be a proof that many children are suffering during the war. In addition, Seita character has experienced development from time to time. In other word, Seita become round character due to his experience in the movie unlike his little sister Setsuko, who is a flat character until the day she died. There are two aspects regarding sufferings that children share in the movie. First of all is that children are losing their rights to be protected, to be fed, and also to be loved. The other one is that children are affected by negative emotions multiple times due to the war. Sadness, fear, and anxiety are the major emotion children suffer during the war. These emotions are also the reason children can not survive in time of war as proven by the death of Seita in the broken spirit due to those negative emotions.

In conclusion, war is a terrible event which should not be repeated if we care about people's lives especially children. The cruelty of war brings calamity toward people. Moreover, helpless beings such as children are suffering and dying as a collateral damage of war. As long as war still happens the probability of the cruelty as described in *Grave of Fireflies* can befall upon us.