

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

In this thesis the writer focused on Michael Jackson's biography and actions in trying to fulfill Popular Culture's criteria. The writer chose this for her thesis because it is interesting to see how popular culture has influenced the life of a pop star like Michael Jackson. Because of this, popular culture approach was used to analyze Michael Jackson and his society.

Michael Jackson was born to be a superstar who had many talents. His clear voice, his hair and fashion styles, his trademarks on his moonwalk dance and choreography on stage has supported him to become a popular singer. Many judgements are given to him such as him being a gay, suffering anorexia disorder, changing his skin color, doing multiple plastic surgeries, and having childish behaviour. These negative judgements have been found to exist because Michael Jackson wanted to continually become a popular icon for his society.

Michael Jackson's struggles as a superstar are described differently in his biographies written by the three different authors. The first author, James Aldis describes Michael Jackson's struggles are more brief with the simple words and pictures which can help the reader easy to understand its means. The second author, J. Randy Taraborelli describes it completely and clearly with the hundreds of interviews through Michael Jackson himself and

people who surrounds him. The last author, Mircea Windham describes it is so brief that it shows directly its point. She also describes about Michael Jackson's death which is so surprising.

Based on Popular Culture's criteria, Michael Jackson as an icon becomes an object of Popular Culture by 1) sacrificing his individual wants, 2) supporting whatever has become the belief and value of the people, 3) maintaining the success of commerciality, and 4) creating an imitative aspect for his Popular Culture audiences to follow.

Although through his biography, such as when he had to suffer from his father's treatments that he had to have multiple plastic surgeries, be on a strict diet, cooperate with the recording companies to obtain a lot of money, and marry with Lisa Marie Presley helps the continuation of his popularity; it is seen that actually he did not enjoy himself as a popular culture icon. Yet, he continued to make people happy. This is why, although he is sick or sad, he always tries his best to show off his smile to people.

As a result, people have always waited for Michael Jackson's performances. People have also tried to imitate Michael Jackson's actions such as the moonwalk dance, so they can also feel the success that Michael Jackson achieved. His achievements were not achieved easily, however, because he struggled for it with a lot of hard-work. The more Popular Culture criterias that Michael Jackson fulfilled have led the American people to love Michael Jackson even more. This is because the American people believed that hard work can bring great success. So, they appreciate

how Michael Jackson has struggled to make his dream as a superstar come true. It can be implied that the phrase 'from zero to hero' applies to Michael Jackson because he was from just as an ordinary person who become an extraordinary person. He was a King – The King of Pop. It is because he follows popular culture's criteria that Michael Jackson has maintained his popularity, even though he has died.

