

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is clear that *Black Water* and *As I Lay Dying* have some similarities and differences in the use of narrative technique. They are different in the use of point of view, time and tempo, and style of language. Yet both authors achieve the same effect for the reader from the different narrative techniques and also successful in delivering their similar ideas about life and death.

Black Water tells about Kelly Kelleher's last moments of life before she dies. The story is told through the third person limited point of view. The author knows everything about Kelly, such as her past life and her relationship with her parents and with the Senator. In addition, through the use of third person limited point of view the author manages to bring the reader to experience the same experiences that Kelly is going through in the last moments of her life. The use of third person limited point of view also provides the description of how Kelly reacts towards her death. The use of third person limited point does not make the

story subjective because the author also provides the Senator's perspective about the accident, making the story become more objective.

As I Lay Dying is told through the first person point of view, in which the author uses fifteen narrators to tell the whole story. Those fifteen narrators are the Bundrens and their neighbors. Each narrator reports the process of Addie's death and the journey to take her body to Jefferson. Moreover, it also shows various reactions from people around Addie Bundren about her death. The use of first person point of view can be highly subjective, yet the author manages to keep the story objective by giving a better understanding of the story through fifteen different narrators. The combination of many subjective perspectives results in a more objective view of the event.

The use of time and tempo is also involved. Both novels have different modifications in the use of time and tempo. The tempo of *Black Water* can be considered slow yet fast. It is slow because it takes 154 pages to present an event that may occur in only five minutes in actual life. Nevertheless, it is also fast, because in those 154 pages, the author manages to convey all the important moments of Kelly's entire life. *Black Water* uses many flashbacks in the use of time and tempo, which brings the reader to some important and memorable moments of Kelly's life. It also helps the reader to understand the process of her death and how Kelly's reaction changes from being not ready to face her death to being able to accept it.

As I Lay Dying is told chronologically, with only a few flashbacks. The use of flashbacks as the modification of time shows the characteristics of Addie and how she prepares herself to be ready to face her death. Moreover, the reader will get to know more about the character. The tempo of the story is slow, as the author reveals every detail about the journey to let the reader see how the characters have different perspectives about the mother throughout the journey. It makes the reader understand the story better.

The author of *Black Water* uses formal and informal registers of language in the story, which helps the reader to get a realistic atmosphere and understand the story better. It also has some sections without punctuation marks. These parts build a tension, give the effect of rush, and make the reader feel the enormous fear that Kelly had. The author also uses some italicized sentences to show Kelly's inner monologue, proving that the narrator is reliable.

In *As I Lay Dying*, the author uses different language styles for every important narrator, including the use of some vernacular language and poetic imagery. It helps the reader to get to know every character better. It also makes the reader feel the realistic atmosphere of the countryside area in Southern America. The author also provides some italicized paragraphs to differentiate between Darl's sanity and insanity. It makes the story believable and the narrator reliable.

Besides the differences, the two novels have two things in common. Firstly, both authors want to convey similar ideas about life and death in their novels. In *Black Water*, Oates gives the message that life is precious. It is similar

to what Faulkner wants to convey in *As I Lay Dying*, that life needs to be savoured and death is inevitable. Secondly, the distance between the reader and the character or the story in both novels is close. The closeness is built through the use of point of view, time and tempo, and the style of language. These similarities prove that the two authors have successfully brought the reader to understand the message they want to convey.

In conclusion, it can be said that the different narrative techniques used by the authors give the same effect to the reader in comprehending the authors' idea about life and death. The narrative techniques used have reduced the distance between the reader and the story so that the reader can understand the authors' purposes better. In other words, both authors are successful in using different narrative techniques effectively in conveying their ideas about life and death.