

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The theme of many stories in *Dubliners* is the attempts of many citizens to live in freedom. They feel paralyzed by relationship, society, culture, religion, even their own nature. This theme is reflected in almost all of the stories in the collection. From the author of *Dubliners*, the reader will understand that Dublin society at that time often had cynical view on different people with their beliefs.

When the author tells the story of paralysis as a theme in *Dubliners*, he did not invent the paralysis. Joyce took the story ideas from anything that exists in the life of Dublin society. There are different social classes represented in the stories as Joyce was intent on showing a realistic insight into Ireland in the early twenty century. There are many references to the political sentiments of nationalism, but in many ways seem to be mocking Joyce's Ireland aspiration toward freedom and showing the inability in Ireland to achieve through transcendence of their situation.

The overall general vision of *Dubliners* is depressing. Each story paints a grim picture of Irish society in a state of grim stagnation. Many stories show many characters are trapped by their narrow environment and narrow mentality. The general vision or viewpoint that emerges from these stories is bleak and depressing. This image seems to exist on every level, socially, politically, psychologically and spiritually in *Dubliners*.

The characters in every short story also portray paralysis. The characters in *Dubliners* have a fierce privacy, a picture slowly emerges of a more public fictional space; a society, however pale and limited and filled with absences, begins to take shape. It is too simple to use the word "colonize" to describe the citizens of *Dubliners*, but nonetheless, the idea that they are living in a place which does not have full political autonomy, or that the public sphere in which they suffer has been somehow damaged, has to be taken into consideration. It is there in the shadows, as it were by implication.

All of the characters are intent on escaping from the narrow restrictive life which threatens to overwhelm them. Many of them try to seek escape through alcohol and flights of fantasy. Eventually all of them are forced in some way to come to terms with the reality of their limited life. In each story, Joyce seems to repeat the same pattern, a pattern that accentuates this acute debility of a society clearly in stagnation, and one dominated by a deep sense of paralysis. In each of the lives of the central protagonists, there is a great lack of political, religious, or moral stability that would enable them to transcend the limitations of their environment and achieve a true liberation of spirit. Joyce's method was deeply ironic. Each of the central protagonists are governed by an acute desire to dominate their environment and escape to a better world, yet each become the means of consolidating the constricting sense of frustration that is a hallmark of their lives.

Through his work entitled *Dubliners*, James Joyce without doubt would show his identity as an Irishman. He wrote *Dubliners* in order international

community can be recognizes Dublin. Although, Dublin at the moment is not the best city, there are so many problems that arise there, such as problems with social, cultural, religion.