

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION

This research explores the dynamics of morality and identity in *The Wicked* (2024) movie script using intrinsic and extrinsic approaches, guided by Kohlberg's theory of moral development. The study aims to explore the previously identified research questions, particularly the ways in which the script uses characterisation, setting, storyline, and theme to depict moral and identity dynamics. The three stages of moral development identified by Kohlberg—pre-conventional, conventional, and post-conventional—are also examined in relation to the main characters, Elphaba and Glinda. Iya

The intrinsic approach is employed to analyze the characters, plot, setting, and themes depicted in *The Wicked* script. These elements provide a profound understanding of how internal and external conflicts shape the characters' development. The findings reveal how Elphaba and Glinda face internal conflicts and societal pressures, which significantly influence their moral growth and evolving identities. A key point highlighted in the script is how social pressure shapes a character. Elphaba, burdened by internal conflict due to her unconventional appearance, is consistently pressured by society, which casts her as the "wicked witch." Meanwhile, Glinda, who represents the opposite of Elphaba and meets societal expectations, also faces external pressures. She struggles with the internal conflict of maintaining a friendship with Elphaba, who is stigmatized by society.

The study uncovers that the moral dynamics in *The Wicked* reflect the complexity of resisting social pressures. Social pressure heavily influences how Elphaba is perceived by society, branding her a "wicked witch" not for her actions but for her courage to challenge injustice. Conversely, Glinda feels burdened by societal expectations to embody perfection. These internal and external conflicts are key to understanding the moral growth of both characters. The results demonstrate how moral journeys are influenced by the characters' social surroundings as well as their own choices.

Kohlberg's theory of moral development provides a relevant framework for analyzing the characters' decisions and actions. At the Pre-Conventional stage,

Elphaba and Glinda make decisions based on personal interest or fear of punishment. As the story progresses, they enter the Conventional stage, where their choices are influenced by societal norms and expectations. The moral journey peaks when Elphaba reaches the Post-Conventional stage, choosing universal principles of justice even when they conflict with societal norms. This progression demonstrates how internal conflicts and external pressures drive characters to achieve moral development. Beyond Kohlberg's theory, the thematic elements in *The Wicked* such as acceptance, power, and resistance against oppression—amplify the moral and identity dynamics.

Themes of acceptance and resistance highlight universal challenges individuals face in society. Glinda, who is first limited by social norms, discovers the true meaning of kindness, whereas Elphaba, who longs for acceptance, eventually finds courage in opposing injustice. These themes not only help viewers relate to the characters' experiences, but they also provide a reflective lens through which to examine the complexities of morality in daily life.

It is significant to notice that Elphaba and Glinda's relationship is essential to their moral development. Their friendship underscores the importance of social support in confronting external pressures. Initially, Glinda distances herself from Elphaba to avoid societal condemnation but eventually recognizes the value of their friendship. Glinda's support empowers Elphaba to fight against a corrupt system, while Elphaba inspires Glinda to question societal norms. This dynamic highlights that morality is shaped not only by individual actions but also by interpersonal relationships.

Additionally, the plot progression in *The Wicked* illustrates the stages of moral development. From exposition to resolution, each part of the story demonstrates how moral conflicts and decisions influence character growth. For instance, in the climax, Elphaba must choose between accepting power from the Wizard or protecting the oppressed. Her decision to reject power and confront injustice reflects the highest stage of moral development, the Post-Conventional stage. The resolution, where Glinda assumes leadership of the Emerald City, signifies the characters' attainment of higher moral awareness.

In conclusion, this research demonstrates that intrinsic elements and Kohlberg's theory can be effectively applied to analyze morality and identity in *The Wicked* (2024). Elphaba and Glinda undertake complex moral journeys, confronting societal pressures and internal conflicts. This study contributes to understanding how literature reflects and critiques societal norms while inspiring audiences to reflect on the importance of moral values in their lives. The findings also emphasize that morality is not static but evolves through personal experiences and social interactions.

