ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to let the readers find out about the characters that play and give major contributions on the subject of the mental illness or so called depression. It also explores about the symptoms, causes, and effects of depression which affects Holden Caulfield’s life as the main character in *The Catcher in the Rye*. Furthermore, it reveals how this literary work reflects the author’s, Jerome David Salinger, life. The research methods which are used in this study are library research. In analyzing this novel, the writer uses the elements of fictions theory, particularly focusing on the characters; Theory of Depression as a part in the psychology and the socio-psychological theory, predominantly psychological, environmental, and interpersonal factors as the crucial influences toward individual’s behavior; and the biographical approach in order to show the readers that this story reflects the author’s life. Based on the story in this book, it could be summed up that depression or mental illness that is suffered by Holden Caulfield certainly has brought great effects toward his thought, mental, and behavior. It also surely portrays mostly a factual experience in J.D. Salinger’s adolescence life.

Keywords: Depression, Character, and Biographical Criticism