

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

After describing and discussing the findings of the research, this chapter presents several conclusions and provides several suggestions for further research in analyzing performative acts and destabilizing gender in the society and education activity.

5.1. Conclusions

The research aims to answer two questions on performative acts that construct the characters' identity and factor(s) that destabilized gender as shown in the selected short stories. It can be concluded that the performative acts that construct the character's gender are revealed through accessories, attitude, clothing, physical appearance and physical reaction in *Am I Blue?* written by Bruce Coville, *Winnie and Tommy* written by Francesca Lia Block, *Honorary Shepherds* written by Gregory Maguire and *Three Mondays in July* written by James Cross Giblin. Furthermore, destabilizing gender can be portrayed through the performative acts itself.

The selected short stories have interestingly crafted the narrative which makes use of literary devices to communicate ideas about gender performativity

and the surrounding socio cultural environment. In the short story of *Am I Blue?* written by Bruce Coville attitude, discourse, physical appearance, and physical reaction are highlighted. In *Winnie and Tommy* written by Francesca Lia Block, clothing which is worn by the Winnie considered to be the main form of performative acts. Whereas, *Honorary Shepherds* written by Gregory Maguire and *Three Mondays in July* written by James Cross Giblin shows that attitude plays as dominant role in both short stories.

Performative acts can be the factor of destabilizing gender. Society defines appropriate ways to perform the right gender since it is “a set of repeated acts within a highly rigid regulatory frame” but Butler argues that gender should be flexible so that individuals can behave the way they are, at different times and different situation. In *Am I Blue?* written by Bruce Coville, Melvin wears a gold earring in his left ear and he is considered as gay because society defines gay people wear earring in their left ear but today, fashion taste has been changing and people can wear earring in the single or both ear. In addition from *Winnie and Tommy*, Winnie feels comfortable in man’s clothing although she is a girl, she wears baggy black tuxedos, man’s pajamas or big shoes. Winnie can also play skateboard which is considered as man’s sport because it is labelled as dangerous sport but today, female can play it and participate in skateboarding competition.

5.2. Suggestions

This research can provide a useful reference for literature study and its application in the society. Therefore, the author suggested that:

1. Related further research should be intended to analyze the phenomenon of gender performativity. In addition, the research may contribute to the development of the content literary analysis that focuses on gay and lesbian literature to see how they are voiced and represented in young adult literature.
2. The research hopes to help the reader to have a better understanding about performative acts and gay people rather than likely to view through stereotypical thinking and have courage to face other group of people who are simply seen as “different” people.
3. Regarding the research is as well focused on young adult literature, the research should better be recognized as educative media for introducing or assisting parents to help their children in finding themselves.

Furthermore, this chapter concludes that the results found in this research show that through characters’ performative acts (choices of accessories, clothing, attitude, physical appearance and physical reaction), destabilizing gender can be discovered. Thus, the fact that gender is performative can help to explain the homosexuality behaviour in a larger society.