

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This final chapter presents the conclusions of the study entitled “What It Means To Be A Man: Rethinking Masculinity in Popular Chick Lit *The Boy Next Door* By Meggin Cabot”. It provides the writer’s interpretation of the research finding. Furthermore, the suggestions for further studies are also presented in this chapter.

5.1 Conclusions

From the findings and discussions in the previous chapter, several conclusions based on the research questions can be derived. Concerning the aim which is to find the constructions of male characters in the novel, the findings show that the two male characters are analyzed through their traits and characterizations which are associated with the constructions of the male characters in the text. John Trent and Max Friedlander represent the agency of two perspectives of masculinity which are hegemonic masculinity and feminized masculinity. Each character reflects each perspective of masculinity

The writer supports the theories from Connell (2003) that already exist in chapter two who state that masculinity is manly character which specifically describe men. The perspective of masculinity is shifted from traditional to the new self concept. The traditional masculinity which stated as perspective of hegemonic masculinity embodied the currently most honored way of being a man; it required

all other men to position themselves in relation to it, and it ideologically legitimated the global subordination of women to men. This hegemonic masculinity concept is represented in Max Friedlander.

However, the new self concept of feminized masculinity which is known as the sensitive new man strips away some of the attributes of hegemonic masculinity. This concept enhances some attributes from the feminine whose schema includes such characteristics as being soft, yielding, passive, self effacing and caring. The concept of feminized masculinity is represented in John Trent.

To sum up, the concept of masculinity is influenced by cultural factors. Things that happened daily which derived from cultural norms have established a self-image in a life of a man. It can be seen from the taste and style to dress, appearance, activity, ways of interacting with other people and resolving problems.

5.2 Suggestions

For the future researches, the writer has some suggestions that might be beneficial for those who are interested in conducting similar research related to masculinity perspective. In terms of the object, this kind of research can be undertaken upon other potential materials such as printed media, TV advertisement or poetry and song lyrics. Particular genre of fiction writing such for children and youngest readers are suggested to be analyzed. In addition, the perspectives of masculinity that can be applied are not limited to those that have been used in this current study either. Instead, in terms of hegemonic masculinity,

sensitive new men, metrosexuality, gynocriticism and phalocentrism can also be applied. The writer also believes that this critique of male characters and masculinity perspectives can be beneficial for students to improve their analytical skill, since the writer found some difficulties in finding sources both from library and online sources.

