

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents the conclusions of the research, which are based on the findings and discussion in the previous chapter. This chapter also presents the suggestions for further investigations on the study of narrative technique.

5.1 Conclusions

This research has elaborated its findings which answer the main questions of how the story is narrated in the novel and how the narrative constructs the main character. The previous chapter shows that *The Secret Life of Bees* (2002) is narrated through six narrative categorizations, those are narrative level, narrative time, narrative voice, focalization, narrative of words, and narrative mode. In addition to this, the narrative constructs the main character through four methods of characterization; physical description, dialogue and actions, thoughts and feelings, and what other characters' say about the main character.

Based on the findings, *The Secret Life of Bees* can be said as a complex narrative text in a sense that it contains more than one narrative levels. The use of flashback and flash forward techniques has given a significant contribution to the order of events in the story. The research also finds that *The Secret Life of Bees* is narrated through a single character's point of view or commonly called as internal focalization which makes the narrator able to reveal only her personal thoughts and feelings because she has a limited access to know for certain the other characters' minds.

In constructing the main character, the story *The Secret Life of Bees* uses both the direct ("telling") and indirect ("showing") methods of characterization to reveal Lily Melissa Owen's traits. The direct method occurs when Lily simply tells the readers about her physical look. On the other hand, Lily's traits are also

Anya Pritafania, 2014

*SUBMITTED TO THE ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF THE FACULTY OF
LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION OF THE INDONESIA UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION AS
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SARJANA SASTRA DEGREE*
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shown through the use of indirect method of characterizations, such as dialogues and actions, thoughts and feelings, and what other characters' say about the main character.

The close analysis of narrative technique and character development in *The Secret Life of Bees* reveals that the story is well organized. The overall events are narrated in a chronological order by employing both flashback and flash forward techniques. Moreover, the research finds that the use of direct presentation of speech plays a crucial role in the development of mimetic mode in the novel. By using direct presentation of speech, the mimetic mode can reach its dramatic effects and give the readers a sense of intimacy and closeness.

The presence of a child character also affects the writer's choice of words in the novel *The Secret Life of Bees*. As the main character, Lily, who is a fourteen-year-old girl, takes a great control in narrating every single event of the story through her personal point of view. Consequently, the words used in the novel are mostly simple rather than complex ones. Furthermore, the main character also allows the readers to enter her inner world so that they can be the one who understand her traits the most. Like a human being, the main character undergoes certain changes as she learns from the problems she has experienced. In the story, Lily faces an internal conflict which leads her to struggle with her own soul whether she can tell her life secrets or not, and she has a great hole in her heart since the death of her mother which has also left her with so many secrets. Therefore, the development of Lily's traits is the clue to the story's meaning and has successfully covered the major theme of the story.

The analysis of narrative technique in Sue Monk Kidd's novel *The Secret Life of Bees* can be a starting point for a future investigation and therefore it is expected to motivate readers to be more critical in reading narrative texts. Thus, readers can get better understanding about how meanings are produced in narratives and other literary texts through some narratological categories.

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5.2 Suggestions

In regard with the findings, the researcher suggests that the future research investigate narrative techniques in a comprehensive way. An analysis of narrative technique in films, for example, can be a good topic to be investigated. Therefore, the researcher expects that such research will provide another variation in narratological analysis in order to enhance the study of narrative techniques.

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