

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

This chapter presents the conclusion derived from the analysis that has been conducted and reported in the previous chapter. This chapter includes the summary of the result of analysis regarding the quest of identity and character development of Kafka Tamura in *Kafka on the Shore*, and also suggestions for further research.

#### 5.1. Conclusions

In exploring the issue of identity construction in *Kafka on the Shore* by Haruki Murakami, this study employs two main theories. Nikolajeva's (2003) concept of implicit characterization is used in this analysis in order to explore the kind of identity that Kafka intends to construct based on his preferences. Another theory used in this analysis is Trites's (2000) theory on identity construction in young adult literature. This theory is employed as the tool to explore the identity construction of the main protagonist in the novel. The results of the analysis show that in order to grow, teenagers may have to construct their identity by way of: (1) constructing a character who distances himself from the society; (2) establishing father-centered issues; and (3) using sex and death as the resolution to the conflicts.

From the results of the analysis, it can be concluded that Haruki Murakami's *Kafka on the Shore* can be considered as young adult literature. It can be seen from the issues faced by the main protagonist which show the characteristic of a young adult literature. The main protagonist in this novel undergoes a quest of constructing his identity as the result of his resistance towards authority figures.

In this story, Murakami shows his inclination towards the dominant society. Even though he gives a space for the teenage character in his story to develop themselves, the text implies that in the end even the most rebellious teenager has to make compromises. It seems that Murakami tries to implement the

idea that teenagers need to be challenged with some experiences that are deviant to the dominant culture's norms and values.

Despite the controversial issues which are presented in this novel, conventional values are still preferable in the dominant culture. As portrayed in this novel, teenagers will only mature when they have successfully constructed a compromised identity; an identity that accepts the power of the society and appropriates itself to the values and expectations of the society.

Therefore, even though Haruki Murakami is well-known for breaking the conventional way of writing, the content of this particular story proves otherwise. It appears that this particular story is very conventional and it abides by the dominant culture.

## **5.2. Suggestions**

This study aims to explore *Kafka on the Shore* in the perspective of young adult literature. However, since the most prominent issue in this novel is the father-centered conflicts, it would be better if the issue is explored by using psychoanalysis since the theory of identity construction in young adult literature cannot explore the issue deeply. Also, since there is a limitation of the subject of analysis which only focuses on Kafka Tamura's identity construction, it is suggested that Satoru Nakata's presence in the novel as the other main protagonist is also explored. Hopefully, this research can give a beneficial contribution to the study of young adult literature, and an inspiration for those who are doing similar research.