

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

After describing and discussing the findings of the research, this chapter covers several conclusions and several suggestions for further research in analyzing performative acts of gay issues in animated series.

5.1 Conclusions

The research aims to answer two questions on gay portrayal in selected *Spongebob Squarepants* episodes and the meanings that can be derived from this portrayal. It can be concluded that the gay portrayal that contains in these two selected episodes is revealed through the performative acts, in this case there are four prominent of performative acts; accessories, attitude, clothing and physical reaction in *Spongebob Squarepants* series episodes *49b season 3: Rock-a-Bye Bivalve* (2002) and *16a season 1: Valentine's Day* (2000). Furthermore, the meaning that can be derived from this portrayal can be analyzed through Barthes semiotic.

In the episode *49b season 3: Rock-a-Bye Bivalve*, performative acts such as accessories, attitude and clothing are highlighted. For accessories, it can be seen in picture 1 and 2 exist in previous chapter. In those picture, Spongob appear with woman attributes that intended for women; he wears a pink hat, high heels and he holds a purple lace umbrella also wears hair roller while Patrick wears a man attribute; a bow tie. For attitude, it can be seen in picture 3 and 4, Spongebob feeding the baby scallop and he prepares breakfast for Patrick who would goes to work. These traits portray gay traits and gay relationship between Spongebob and Patrick.

In the episode *16a season 1: Valentine's Day*, performative acts such as attitude, clothing and physical reaction are highlighted. For clothing, it can be seen in picture 10. In that picture, Patrick appears wears girly outfit; tight white

shirt with red heart on it. As we know tight shirt usually wear by women, so Patrick is portrayed feminine. For physical reaction, it can be seen in picture 11 and 12. In those pictures, Patrick appears with feminine, he feels excited and so happy when he get the special gift from Spongebob; a big heart-shaped chocolate balloon. These traits also portray gay traits and gay relationship.

Both episodes reveal the portrayal of gay through performative acts with slight difference. Episode 49 emphasizes more on attitude, while episode 16 highlights physical reactions. Therefore, the meaning that can be derived from the findings is that gay is normalized. It is normalized as identity is fluid so that a character can change role any time. Despite the gay portrayal, the research also finds that hegemonic heterosexual role is maintained, as one should act as female, the other act as male.

5.2. Suggestions

In completing this research, the author has found some difficulties that may be avoidable for future researcher. It is difficult to get resources and found the gap in the bulk of studies about queer. The author also faces the inconsistent of writing the research. In fact, if the author consistent to finish the research, it would be done less than two years.

This research can provide a useful reference for literature study and its application in the society. Therefore, the author suggests 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 literature to see how they are voiced and represented in children literature.
2. Regarding the research is as well focused on children literatures, the research should better be recognized as educative media for assisting parents to help their children in guiding the children when they watch television.

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