

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the conclusions which are drawn from the discussion in the previous chapter. It also provides several suggestions for the research in analyzing the reality construction in novels in the future.

5.1 Conclusion

This study was aimed at answering a research question on how the male and female central characters construct their reality in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*. From the findings and discussion in the previous chapter, it was revealed that the reality in *Gone Girl* was constructed through the conflictive marital relationship between the female and male central characters, Nick Dunne and Amy Elliott Dunne. The findings were based on the three aspects of marital relationship from a study conducted by Bartley et al. in 2005. These aspects were decision-making, gender roles attitude, and division of household labor. However the current study only focused on the conflicts which were based on decision making and gender roles attitude since division of household labor was still part of the aspect of gender role attitude.

In terms of decision making, the conflictive marital relationship could be seen from the process as well as the effect of major decision making which included the decision to move to a new city, decision to have kids, decision regarding career choices, and finally the decision to get a divorce. The findings showed that in the process of making a decision, both male and female characters did not consider each other's feelings, interests, or the effect of the decision on their relationship. Also, it appeared that the decisions made in their marriage were based on their own egos, desires, and interests and therefore led to conflicts within the marriage.

Furthermore, gender roles attitude also became the trigger towards the male and female characters' conflictive marital relationship. After analyzing the novel it was found that both Amy and Nick often talked about gender stereotypes which led to their expectations towards each other. The findings also indicated that there were double standards applied by Nick and Amy that affected their marital relationship. While Nick's double standard was on the roles of men and women, Amy had her own double standards on relationship and marriage. It was also found that both Nick and Amy showed hypocritical aspects in their views towards gender.

In conclusion, the text indicated a tendency for men and women to be involved in conflicts since they have different ways of constructing reality. It signified that these conflicts had an incredible effect on both men and women's senses of identity and their relationship between one another. More importantly, the text showed that the effect was more evident on women that the main female character finally decided to leave her partner that has broken both her expectations and her sense of identity in the novel.

5.2 Suggestion

After conducting the study, it is suggested that the research in the future will relate the reality constructed in a novel to the construction of identity of the characters since the reality itself has an influence on the changes of characters' identity in the novel. In addition, it is hoped that the study may contribute to the development of formal literary analysis that focuses on the reality construction particularly through the relationship between main characters in the novel and how it relates to the life of people in general.