

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

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 construction of identity of the central female Japanese character in *Naomi* by Jun'ichirō Tanizaki, and also suggestions for further research.

5.1. Conclusions

In conclusion, the study begins with an intention to see the process of Westernization in Japan after reading *Naomi* by Jun'ichirō Tanizaki. In an attempt to study Japanese's Westernization, the theory of mimicry seems to go hand in hand with this phenomenon. Moreover, most of the studies that have analyzed *Naomi* are comparative studies which do not focus on the postcolonial perspective of the novel. Therefore, this study tries to disclose Naomi's tendency to mimic Western cultures and behaviors as one of the influences of postcolonialism era based on a research question: How does mimicry shape the construction of the central female Japanese character in Junichiro Tanizaki's *Naomi*?

To answer the research question, this study focuses on exploring the issue of identity construction in *Naomi* by analyzing ambivalences in Naomi's characterization. In exploring the issues, this study employs Bhabha's concept of mimicry as its main theory. The concept of mimicry is used in this analysis in order to explore how mimicry shapes Naomi's construction of identity. The results of the analysis show that mimicry shapes Naomi's character by way of displaying ambivalences in terms of: (1) physical; (2) materialist and consumptive behavior; (3) intelligence; and (4) etiquette.

The analysis shows that *Naomi* by Jun'ichirō Tanizaki can be considered as a literary work of the postcolonial era. It can be seen in how Tanizaki brings out the topic of postcolonial characterization in the ways of depicting Westernization and the

connection between colonizers (Westerners) and colonized peoples (Japanese) in the novel. The postcolonial characterization can be seen in the practice of mimicry is shown in Naomi, a female Japanese character, who undergoes some changes in her identity as she tries to make herself equal with the Westerners. After analyzing the changes in Naomi's character, it is found that mimicry shapes an in-between and inconsistent character.

As a postcolonialist discourse, the story shows that even though Naomi has successfully mimicked the Westerners' way of acting, she still cannot be equal with their way of being. This proves that despite the portrayal of successful mimicry, Tanizaki still implicitly shows that Naomi is still not "quite" like a Westerner. As Bhabha posits, the colonized peoples who practice mimicry cannot construct a fully equivalent identity like the colonizers (Tibile, 2009).

5.2. Suggestions

This study aims to explore the issue of mimicry in central character, Naomi, in Junichiro Tanizaki's *Naomi* and how mimicry affected the character in the process of development by doing a postcolonialist reading. However, since postcolonialism is a broad subject, it is advised to analyze this novel by using other postcolonialist approaches. For example, the approaches from Bhabha's theories such as hybridity and cultures, the uncanny, the stereotype, the nation, and the otherness may useful to analyze this novel. Different postcolonial approaches from other theorists such as GayatriSpivak and Edward Said can be used to conduct a research in other postcolonialism perspectives. Moreover, this study only focuses on the postcolonialist reading, therefore, it is suggested that more kinds of reading from another theories could be employed. For example, post-modernist reading, content analysis, structuralism approach, feminist reading, and psychoanalysis approach.

Since there is a limitation of the subject of analysis in this study which only focuses on Naomi's identity construction, it is suggested that Joji's presence in the novel as the main male protagonist is also explored. Also, this novel seems to lack in depth of portraying how Western religion, philosophy, political and economic

theory influenced Japan in 1920's. Therefore, in order to fully analyze Westernization in Japan during 1920's, it is advised to use other Japanese literary works as the object of analysis.

Hopefully, this research can give a beneficial contribution to the study of postcolonialism and become an inspiration for those who are doing similar research. By doing postcolonialist reading, the readers do not only understand the content of the novel, but dive deeper into the ideologies that the novel wishes to convey. One of the ideologies that the readers can perceive is postcolonial ideology. The readers can identify lexis to understand the discourse being promoted in the novel.