

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents the conclusion of the study and offers suggestions for further research. The conclusion section begins with a brief description of aspects underlying this study: background, purpose, findings and conclusion. Meanwhile, the suggestions section offers some recommendations for further research on the topic.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

This study aims to reveal what kinds of alienation and how they manifest in Haruki Murakami's *Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman* and to analyze the findings in its relation to contemporary Japan. The findings show that there are four alienation aspects evident in the novel: powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, and social isolation. It also shows that the alienation aspects manifest through obscure source, the problem resulted from choices overload, fragmentation of life, and disconnected relational self.

Seeing from the perspective of postmodern Japan, Murakami's *BWSW* portrays contemporary alienation which is caused by the prevalence of consumer capitalism and the dissolution of Japan traditional norms, which have become more intense since at least after Japan's involvement in World War II and the student movement in the sixties. Hence Murakami's *BWSW* can be interpreted as a representation of contemporary Japan, specifically a picture of contemporary alienation.

In a bigger picture, the assumption that postmodernism happens in Japan can be viewed as a reminder for the people living outside the Western world to raise their awareness upon this phenomenon. For instance, speculatively, in connection to Indonesia's contemporary situation, the postmodern alienation phenomenon in Japan portrayed in Murakami's *BWSW* can be interpreted as a prophetic vision for Indonesian culture in the future. For in spite of the grand

narrative's influence, such as religion and nationalism, in Indonesia is still dominant, there is no telling that it will dissolve to the extent which happened in Japan.

## 5.2 Suggestions

This present study has revealed alienation aspects portrayed in Murakami's *BWSW* and its relation to contemporary Japan by viewing it through postmodernism perspective. Concerning to the issue analyzed in the present study, the writer would like to suggest ideas for future studies.

Considering the scarcity of studies that explore literary works on the issue of postmodernism in this institution, thus to expand and enrich the scope of literary studies, this study suggests postmodern analyses of other literary works which are presumed to exhibit postmodern moods for instance about the death of grand narrative, such as William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!*, Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, or Jorge Luis Borges' *Labyrinths*.

Given the many works that have been published by Murakami, the future research can study other Murakami's short stories or even his major novels. It can be conducted by using different approaches, such as Feminism or Psychoanalysis. From psychoanalysis perspective, there are many questions which are left to be answered in the future research, such as what the surrealistic dream-like elements in three short stories in *BWSW*: "The Mirror," "Man-Eating Cats," and "Dabchick" signify. In feminist perspective, for instance it would be intriguing to answer a question such as how commodification of the female body in Murakami's novels: *A Wild Sheep Chase* and *Sputnik Sweetheart* represents women's position in the contemporary world.