CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents the conclusion of the study and the suggestions for further studies with a similar issue.

5.1 Conclusions

The present study has analyzed three short stories taken from the book *Cerita Pendek tentang Cerita Pendek* written by Djenar Maesa Ayu. This study aims to investigate how male and female characters are represented in the short stories and to uncover the meanings of the representation. This study applied Fairclough’s three dimensional stages of critical discourse analysis (1989): description stage, interpretation stage, and explanation stage. The description stage reveals the linguistic features of the three short stories by using Halliday’s theory of transitivity (2004) that answers the first research question. The interpretation stage interprets the data from the previous stage in terms of the meanings of dominant process types to answer the second research question. The explanation stage further analyzes the data in relation with broader contexts of society in Indonesia.

This study concludes that six process types (material process, mental process, behavioral process, verbal process, existential process, and relational process) are used to represent male and female characters in the three short stories. In terms of occurrences, female characters have the highest number since they are the main characters. Compared to male characters, female characters have higher number in five process types (material, mental, verbal, relational, and behavioral process). This can be understood that the author tries to represent female characters as more active. However, in term of participant of transitive material processes, it indicate that male characters are more dominating while female characters are struggling victims. Considering the author is associated with writing about sexuality issues from female’s perspective, it can be interpreted that the author deliberately represents the characters as so.
This is because the author of these short stories has power to construe reality that can influence readers’ opinion about something or someone (Purbani n. d.). Leaning to this, the short stories try to tell people that females can still act and voice out their opinion even when being oppressed by males. This can be seen in how female characters are represented more in the process types.

Furthermore, in regards to the broader contexts of Indonesia in the three short stories, the explanation stage suggests that the three short stories are inclined to pose similar intentions with the author. The three short stories are struggling to contribute establishing female’s equality with male and to bluntly outspoken taboo issues of female in Indonesian society. Thus, it suggests that these short stories are indirectly in line with the perspectives of feminism in which female should be equal with male.

5.2 Suggestions

Due to limited time and materials, the scope of this study only comprises three Indonesian short stories written by Djenar Maesa Ayu in which the study is narrowed to analyze the dominant patterns of transitivity. However, there are few suggestions that can be drawn from this study. First, identifying verbs is one of methods to critically find out how characters are described in literary texts. This can affect reading activities of literary texts individually or collectively (in a class). In a class, it is expected that teachers or lecturers can be more selective in teaching texts to students because of its powerful influence to shape the students’ perceptions about gender. Second, this study is supposed to give enriching ideas and knowledge to the readers to understand the perspective of gender in Indonesian literary texts. The researcher expects readers to be able to read texts critically.

Third, other researchers can explore more about this issue; for example, they can investigate how females are described in some parts of the story or how children (males or females) are described as well. This study investigated only the types of process used to represent characters which are related to gender. Due to the limitations of this study, the researcher recommends other researchers to
investigate other language aspects with different frameworks; for example, recontextualization by Van Leeuwen (2008), sociocognitive approach by Van Dijk (2009), modality system in Halliday’s functional grammar (1994), and historical approach by Wodak (2009). Lastly, it is also suggested for further studies to take data from different authors to see how the same phenomenon is represented by different authors.