

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter concludes the study based on the analysis presented in the previous chapter. It also provides suggestions for further studies on issues of cultural identities in literary studies.

5.1. Conclusion

This study's purpose is to investigate identity issues faced by Natasha Kingsley and Daniel Bae, the main protagonists of *The Sun Is Also A Star* (2016) by Nicola Yoon. In particular, it seeks to uncover how the characters understand their cultural identities and the factors that shape their cultural identities by using Bhabha's notion of hybridity, mimicry, and third space. The analysis reveals that the characters experience cultural identity crisis since they tend to refuse to acknowledge that they manifest hybrid identities. This was found based on the characters' characterization which demonstrate how they understand their cultural identities through the way they associate themselves with the concept of place, language use, and shared culture (Petkova, 2005). It is also interesting to note that although both characters live in the United States of America, the characters share different understandings of their cultural identities. While one character is hybrid through mimicry with no indication of occupying the third space, the other character is in the state of ambivalence where he occupies the third space. However, it is important to highlight that the concept of mimicry and third space are not mutually exclusive. It does not mean that when a person mimics, they cannot occupy the third space. Therefore, in other cases, it is possible that a person may go through mimicry and occupy the third space as well. As for the factor that shapes this differing outcome of their cultural identities, it turns out that the characters' relationship with their surroundings, particularly their intimate relationship with their family is what shapes their cultural identities the most.

Through the characters' cultural identities, this study proves that cultural identity is a complex subject. It indicates that every individual is unique and that

the experience of migration and its impact cannot be generalized and considered the same with one another.

5.2. Suggestions

There are many characters presented in the novel *The Sun Is Also A Star*. However, this study is only limited to the main characters of *The Sun Is Also A Star* who are teenagers. For this reason, future research may be conducted on the issues of identity faced by other characters discussed in the novel, such as the adults, the parents of the characters. This can also be done by using other theories of identities formulated by other theorists. Analyzing the novel through the lens of feminism is also feasible since the novel also portrays the relationship between husband and wife in a household.

Apart from this novel, future research can also investigate issues related to the cultural identities from other contexts and novels since the process of identity formation and construction of each person is unique and cannot be generalized. The context in this case can be different geographical context. Many research studies have explored the impact of migration from the East to the West, yet it seems that only few have looked into the identity issues of a person who migrates from the West to the East. On that account, investigating this case can be done by other researchers. Furthermore, the context can be in terms of language, hence, examining identities from the aspect of language is also realizable. Finally, highlighting different dimensions of identity other than the factors that shape one's identity, such as how a person's identities can operate differently in different contexts can also be conducted in future studies.