

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter deals with the conclusions of this study which are taken from the findings and discussion from the previous chapter. The conclusion of this study is an assessment which based on the process of interpreting and discussing the findings in the previous chapter. This chapter also provides suggestions for future studies.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

The aim of this study is to answer this research question: how power is exercised in the novel *Confession*. This study adopts the framework of Michael Foucault's theory of Power Relation and supported by the theory of Bases of Power proposed by French and Raven (1959), which was updated by Raven (2008) in order to analyze the data of this study.

In this study, it is revealed that power is exercised by the media and the society, including the resistances toward both institutions by the main characters in the novel. The distribution of discourses practiced by media and society ended up creating normalization toward the characters' minds. Normalization here is narrowed and simplified as a system that tells the subject under it about what is "normal" and what is "abnormal". It also works as a norm. In this novel, the media-constructed ideas of a murderer by producing discourses with portrayals of Lunacy. Meanwhile, society implanted ideas to its members by punishments. In the novel, it is shown that the power relations exercised by both media and society were abused and done without responsibility.

The media exercised power by choosing Lunacy to be news material, airing constant and repetitive news about Lunacy, deciding to name the murderer as "Lunacy", and blaming another figure for Lunacy's crime. These actions resulted in the idea that murder is a normal thing and a murderer is to be idolized. The media then received resistance by the main characters in the novel, which are Shuya Watanabe and Yuko Moriguchi. Shuya resisted by blaming the media for the murder

crime he had done. Meanwhile, Moriguchi resisted by using her legitimate power as a teacher to influence her students to resist the media's power.

Proceeding to the next finding, it is found that society exercises power through punishments. The ones who exercised power as the society are Yuko Moriguchi (as a teacher) and the students. As a teacher, Moriguchi exercised power by influencing her students to think that murderers should be punished as much as a society could do. This is realized in punishment to Shuya and Naoki by giving them milk cartons injected with HIV and by indirect surveillance to remind both murderers about the crime they had done. Then, the students exercised power by supporting the series of punishment that Moriguchi had done to Shuya and Naoki. Their punishments include societal isolation and mental tortures in a form of bullying.

It is found that the punishments are delivered to three main characters which are Shuya Watanabe, Mizuki Kitahara, and Naoki Shitamura. The punishments that Shuya received did not affect him because he had received different discourses from his mother that resulted in him being anti-social. Meanwhile, the punishments that Mizuki received resulted in her resistance toward society and her coalescence with Shuya. Then, the punishment that Naoki received affected him too much that his mental state was snapped and murdered his mother as an act of resistance.

From all of the findings, it is indicated that this novel shows how powerful and dangerous the exercised power by the media and the society. The media is depicted as manipulative and irresponsible while the society is depicted to be excessive and inhuman. The media is shown to have a possible influence on the audiences in creating more tendencies to commit murder. Meanwhile, the society is shown to deliver excessive and inhuman punishments that make things worse. By knowing about how power is exercised, it is indicated that this novel creates an impression to criticize the power that is exercised by the media and the society.

For conclusion, the novel *Confession* works as a criticism of the abuse of coercive power and irresponsible media's power in the production of normalization

practiced in everyday life. It also acts as a reminder that power is a dangerous thing if does not control with precaution with its possible side effects. Then, it is meant to open the readers' mind to be critical toward the responsibility that media and society share with crimes that happen. The novel creates the impression that media and society are likely to play a part in influencing the criminal's mind and action.

## **5.2 Suggestions**

Regarding the analysis of power in the novel *Confession*, this study suggests for future researches to explore the notion of power and gender studies or feminism in the novel. This is due to the construction of the novel where all the characters who got murdered are all female characters and those who murdered them are all male characters. It is also suggested for future researches to explore more about the notion of power and identity due to the issue of identity created by the decision to resist or not to resist the power exercised to the subject of power.

Another suggestion is to analyze this novel in young adult literature perspective due to the three teenage main characters presented in the novel. Then, feminist perspective also can be applied in this novel because of the three female main characters which are written in the novel.

Furthermore, this study suggests the readers do researches in analyzing the notion of power, resistance, and normalization in other novels with different genres. It is encouraged to explore more on the notion of power presented in novels written by writers of the non-western cultural base in order to enrich the knowledge of power and normalization in different cultures.