

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents the conclusion of this research and suggestion of the study from the result of the analysis of the study.

5.1. Conclusions

This study aims to analyze the representation of whiteness in the novel *Invisible Man* by using the theory of representation proposed by Young (1999) and Whiteness by Garner (2007). As the aim of the study is to analyze the representation of whiteness, Young's theory of representation is used in this study to find the textual evidence of the representation under the category of three literary depictions. The literary depiction then is connected to the theory of whiteness which covers four whiteness themes: (1) Terror and supremacy, (2) Absence, (3) Values, norms, and cultural capital, (4) Contingent hierarchies. The result of the study shows that the issue of whiteness in the novel is dominantly represented through verbal depiction with the theme of terror and supremacy. Through the verbal depiction evidence that is found in the novel, it can be concluded that the effect of whiteness is dominantly manifested in the state of mind of an individual.

Whiteness is not limited in terror and supremacy. Furthermore, it covers many aspects of society. One to mention is its functions as a framing position that makes White able to define the identity of the non-white. The presence of White defines the Narrator's identity, and the white-dominated society he lives in; he then defined himself as the invisible man—not because he is invisible, but society refuses to see him. Whiteness also roots their values in society, which for sure to advantage White. Throughout the novel, White is treated as the superior being to those who are not white; everything related to White, that has the value of White, is seen as the right thing. From the study, it can be seen that whiteness is the most specific act of racism.

As the final point, this study is conducted to provide an alternative understanding of the issue of racism. Whiteness is a more constructed act of racism which covers many aspects that advantage White; it is in the form of white supremacy and white privilege. The superiority of white and their privilege of being white brings terror to the non-white and make them see White as the superior race.

5.2. Recommendations

Drawing on the conclusion, it appears that there have not been many studies which analyze the specific act of racism. Even though the novel *Invisible Man* is famous and influential literary work, the previous studies that have been conducted only analyze the issue of racism. This study is an excellent opportunity for future researchers who want to analyze the issue of whiteness by making this novel as the source of the data or uses another novel which potentially brings the issue of whiteness. The present study only focuses on analyzing the four themes of whiteness through literary depiction. Further studies can also investigate the issue of whiteness by using various literary devices that support in analyzing the representation of whiteness. Further researchers are encouraged to conduct a more comprehensive analysis on the issue of whiteness not only limited by the four themes of whiteness as proposed by Garner (2007). The issue of whiteness can be linked to the theory of power relation, blackness, feminism, and other theories that relate to the issue of whiteness.

Findings show that the issue of whiteness in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* is dominantly represented through terror and supremacy. Therefore, further researchers can analyze these aspects in details. This study is expected to be a stepping stone in analyzing whiteness as a specific act of racism.