

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter is divided into two sections. The first section provides the conclusions of the present research based on the analyses presented in the previous chapter. The second section provides some suggestions for further research.

5.1. Conclusions

The present study aims to examine how women's subordination is portrayed in *Wither* (2011). Mitchell's (1966) theory of socialist feminism and Roberts and Jacobs' (2004) elements of fiction (plot, character and characterization, structure, theme, writer's tools) have been used in analyzing the portrayal of women's subordination in the novel. In addition, this research uses textual analysis that particularly focuses on words in text data (Mckee, 2003). This method is used in order to describe and interpret the portrayal of women's subordination in the novel *Wither* (2011). Having done the textual analysis, the researcher found that women's subordination in the novel *Wither* is mostly portrayed through the dictions and the characters' narrations.

The findings of the research reveal that women in the novel are subordinated mostly in terms of sexuality. In terms of sexuality, women are being referred to and treated as sexual objects, they become polygamous brides, and they lose their freedom after get married. Furthermore, women are also subordinated in terms of reproduction, production, and socialization.

Women in the novel are referred to and treated as sexual objects by men. This implies that women are portrayed as subordinated to men. Women's being treated as objects can be seen through men's actions in the novel, as when men examine women's sensitive body organs such as hips, lips and teeth. Another

form of subordination in terms of sexuality is when women are forced to be a polygamous bride which also indicates that women slowly lose their freedom in life. Women are not given choice either to accept the marriage or not, because the decision is all up to men. In addition to polygamy, women increasingly lose freedom after they get married. Their lives are fully regulated by their husband. They are not even allowed to leave the house except to accompany their husband to an event. The wife who accompanies the husband, however, is only the husband's favorite wife. This then leads to competition between wives to become favorite wives. As a result, the wives gradually forget the subordination they are actually experiencing.

The portrayal of women's subordination in terms of sexuality is actually related to the other sector, which is reproduction. As has been discussed in the previous chapter, women in *Wither* are kidnapped and forced to marry men in order to save human existence. One way to save the existence is by producing babies. Therefore, women in the novel are valued by considering their reproductive function to bear children. Moreover, when women have become a wife and get pregnant, their activities such as socializing and communicating with people around them are restricted by the husband. For example, when the character Cecily gets pregnant, she is not allowed to leave her room by her husband. Cecily is alienated from the environment by her husband as well as by her father-in-law, who is the Housemaster.

Furthermore, women's reproductive functions also cause women's subordination in the production sector. Women's obligation as a mother, for example, restricts their chance to have a job because they have to take care of their children at home. As a result, men dominate the production sector and thus women have lower participation in jobs as well as fewer job opportunities compared to men. In addition to women's reproductive function, women are also subordinated in the production sector due to their assumed weaker physiques and the coercion in the society. Women in the novel can only have jobs which require little energy thus will not make them tired. Most of the jobs are in domestic sector such as phone receiver, a cook, and a personal waitress.

As has been stated in previous paragraphs, women are subordinated in terms of sexuality, reproduction and production. From all the structures, there is a similar form of subordination which occurs in those structures, which is women's limited access to public sphere. This form is related to the last structure which is socialization, in which women are subordinated through the alienation of the society. In terms of socialization, women in *Wither* are made prisoners at their husbands' houses because they cannot go outside and socialize with the community.

The subordination of women in the novel *Wither* (2011) in each sector turns out to be related to one another, in which subordination in one particular sector can cause subordination in the other sectors. For example, as has been elaborated above, women's subordination caused by sexuality can widen to the reproductive sector, which then results in another subordination in the production and socialization sectors.

5.2. Recommendations

Based on the conclusions provided in the previous section, there are some suggestions brought forward for further research. Even though the findings of this research reveal that women's subordination is mostly found in terms of sexuality, the design of this research is limited only to women characters in the novel *Wither* (2011). Therefore, other researchers may conduct a study regarding how the male characters are portrayed in the same novel.

In relation to women's subordination, future researchers can carry out other studies on another literary work of different genres. This can reveal new insights about women's subordination. Moreover, it will contribute to the field even more if the literature on women's subordination can be further enriched by incorporating other literary works such as poetry, film, or drama. In relation to research on dystopian novels, it is recommended to conduct research regarding how a bad future affects its female and male characters. This kind of study can provide useful contribution to the literature on dystopian genre. The writer hopes that through this study, research on women's subordination in literary works can

continue to develop. Additionally, the study can also help students to be more aware and more critical about the phenomenon of women's subordination in their surroundings.

Annisa Fauziah, 2018

THE PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN'S SUBORDINATION IN A DYSTOPIAN NOVEL ENTITLED WITHER BY LAUREN DESTEFANO (2011)

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu | perpustakaan.upi.edu