

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter provides the conclusions of the research that are drawn from the data analysis and the discussion on the previous chapter. In addition, suggestions for further studies are also presented for analyzing the issue of power, especially in an intercultural marriage.

5.1 Conclusions

The present study strives to investigate the way power is exercised in *Good Chinese Wife* memoir and determine which types of power is used by employing Raven's (2008) six bases of power. There are only three visible types of power in the story, which are expert power, referent power, and coercive power. The power itself is exercised by the husband to his wife. There are three sources of conflicts that occur in the story that triggers the exercise of power. The conflicts are caused by superiority, cultural differences, and sexual interaction. Based on the results of the study, superiority is the main cause of power exercise since it occurs in every three types of power. Superiority itself happens because of Cai's perception of superiority of his Chinese culture, as the head of the family, and of highly regarded professions. Thus, Cai always thinks that he has more knowledge than Susan.

Susan's failing in becoming a Good Chinese Wife is a result of her not exerting her own power to resist Cai until the last minute. Susan and Cai's intercultural marriage life does not survive since neither of them tries to emerge their identity. They hold on to their own identity as an American and Chinese. In order for an intercultural marriage to survive, some solutions can help them. Two of the solutions are either one partner gives up his/her culture and then adapt to the other's culture instead, or both parties produce a new culture through a dialectic process. Hence, looking at Susan and Cai's situation, there are not any solutions open for them.

The memoir shows how power can be manifested through love. In this case, power is exercised by Cai because he takes advantage of Susan's love towards the Chinese culture. For most of the memoir's progression, Susan does not choose to resist Cai's power. However, by the end of the story, Susan decides to leave their marriage, and this shows that Susan is still a free subject. She decides to break Cai's chain of power exercise and instead tries to exert her own power by filing a divorce. Hence, it stops Cai's power and marks the end of the story.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the present study, there are some suggestions proposed for further researches. First, it is suggested that future studies analyze the memoir in a different topic other than power since the memoir raises other issues like cultural identity or gender relation. Second, it is also suggested to analyze other literary works in the field of power specifically in marriage life, since there are still not many of them. Third, it is best if the analysis uses different variables to produce different perspectives on how power is exercised in an intermarriage life. The different variables can be in the form of two different language use, two different countries setting of the story or two other cultures besides Chinese and American. Additionally, future researches should try to explore the notion of power in an intermarriage life using other theoretical frameworks other than Raven's bases of power. This is intended to enrich the analysis in the field of power relations.