

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents the conclusion of the present study based on the findings and discussion expounded in the previous chapters. Suggestion for further study related to this present research is also concluded in this chapter.

5.1. Conclusions

This present study aims to answer the question of how Michael Cunningham, as a male writer, portrays women in his novel *The Hours*. After conducting the study and analyzing the findings it is discovered that Cunningham shows the issues discussed in liberal feminism by portraying women in the level of attitudes within domestic sphere, traits, and the act/decision towards self-liberation.

Cunningham illustrates how women can be unconfident in doing domestic tasks and how they are being not their true self within the domestic sphere they inhabit. By this portrayal, he illustrates how domestic sphere can be very exhausting and agitating for women. This illustration conforms Betty Friedan's view on women who are having 'the problem with no name'.

Cunningham supports liberal feminist belief that human being should work towards androgynous future by portraying women in *The Hours* as androgynous persons who possess good feminine and masculine traits. The good feminine traits that women in *The Hours* possess are nurturing, gentle, and tactful. At the same times, the women in the novel also possess good masculine traits such as ambitious, firm, and independent.

Besides being androgynous, women in the novel are portrayed as the ones who are capable of acting or making decision towards their own self-liberation. This includes acting out of their will and finding an escape to gain freedom from the exhaustion they feel in the domestic domain they inhabit. This is in line with liberal feminism value where individuals, be it men or women, must pursue their own desire so that one's happiness can be maximally attained (Mill, 1869, cited in Tong, 2009).

In conclusion, it can be said that these portrayals of women in the novel are different from that of most feminist critics claim. The author shows women's dissatisfaction and exhaustion with complexity and in great details. Liberal feminism values are found within the novel. As the result, with the benefit of stream of consciousness method, the author has successfully written women's experience and their situation without being hostile and misogynistic.

5.2. Suggestions

The present study has revealed how Michael Cunningham, as a male author, portrays women in the novel *The Hours*. Afterwards, in this section suggestions are offered in a hope for being useful for future studies in the same field. Since *The Hours* is Cunningham's homage to and the remake of Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, the writer suggests researchers conduct a comparative study regarding women condition in *The Hours* and *Mrs. Dalloway*.

Related to the issue of feminism, it is recommended for researchers to conduct further research on the novel within other feminist perspectives. For example, existential feminism is likely suitable to adopt as the guiding theory since it specifically discusses existential angst experienced by women.

Finally, the writer suggests the Department of English Language and Literature to provide more contemporary literatures as materials so that the students not only know the canons, but also the contemporaries. It is also recommended for the Department to expand and update the literary theories to the more recent ones.