

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusions

From the findings and discussion in the previous chapter, discrimination towards a character with AIDS in the screenplay of "Philadelphia" was depicted by portraying the character with AIDS and other characters in the relation of power. Their interactions and relations created one's domination over others. As a consequence, a group or person who was regarded as the powerless experiences inequities or discrimination. Discriminatory treatments which were experienced by the infected character were exercised in a variety of contexts, for instance a character discriminated the infected character (1) because of scare of contracting AIDS and hatred for homosexuals, (2) to avoid over reaction from a particular group who noticed the presence of the character with AIDS, (3) for the sake of obedience to their employer, and so forth. As a consequence, the characters unfairly treated the character with AIDS in different forms of discrimination both individually and institutionally. Individual discrimination means the unfair treatments were exercised by an individual and was mainly caused by personal reasons. Meanwhile, institutional discrimination refers to discrimination which was exercised on behalf of an institution's interest.

Next, from the findings, power in the text belonged to the characters who might lack information about AIDS. In other words, they became the powerful because of their lack of information about AIDS. Therefore, they were

able to unfairly treat the character with AIDS. These kinds of people could be the educated and uneducated who placed high or low positions in an institution. For those who placed higher position, they might have a capacity to influence the lower ones to believe that the infected character deserved to get the treatment. Additionally, the involvement of personal and institutional power in discriminatory conducts in the text showed us that power is not only centered on one place. It is everywhere, just what Michel Foucault asserted about power.

Furthermore, the character with AIDS may not only experience discrimination in his workplace, but also in several public services. The act of discrimination took different forms. In general, they were in the form of verbal and nonverbal. Verbal discrimination was categorized into overt (explicit statements) and covert (implicit statements) forms. On the other hand, nonverbal discrimination referred to unwelcome facial expression and gestures, including avoiding making any physical contacts with the character with AIDS.

It was stated before that there would be a reaction over an action. It could also be seen in the text. The character with AIDS might resist in both verbal and nonverbal way. Nonverbal resistance did not only refer to using gestures/facial expressions but also being indifferent to the characters who discriminated him. Interestingly, resistance was not only given by the subject who experienced discrimination. Some reactions were also shown by other characters who were not involved directly in the case. They did this action for the sake of showing sympathy, solidarity, and also familial relationship. From these

findings, it can be said that resistance is changeable and depends on the interest of the individuals or groups which are involved.

In addition, the screenplay of "Philadelphia" was successfully presented the struggle of a character with AIDS. The text showed us that social ignorance regarding HIV/AIDS transmission may create social indifference. Consequently, unfair treatments could be experienced by people with AIDS. Social indifference might result from a belief that AIDS only contracted those who had unnatural behaviour, such as homosexuals. That is why, some societies excused themselves from taking care of people with AIDS and think of that infected people must have personal responsibility for their lifestyle.

This study is also relevant to what happens in our society today. Discrimination towards people with AIDS might not only be happening in poor countries whose citizens lack education. It might also be happening in modern countries as depicted in the screenplay of "Philadelphia". In the end, as a literary work, film is an appropriate media to deliver and raise social consciousness referring to AIDS, just like what "Philadelphia" did.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the research, the writer would like to recommend several things. Firstly, film basically has many potential aspects to be analyzed compared to poetry or prose. Therefore, for further researches, the writer suggests researchers to analyze other aspects of film, for instance visual and auditory aspects. Secondly, it is also recommended for researchers to study other points related to

the issues of discrimination, AIDS, homosexuality, and power. The last one, providing and searching for various sources as many as possible—especially dealing with the knowledge of film—is a must thing to do. It is because some books which are related to film knowledge are rarely found here.

