

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the conclusion of the present study and some pertinent suggestions for future research.

5.1 Conclusion

Conducted on the frame work of new historicism approach which focused on the social rules found within the text, the present study utilized social rules classification in categorizing those social rules. The present study applied a case study research method by using a close reading strategy in identifying the pieces of textual evidence found in the text.

Based on the analysis on the issue of prostitution in the novel *In the company of the Courtesan* authored by Sarah Dunant, it was revealed that there were four types of social rules found implicitly in the text that compromised prostitution: folkways, customs, religious rules and laws in Italy. Those rules could be classified into two groups: 1) social rules that promoted prostitution; and 2) social rules that regulated prostitution. The analysis also showed that prostitution was compromised by the depiction of the advantages of prostitution and some supporting circumstances that promoted or supported prostitution, i.e. Italian social rules, economic and war situation.

Referring to the notion of power relations as the most important context for all kinds of text, this story has indicated that power has an important role in defining the type of prostitution which is acceptable in the society. This indicates that the courtesan establishment is a form of compromised prostitution. It is acceptable at the time of the story because people who ruled or had power took advantages from courtesan practices.

In conclusion, it could be said that the novel *In the Company of the Courtesan* was successful in constructing the complexity of prostitution played in its plot. The plot depicted circumstances that made a courtesan played an important part and concealed prostitution. In addition, it also depicted the benefit of prostitution for an Italian society. Thus, it constructed a grey area for the idea of compromising prostitution which depended on power played by the characters.

5.2 Suggestion

In regard with the study that has been elaborated in this paper, the writer has some suggestions for further studies related to literary works analysis.

1. For improvement in future studies pertinent to literary works analysis, like the one conducted in the present study, the selection of the research subject could be expanded with variation in terms of theme or genre.
2. As the present study utilized new historicism approach which only focused on social rules written implicitly in the text, the future study could be expanded by

adding the other two of new historicism's concerns: the life of the author and the reflection of a work's historical situation in order to gain more comprehensive understanding.

