

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

This is the final part of the thesis which contains the conclusion and recommendation. The conclusion summarizes and wraps up the discussion elaborated in the previous chapter. In addition, the recommendation presents several suggestions for future research.

#### **5.1 Conclusion**

The finding of this research shows that there are three forms of women's oppression found in Rupi Kaur's selected poems namely gender roles issue, women objectification and sexual assault issue. These issues align with four values of patriarchy stated by Allan G. Johnson which are male domination, male identification, male centeredness and male's obsession to control.

Gender roles as a form of women's oppression manifest as society's expectation upon women which leads to discriminations against women in a patriarchal society. The discrimination limits women's rights and freedom because women are conditioned to be subservient to men and expected to fulfill men's needs underlining patriarchal values which put men as the dominant. The discussion in the previous chapter shows that Rupi Kaur signifies gender roles issues that commonly happen in a patriarchal society such as the obligation of women to serve men and restriction of women's right to speak.

Aside from discussing the ascribed gender roles for women, Kaur also discusses women objectification which is also a form of women's oppression. The act of turning women's bodies into an object to fulfill men's needs is a form of patriarchal oppression since this objectification aligns with patriarchal beliefs which undervalue women and strengthen male centeredness. Rupi Kaur

also describes the effect of being sexually objected which leads women to experience mental illness such as anxiety about appearance and body dissatisfaction. In this case, satisfying men's desires while putting aside women's health and needs is an unjust treatment. Likewise, sexual assault becomes a major case that is included as women's oppression. Sexual assault, including rape, terribly affects women both mentally and physically. This issue is a consequence of one patriarchal value, male dominance over women.

Despite the findings reflecting women's oppression in Indian culture as the author's background, these issues also commonly happen in other areas which preserve patriarchal culture such as Indonesia. Gender roles issue also happens in Indonesia, yet the influence comes from different beliefs. Compared to India's gender roles which is influenced by Hinduism, gender roles in Indonesia is influenced by Islamic values because the majority of Indonesian are adhered to Islam. Nevertheless, Islam also considers women's role to fulfil men's needs. It is represented in the creation of Eve from Adam's rib to accompany Adam in Jannah. Furthermore, women objectification and sexual assault as the part of universal issues also happens in Indonesia. However, there is a lack of awareness of Indonesian in handling objectification and rape or sexual assault cases. It is reflected in the government's regulation for not setting a stronger law and regulations regarding rape and sexual assault cases. Additionally, Indonesian citizens also often react negatively towards sexual assault victims who try to find justice. Therefore, these issues remain unheard in Indonesian society.

Lastly, the analysis of the selected poems also underlines Rupi Kaur's worldview. As a feminist activist, she always embraces women empowerment. Through her poems, Rupi Kaur engages women around the world to connect and stand for each other in fighting the patriarchal system in society. Other than that, through employing her poems, Rupi Kaur also helps women's consciousness about their own bodies. In this case, her poetry encourages

women to accept one-self's physical appearance even though they do not represent the society's beauty standards. Thus, this self-acceptance fosters women's mental health stability. Therefore, it will lead to a better quality of life for women.

## 5.2 Recommendation

There are several recommendations from this research. The first recommendation is about exploring women objectification issues in Rupi Kaur's poems. Second recommendation is the opportunity for future researchers to analyze intersectional feminism in Rupi Kaur's works. Lastly, women empowerment can also be an exemplary topic for further research.

The women objectification issue can be analyzed from Rupi Kaur's *milk and honey* (2014) and *the sun and her flowers* (2017). Both of these poetry collections respectively share women objectification issues experienced by the characters in the poems. These poetry collections also illustrate the consequences of women objectification such as self-objectification and the emergence of mental illness. Women objectification happens subtly among women. Analyzing this issue can help readers to share awareness about women objectification and its impacts on women. In analyzing this issue, future researchers can use objectification theory by Fredrickson & Roberts (1997).

Aside from the issue of women objectification, future researchers can explore Kaur's works focusing on intersectionality. As an Indian-born feminist poet, Rupi Kaur is closely related to intersectional feminism. Intersectionality is the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage (Oxford English Dictionary, n.d.). Intersectionality in feminism includes women in certain ethnicity, such as South Asian, which align to Rupi Kaur's

identity as Indian-born poet, as one of the largest ethnic group in South Asia. This topic is included in three of her poetry collections. She writes about the challenges of a brown woman who lives as an immigrant, including body image issue as women of colors and struggle to fight the discrimination against brown women in daily basis. Future researchers may apply feminist theory of intersectionality to examine intersectionality in Rupi Kaur's poems. In addition, future researchers can take a comparative approach to analyze intersectionality in contemporary poetry written by other poets who share the same characteristics as Rupi Kaur, such as Lang Leav, a Thai-born poet who stays in Australia.

The last research topic analyzed from Rupi Kaur's poems is women empowerment. In her three poetry collections, Rupi Kaur always writes a healing journey. The characters in her poems go through a painful situation such as suffering from trauma and depression to acceptance, growth, and empowerment. Future researchers can analyze the women's journey to gain empowerment by using feminist approach.