

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This chapter contains two parts which are conclusion and recommendation. The conclusion part is to conclude the discussion about the nameless main character's struggle against patriarchal practices through liberal feminism in *Memoirs of A Woman Doctor* (2000). Meanwhile, the recommendation part provides some recommendations for further research.

5.1 Conclusion

The object of this research is a novel entitled *Memoirs of A Woman Doctor* by Nawal El Sadaawi published in 2000. This novel describes the life of the nameless main character in which her family and society still adhere to a patriarchal system. Due to this issue, this research analyzes the struggle against patriarchal practices in *Memoirs of A Woman Doctor* (2000), focused on how the nameless main character fights against patriarchal practices through liberal feminism.

To answer the research question, which is how the nameless main character struggles against patriarchal practices, Rosemarie Tong's theory of liberal feminism is used. Based on Tong's theory, there are three aspects that become the focus for the women's struggle to be equal with men in the public sphere namely equality in education, equality in economy, and equality in civil liberties.

The first aspect that the nameless main character strives for is equality in education. Living in a patriarchal society where women do not need higher education makes the nameless main character experience difficulties and obstacles when she tries to continue her education at medical school. However, instead of feeling intimidated, the nameless main character continues to struggle to prove that she as a woman can continue her education to a higher level until she finally succeeds in becoming a woman doctor. With her success becoming a doctor, this shows that there is equality in education, where she as a woman can get a higher education until she finally becomes a doctor.

The second aspect that the nameless main character strives for is equality in the economy. With her status as a doctor, the nameless main character is able to make her own money. However, her husband, who gradually develops an inferiority complex because the nameless main character is able to earn his own money. Her husband forced her to close her practice. However, the nameless main character did not give up so easily, she finally left her husband and chose to keep her job so she could still earn money to fulfill her own needs. With this, the nameless main character shows that there is equality in the economy where she, as a woman, can earn her own income and fulfill her own needs.

The third aspect is equality in civil liberties, where there are two nameless main character freedoms in society, namely freedom of opinion and freedom of choice. In freedom of opinion, the condition of society that still adheres to a patriarchal system makes the existence and opinions of the nameless main character previously not considered by society, but the nameless main character tries to

remain brave in showing herself in society until finally she succeeds in becoming a doctor, her existence and opinion recognized by society. Then freedom of choice, where in a patriarchal society, women are only considered as subordinates. Patriarchal society assumes that decision makers are held strictly by men. However, when the nameless main character's husband forces her to close her medical practice, the nameless main character dares to oppose her husband and chooses to make her own decision, which is to leave her husband. With a woman having the courage to choose her own decision shows the existence of civil liberties where the nameless main character has the freedom to choose.

In conclusion, the nameless main character's awareness of the existence of patriarchal practices in her family and society plays a major role in her efforts and struggles to fight against patriarchal practices. The findings also show that the liberal feminism's three demands for achieving gender equality have been achieved, namely equality in education, equality in economic, and equality in civil liberties (Tong, 2009). The nameless main character's success in turning herself into a doctor, having her own income, being recognized by the society and being able to make her own choices as a woman shows that she has succeeded in fighting against patriarchy.

Lastly, given that the issues of patriarchal practices are still occurring in Indonesia, especially in remote areas where patriarchal practices have been enforced by the previous generations. It is important for society to understand that this patriarchal practice must be eliminated. However, Indonesian society, especially those who live in remote areas, still do not have sufficient understanding of

patriarchal practices that oppress and harm women. Therefore, it is essential to increase society's knowledge about this issue to stop patriarchal practices for the better generation and future.

5.2 Recommendation

There is one recommendation that emerged while conducting this research which may be made for further research. It is the use of self-identity theory to examine the same object of this current research, *Memoirs of A Woman Doctor* (2000) by Nawal El Sadaawi. This recommendation may be helpful for those who are interested in conducting research related to literary works.

There are still plenty of aspects from the novel *Memoirs of A Woman Doctor* (2000) that have not been examined yet. For example, future researchers could examine the nameless main character action with the use of self-identity theory. Future researchers then could find out whether the nameless main character can find self-awareness that will form a belief that comes from the life experience of the nameless main character. This research could be beneficial to widen scope of the research from the novel *Memoirs of A Woman Doctor* (2000), especially within the psychology in literature branch.