

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This is the last chapter of this research. In this chapter, the conclusion of the previous chapter is presented. Besides, this chapter also suggests the recommendation for further research.

5.1 Conclusion

The object of this research is Angie Cruz's novel entitled *Dominicana* and first published in 2019. *Dominicana* is a coming-of-age immigrant novel written by Angie Cruz, a New York born Dominican who traveled to and from New York City to the Dominican Republic for most of her formative years. *Dominicana* has been shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, one of the United Kingdom's most prestigious literary prizes. The background behind her in writing the novel is inspired by her mother's life who was an immigrant in her youth. Accordingly, the focus of this research is to unravel the struggles experienced by the female main character named Ana, an immigrant girl from the Dominican Republic to survive from oppression regarding the feminism issue. The researcher found that there are two important points in analyzing the novel. Those are Ana's struggle to survive from physical violence, and Ana's struggle to survive from psychological violence.

The first point is Ana's struggle to survive from physical violence. Physical violence in Cruz's *Dominicana* is depicted as occurring against a fifteen-year-old woman named Ana in an intimate partner relationship. However, in New York, Ana is subjected to abusive treatment at the hands of her husband, who controls her new

life in the U.S. as she learns how to play the role of a wife. *Dominicana* reflects on the forms of physical violence perpetrated by Juan to Ana in the form of slaps punches, and strangle according to the theory of physical violence by Ganley. Moreover, the physical violence experienced by Ana often left her helpless and it resulted in physical damaged to her body. The abuse that Juan inflicts on Ana symbolizes the destructive nature of patriarchy. Patriarchy places power in the hands of men which makes women become one of the objects that are often labeled as weak creatures (Madsen, 2000). However, it is revealed that Ana tries to struggle after a lot of abusive situations. She tries to fight back and dares to resist Juan when she is about to be hit by him by jumping on Juan's back and then pressing his eyeballs. Ana refuses to be weak and tries to fight for her life in order to survive. It represents the ideology of feminism which associates with women's struggle against discrimination toward gender which women consider as a weak gender (Purwarno, 2021). Ana's form of struggle is also demonstrated by trying to make Juan sick or damaging his health condition by feeding him a meal made from a pigeon. She believes that Juan will get sick if he eats pigeons. It represents self-defense in a difficult condition. As Purwarno (2021) stated that the ideology of feminism also teaches women to defend themselves from difficult conditions. Besides, Ana also shows the struggle to survive from the physical violence by trying to escape from her apartment.

The second point is Ana's struggle to survive from psychological violence. Ana experiences various kinds of psychological violence in her household. Ana loses her adolescence because of her marriage to Juan. However, Juan shows an act

of psychological violence in the form of intimidation and some of the time he isolates Ana in their apartment. Ana's world feels oppressive in its confinement. Ganley (2008:20) stated that intimidation can be done with or without breaking any item. The perpetrator might yell and scream in the victim's face, stand over the victim during a fight, drive recklessly when the victim or children are present, stalk, or put the victim under surveillance. Meanwhile, isolation refers to gaining control over the victims through a combination of isolation and disinformation tactics. Perpetrators often try to control victims' time, activities, and contact with others. However, in her husband's absence, Ana tries to rise up and struggle to survive in New York. Ana is in a tough reality with very little room to move, to find moments of joy, to dream, but she tries to struggle. She struggles and finds a way to make money via odd jobs, learns how to survive, and uses her assets to entrepreneurial advantage. Furthermore, Ana's struggle is done by learning English. Ana knows that education is very important to her. She thinks that it can make her become an independent person and make her successful in the future. It is revealed that she struggles to learn English by herself and join the free English lessons at the church. At the end of the story, Ana chooses to continue to struggle to be independent. She continues to dream and plan for her new life in New York so that she can successfully achieve her dreams in the future. The oppression perpetrated by Juan develops her perspective as an oppressed young woman into someone strong and able to survive in oppressive circumstances.

Conclusively, Ana's struggle to survive from physical violence and psychological violence is related to feminism. The amount of physical violence and

psychological violence experienced by Ana does not make her surrender. Ana as the main character of the novel proves that she is struggling and tries to fight for her life in order to survive from the oppression perpetrated by her husband. Besides, it can be highlighted that Ana chooses to always take advantage of opportunities and continue to struggle to become an independent and liberated woman. It proves that women can do struggle by maximizing their abilities and having the will to survive from injustice treatment or oppression.

5.2 Recommendation

There is one recommendation of a theory that can be used as a different approach in analyzing the novel further. The theory is Comparative theory. Through this recommendation, it is expected to inspire further research on Angie Cruz's *Dominicana*. Comparative theory in literature focuses on a comparison of literary works from different national literature, the relationship between literary works and science, religion (beliefs), and art as well as about theories, history, and critics (Kasim, 1996:26). This theory can provide a new perspective in analyzing the women's immigrant experiences from two novels from different nation. Also it can be used for comparing the powerful influence of the idea of the American Dream.