CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This last chapter consists of two main sections: the conclusion and the recommendations. The conclusion section provides a concise recapitulation of the findings from the preceding chapters, coupled with the outcomes of the analysis conducted. It serves as a summary that encapsulates the key points and results derived from the comprehensive study. On the other hand, the recommendations section is dedicated to proposing avenues for future research. It suggests employing the concept of character development as a tool for analyzing characters in movie. This approach could offer fresh insights and deepen our understanding of character dynamics in cinematic narratives. Additionally, it encourages the exploration of other theoretical frameworks for analyzing the work.

5.1 Conclusion

The objects of this research are the female characters from *Birds of Prey* movie (2020). Those characters are Harley Quinn, Renee Montoya, Black Canary, and Huntress. The analysis of character development in the *Birds of Prey* movie is revealing a complex storytelling that goes beyond the traditional superhero genre. The research question centers on the contribution of character development to the representation of the female gaze in the movie, and the exploration of Harley Quinn, Renee Montoya, Black Canary, and Huntress provides a nuanced understanding of how each character's development contributes to challenging traditional gender dynamics.

Harley Quinn's transformation from being dependent on Joker to becoming an independent and empowered woman forms a key narrative element. The visual elements, such as the destruction of the Joker-associated necklace, symbolize her liberation from male-

defined identities. The character's resilience in the face of adversity, including verbal abuse and physical threats, underscores the movie's exploration of agency, independence, and the rejection of societal expectations.

Renee Montoya's character development is marked by her struggles within a male-dominated law enforcement environment. The scenes depicting gender biases and the subsequent alliance with Harley Quinn and others highlight her evolution from a dedicated detective bound by societal norms to a crime-fighting ally challenging systemic injustice. The apology scene further underscores the importance of recognizing personal growth and complexity within characters.

Black Canary's character development revolves around the revelation and acceptance of her metahuman abilities. The reluctance to use her powers initially and the eventual betrayal of Roman Sionis demonstrate her transformation from a pawn to an empowered hero. The exploration of her internal conflicts and the use of her abilities in the final showdown contribute to the movie's overarching theme of personal growth and the importance of standing against injustice.

Huntress's character development is driven by a quest for revenge, initially following a solitary path. However, the revelation about Roman Sionis's involvement in her family's tragedy leads to a transformation from a vengeful vigilante to a member of the Birds of Prey. Her character's evolution symbolizes a shift from personal vendetta to a collective pursuit of justice, emphasizing the themes of unity, resilience, and the ability to overcome past traumas.

The research question posed in this study, "How does character development contribute to the representation of the female gaze in *Birds of Prey* movie?" is being

thoroughly explored and analyzed. The study aims to investigate the development and complexity of the female characters in *Birds of Prey* movie and how these elements contribute to a more authentic representation of women's experiences, particularly focusing on experiences, motivations, and transformations of female characters in the movie.

The study defines the female gaze as a critical framework challenging traditional, male-centric storytelling, emphasizing a more inclusive and authentic representation of women. It highlights the female gaze's role in exploring female characters' experiences, motivations, and transformations with depth and authenticity, fostering a deeper connection between the audience and the characters.

1) Experiences: The analysis of character experiences, particularly through the lens of the female gaze, reveals how the movie, *Birds of Prey*, portrays the emotional and transformative journeys of its female characters. Harley Quinn, Renee Montoya, and Huntress all undergo significant experiences, including heartbreak, betrayal, and trauma, contributing to their individual growth and development. The experiences of these individuals are intricately linked to their interactions with men. The first is Harley Quinn, who has been betrayed by two male figures, Joker and Doc. The second is Renee Montoya, a strong and determined individual, who faces challenges and biases from her male colleagues. The third is Huntress. Her entire family was brutally slaughtered by men, an event that has deeply affected her and significantly influenced her actions and motivations. These experiences highlight the profound impact that these male figures have had on Harley Quinn, Renee Montoya, and Huntress.

2) Motivations: The study explores the motivations of the four central female characters in the movie, illustrating how their desires, goals, and aspirations are depicted from

a viewpoint aligned with women's experiences and perspectives. The motivations of Harley Quinn, Renee Montoya, Black Canary, and Huntress are portrayed as diverse, breaking away from traditional portrayals of women in storytelling.

3) Transformations: Through the lens of the female gaze, the research analyzes the positive change arcs of the female characters, particularly focusing on Harley Quinn, Renee Montoya, Black Canary, and Huntress. The study reveals how the characters evolve from traditional roles, embracing independence, strength, and resilience. Their transformations are presented as integral to the overarching theme of the movie, challenging stereotypes and showcasing the complexities of women's experiences.

The research concludes that character development in *Birds of Prey* contributes significantly to the representation of the female gaze. By portraying women as fully realized individuals with nuanced experiences, motivations, and transformations, the movie challenges traditional narratives and provides a more authentic and empowering portrayal of women in storytelling.

In conclusion, *Birds of Prey* employs character development as a powerful narrative tool to subvert traditional gender norms, challenge societal expectations, and contribute to the representation of the female gaze. Each character's unique journey adds layers to the movie's exploration of agency, independence, and the strength that arises from solidarity among diverse individuals. The movie does not only entertain but also offers a thought-provoking commentary on the complexity of female characters within the superhero genre. *Birds of Prey* also employs the female gaze to present a narrative that transcends traditional gender stereotypes, fostering a deeper understanding of the characters and their journeys. Through experiences, motivations, and transformations, the movie contributes to a more

inclusive and genuine representation of women in cinema, aligning with the principles of the female gaze.

5.2   Recommendation

From the analysis results, several suggestions can be offered. The first suggestion pertains to the application of an alternative theory for analyzing the *Birds of Prey* movie. The second suggestion is about the further application of the female gaze in the movie. These suggestions are put forth with the intention that they may prove beneficial for future research in film studies.

The first suggestion involves the application of another literary theory to analyze the movie *Birds of Prey*. Certain elements in the movie can be examined using comparative theory in literature. For instance, this theory can be utilized to scrutinize the similarities and differences between Harley Quinn's character in the *Suicide Squad* movie and the *Birds of Prey* movie.

The second suggestion pertains to the broader application of the female gaze in movies. The female gaze can be employed to analyze a character's appearance in a movie. For example, it can be used for a detailed analysis of fashion in the movie. This approach can provide insights into how a character's attire and style contribute to their identity and influence the narrative.