

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This chapter is the final part of the thesis containing the conclusion and recommendation. The conclusion includes the main finding of the research and the recommendation contains several issues that can be analyzed for the future research.

5.1 Conclusion

Early slavery in America began in seventeenth century when white workers were replaced by the blacks who were taken from their homelands to work in colonies' farms with no payment. As the colonies' greed became higher, they wanted to own American land, resulting in the intensity of transporting more black people by kidnapping them and hiring them as slaves. Even though in the end of eighteenth century slavery was banned gradually in southern states, there was still kidnapping cases of free blacks.

Solomon's novel, *Twelve Years A Slave*, depicts the life of a kidnapped free black through his experiences which are analyzed in this research by using sociology of literature focusing on two aspects namely domestic slave trade and slaves code.

In terms of domestic slave trading, there are two aspects to be discussed. First, transferring the slaves from north to south. Slaves were gathered in a temporary house in Washington for few days, and then

traded by sea through Norfolk to New Orleans which was one of the biggest slave markets in the United States. The slaves who were not purchased in New Orleans would be taken and sold in Virginia and Louisiana. The second aspect is fugitive slave law which was created for catching the runaway slaves. Brutal treatments such as hanging and beating from the masters which happened everyday made the slaves suffer and chose to survive by escaping themselves, resulting in kidnapping the free blacks who considered fugitive slaves.

As for slaves codes reflected in Solomon Northup's *Twelve Years A Slave*, there are four points to be analyzed: punishment and abuse were given to slaves by whipping, hanging, and beating. Then, confiscating slaves for debt payment as slaves were considered property, thus, they could be sold or bartered. Further, working hour for slaves which required 15 to 16 hours per day and 6 days per week with only fifteen minutes break to have their meals at noon followed by working hard until late night. There were no time idle, if they spent time they would be lashed. The last thing is food for slaves which include a half pound of bacon for a week at dinner, a peck of corn at breakfast, and salt if it was allowed by the master.

The nineteenth century America was the age of end of slavery. Since then, there were many kidnapping cases which finally uncovered. Those two aspects mentioned above describe the life of slavery in

nineteenth century America as reflected in Solomon Northup's *Twelve Years A Slave*.

5.2 Recommendation

Solomon Northup's *Twelve Years A Slave* is an extraordinary novel. Because it is based on true story of the writer, it gives the reader many sociological ideas in understanding the early slavery and its social condition. The other researchers are invited to analyze the novel from different points of view, such as the effect of the master brutality to the slaves. Psychological point of view can also be used to analyze the psychology of the slaves characters.

