

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

After analyzing *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, I discover that interfaith family makes Margaret experience discomfort in living life. It is increasingly visible when she is in the transitional stage from childhood to adulthood. Margaret's religious identity is always a concern and questions of people around her.

This research focuses on the stage fourth and fifth, which are influenced by the interfaith family and impact Margaret's religious identity. I argue Blume portrays interfaith family through religious and interfaith family's life. I find that Sylvia, Mr. Paul and Mrs. Hutchin (extended family) are religious people who are convinced and obedient to religious teachings, while Herbert and Barbara do not apply aspects of religion in their life. I also find disharmony between members of the interfaith family and the difference in treatment from the interfaith family towards Margaret. It is shown in the novel when Barbara has a grudge against her parents, Herbert does not like the arrival of his in-laws and Barbara's dislike of Sylvia affects Margaret's religion.

I argue that interfaith family impacts Margaret's religious identity, which could be shown in her self-identity. Margaret defines herself as a different people in society because she has no religion. At stages four and five, when a person does not make it through these stages, it will result in feelings of inability, inferiority, confusion and disappointment. It can be known in the novel that Margaret becomes anxious because she thinks others will judge her badly and find her strange. She

tells lies to reduce her anxiety to appear normal to others. In addition, Margaret also feels incompetent. She is not able to have a religious identity like her friends. Margaret also becomes a confused person. She does not know where to worship and which religion to visit.

Furthermore, she had to think hard about celebrating Hanukkah or Christmas at her school. Lastly, Margaret is disappointed. She regrets being born into an interfaith family.

Margaret experiments the worship to solve her problem or crisis related to her religious identity. She comes to temple, church and confession to determine religion. In the end, Margaret returns to her old version. She meets God through a written letter. Margaret does not embrace any religion, but believes in her God version. In my opinion, Margaret becomes agnostic, and her decision does not reach fidelity.

5.2 Suggestions

After the analysis I did and explained before, it is undeniable that many other topics could be explored and developed from this novel. One of them is the enduring messages in Judy Blume's work *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*. The enduring messages which Blume presents in her work are: we could not force people to follow our desire, every decision made has its own risk, parents have responsibility to develop their children and etc.