Chapter IV

CONCLUSIONS

This research proves that the communities (both the show watchers and book readers) rely to the interpretive community they belonged in. The communities become more flexible and open, but still maintain their credibility by still using the text as the blueprint. It is proven in this research because the most popular interpretations in the survey: Rhaegar and Lyanna is Jon’s parents (62.79% of the show watchers and 75% of the book readers) and Melisandre will resurrect Jon (62.79% of show watchers and 63.5% of book readers) both have strong textual supports found by the readers.

Both of the communities have similar interpretations about Jon Snow’s character. The reason is, even though they are separate communities, they share a place to tell their interpretations of the narrative gaps they found. The places such as social media, reddit, and blogs perpetuate their interpretations with others’. Moreover, in the most general and subconscious level, audiences want to fit the narrative pattern they already knew into the character. As a hero, Jon Snow has to have a hero’s characteristics where he secretly has nobility blood and will rise from the death.

The research also proved that 56.25% of the book readers and 38.10% of the show watchers use social media. It is also confirmed from the respondents responses about the manners in which they create their interpretation. There are only small portions of the audiences (25.25% of the show watchers and 37.5% of
book readers) who claimed to come up with the interpretations on their own. The rest of the respondents’ answer affirmed that they get it somewhere else, such as through social media (as the highest percentage with 37.2% and 56.25%), Youtube, blogs, and reddit. This fact implies that social media has a very important contribution to the readers in order to shape their interpretation.

Despite its controversy, both the show watchers and book readers have positive feedback to the violence in the show. The average rating by the book readers is 4.31 which translate as ‘important’ and the average rating by the show watchers is 3.50 which translate as ‘kind of important’. This would mean that the readers believe in the necessity of the violence, such as strong bloody and brutal graphic violence for the overall narrative.

However, the audiences give a less rating to the nudity. The average ratings given are 2.58 and 2.63, which translate as ‘somewhat necessary’. The audiences give less approval to it because it is taboo in the society to display a full frontal nudity in television. It also perpetuates objectification against women.

Any medium of storytelling cannot provide all of the information the audience wants, which is why there are always narrative gaps in it. Popular interpretations have to prove its credibility by linking back to its textual support, which is the novel series. Therefore, production of meaning is not entirely depended on the creators of the story, because the audiences also have authority to decide which meaning matters and which meanings do not.