

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

#### 5.1 Conclusion

After analysing the novel, it can be concluded that Coetzee's *Disgrace* shows a complicated relationships between men and women, especially the interracial relationships. Coetzee describes marriage, affairs, and interracial relationships as unfavorable for women. I argue that Coetzee represents marriage in this novel as a prison for the female characters. Women in this novel have to face the patriarchal system that requires them to be passive and if they go against that norm, it will end in divorce. Those who still inside and were about to marry like Bev and Lucy, were trapped in the system because they were unable to fight back. Meanwhile, those who were divorced, such as Lurie's first and second wives, could be said to have "escaped" from prison and they were able to do that because there was nothing to "hold" them. The demand to be a passive woman makes women unable to voice their desires because only the husband has the right to do so. Not only that, Petrus' problem of not wanting daughters makes women suffer even more because if they do not give birth to boys, they are the ones to blame. This undermines the role of girls in a family. I believe that Coetzee agrees with radical feminists that the patriarchal system must be eliminated so that women are not oppressed anymore.

Then, affairs which I believe are not condemned by Coetzee. He views polygamy as an oddity but having affairs with other people is a common thing for

westerners to do. I also get the impression that he sees affairs as a fun thing to do without being committed. The last thing is the interracial relationship between men and women in this novel is not a problem. Coetzee is not against this interracial relationship, he seems to agree with this relationship. I argue that in a patriarchal system, the race is not so important as long as women remain subordinate to men. Like Lucy Lurie, a white woman who was raped by black men, and Melanie Isaacs who was raped by David Lurie, a white man. The two of them remained the ones who were harmed by the men.

The three relationships in Coetzee's novel between men and women in a patriarchal system in which this system create objectification of women. Coetzee describes the objectification of the women in this novel clearly. I find it in the way he describes these women. He usually begins by describing their physical form and weighing their beauty. He recounts how Lurie objectified his child which was inappropriate for a father to do. These women are considered valuable if they are beautiful. Then, the depiction of Lurie and Lucy's relationship where he does not like his daughter's life choices. I assume that Coetzee wants to show their lack of closeness as father and daughter so, Lurie wants to be involved when Lucy is already an adult.

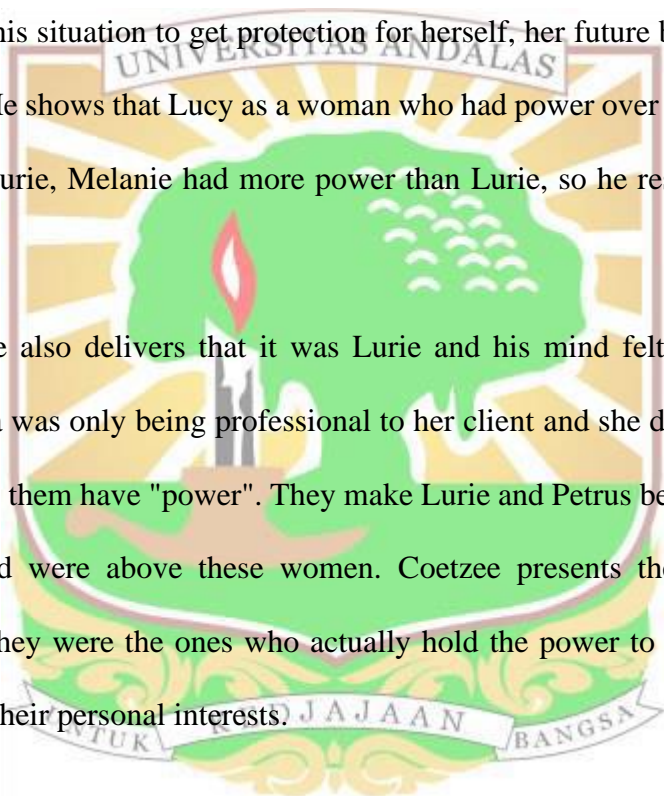
Coetzee vividly describes Lurie as a man who has a high ego and likes to feel empowered by people who are weaker than him. I see this in his relationship with Lucy and Melanie where he has a higher status than the two of them. This caused him to feel superior to them. Therefore, he felt that with that status he could easily replace the women. Coetzee makes Lurie have affairs with various women

which in my opinion is a way of showing that women are only to satisfy his sexual desires.

Then, the destruction of integrity that is done by Petrus to Lucy is a very brutal way to be done to women. I believe that Coetzee shows how devastated Lucy was after being raped and would marry the mastermind of the incident as a picture of how oppressed she would be. I also see that Coetzee seems to make Lucy take advantage of this situation to get protection for herself, her future baby, her home, and her land. He shows that Lucy as a woman who had power over Petrus. Just like Melanie and Lurie, Melanie had more power than Lurie, so he resigned from his job.

Coetzee also delivers that it was Lurie and his mind felt that he owned Soraya. Soraya was only being professional to her client and she did it for money. Coetzee makes them have "power". They make Lurie and Petrus believed that they had power and were above these women. Coetzee presents these women for showing that they were the ones who actually hold the power to control and use these men for their personal interests.

In conclusion, this novel shows that women from various backgrounds and races are the victim of a patriarchal system that only benefits men. Coetzee shows that the relationship between men and women in a patriarchal system only trap women in a circle of suffering. He subtly supports women to be free from this patriarchal system. Coetzee also implies that women can have power when they are oppressed in subtle way.



## 5.2 Suggestion

Based on the results of this study, the researcher hopes that this research can help other researchers in conducting research with what is applied in this research to other works. Researcher also suggests researching this work using other theories. For example the relationship between father and daughter or adultery with a psychological approach. Apart from that, you can also use these two from a sociological perspective.

