

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 5.1 Conclusion

After analyzing *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, the writer concludes that Reid depicts sexism and misogyny in her novel as her exploration of women's struggle living in patriarchal society. It aligns with gynocriticism's belief that women's writing usually exposes women's struggle and women's experience as a victim of patriarchal authority. Reid delivers sexism and misogyny in the novel as attitudes which are done by male characters; Evelyn's husbands, another female character, and people in patriarchal society. There are two forms of sexism found in the novel, hostile sexism and benevolent sexism and three forms of misogyny. From the collected data, the writer discovers benevolent sexism most frequently appears rather than hostile sexism. The writer reasoned this finding based on the fact that the genre of the novel is romance which naturally promotes the idea of liking a gentleman's action from the male counterpart by romanticizing his action.

The seven romantic relationships Evelyn has with her husbands prompts the existence of paternalism within the male character. Reid depicts how some action done by Evelyn's husband can be considered harmful even though the husbands argue they do those actions to protect Evelyn. In the novel, Reid displays how Evelyn's opportunities in achieving her dream to be a successful actress in Hollywood are limited due to benevolent sexism beliefs of paternalism or protectiveness over her. The

writer argues that men's urge to protect women is harmful and unnecessary if by doing so it means women should never be given a chance to act on their own terms. In the novel, it can be seen that male characters—especially Evelyn's husband—protect Evelyn's in the way of emphasizing that the male characters are superior, stronger, braver and more capable to handle life and society than Evelyn. Therefore, in order not to get hurt by society the inferior, weaker, fragile and incapable Evelyn should just stay in her traditional role as a woman. Reid depicts how her male characters think by convincing Evelyn to be satisfied with her title as the beautiful housewives of famous men will actually do Evelyn a favor and protect her from society's critics and dislike.

Also, it should be noted that Reid as a female author does not put sexism and misogyny as something that she thinks essential and agreeable in her own writing. Reid draws lines from other male authors who use sexism to justify the mistreatment and discrimination of female characters as something natural and normal to be done in their writing. This conclusion comes upon the writer's finding of Reid's rejections toward sexism and misogyny through her female characters' portrayal. Reid offers alternative ways of thinking by pursuing the harm caused by sexism and misogyny should be the reason as to why the action of excusing and justifying men's action need to be stopped, that if men behave sexist and misogynist, they should be held accountable for the damage. Based on gynocriticism reading, the writer finds that Reid's rejection manifested itself in three forms such as her effort to write subversion gender roles, to writer her critics against patriarchal power structure, and to emphasizes the importance

of female solidarity and empowerment in fighting sexism and misogyny through her female character.

Representation of sexism and misogyny as products of patriarchal society found in the novel is used by Reid as a female author to show contrast and her feminist spirit. This understanding is taken from the writer's own interpretation that Reid intentionally uses sexism and misogyny to show readers what are female struggles and consequences living and daring to dream in patriarchal society. Reid depicts her female character to be rebels who refuse to act as the good woman based on patriarchy's standard. The matter of raising awareness that it should not be women's responsibility alone to make a marriage last and happy also can be taken from Reid's way of presenting conflict in the novel. It implies the need to stop blaming, hating and quick judging something negative to the women.

Reid representation of Evelyn character who experiences hates, rejection, critics from society through her whole life simply because she breaks every stereotypical gender roles for being a talented, beautiful, and fully aware of her values and worth perpetuates Reid's idea that female character in literary work should not settle for playing secondary role in society. The writer also summarizes the finding of this research proves Reid as a female author has successfully and beautifully contributed to break patriarchal products using her creative freedom by addressing the matter of gender equality and women's power if they were given a chance. It is impossible to find a woman who is brave and strong enough to marry seven times and achieves many awards for her talent in acting until the point she was being referred to

as a legend despite the sexism and misogyny attitudes given by the public to her in literary work written by male authors. Therefore, the writer highlights this as Reid's creative way of shaping the female literary landscape towards a more diverse and inclusive narrative. The writer believes this pictures Reid's freedom and succession to enrich the quality and variety of women's writing.

## 5.2 Suggestion

In doing this research, the writer had looked up for another research focus on the same object which is *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid and had to be satisfied with the fact that research on this novel is still rare to be found. The novel has many issues to be covered in the future research aside from gender issues. For instance, future researchers can use historical approach to compare and analyze whether Evelyn Hugo in the novel is influenced by real figure Marilyn Monroe, who was also known for being a blonde sexpot, an American Actress who has many scandals in the 1960, the same timeline with Evelyn Hugo in the novel.

