

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Kindred is an interesting neo-slave narratives novel which discusses about black women in antebellum slavery. This novel reflects the struggle of black women who undergo the antebellum slavery in America. It is mainly portrayed through Dana Franklin, the free black woman who has to face the terror of enslavement and several enslaved black women lived in the slaveholder's house.

Through *Kindred*, Octavia Butler is successful in representing the horrible circumstances of antebellum slavery by reflecting the personal events or daily life of black women who worked at the slave owner's main house as domestic slaves. Those experiences are described in detail thus the reader can imagine and feel the feeling of being enslaved people. Butler inserts some voices that might open the new perspective about enslavement, such as the monstrous behaviors of slaveholders is not something to blame during antebellum slavery era because they are doing what the society said as proper and legal. Butler also voices some easy yet impossible solutions for black people to gain their freedom such as revenge by poisoning the master or run away to North America. Butler also voices her hopes to black people in the antebellum slavery, that if only they could have the access to literacy they would not be easily enslaved by the white people.

Kindred portrays black women experience several oppressions in antebellum slavery. From those experiences, it is revealed that black women are struggled in both domestic and field slavery. The oppressions portrayed in this

novel such as the same treatment between black women slave and black men slave in domestic and field slavery, the prohibition of literacy, slave trafficking, slave breeding, the prohibition of interracial relationship and rape. As the result of these oppressions, black women have to suffer both physical and sexual abuse. Black women experience the whipping as the punishment of breaking the rules. Black women also have to undergone the raping from white men and the threat of being whipped if they refuse to serve white men sexually. Octavia Butler reveals domestic and field slavery have the same amount of burden, however in the other hand, Butler implies that domestic slaves are treated better than field slaves.

Kindred reveals the history of slavery that reflected through the journey of the main character. From her journey, we can see that *Kindred* mostly focuses only on reflecting domestic slavery yet not so many discussion about field slavery is found. The focus on domestic slavery shows Butler's aim to reveal that domestic slaves experience the same physical abuse as field hands.

Kindred portrays the place of enslavement set in the Maryland in 1800s. Although it reflects the same location of where the slavery happened, the portrait of main house is reflected differently from the common master house in antebellum slavery America. This contrary image of slaveholder's house is aimed to show that even though a slaveholder do not own a mansion, it still operates with the same economic, social and cultural guidelines and has the same slavery problem.

It also reveals the history of slavery through some personal events described by Butler which means it barely talks about the worldwide known event or any great event in the time set. She succeeds in reflecting the horror of antebellum slavery particularly in domestic house by showing the phenomenon of slave trafficking, abuse, interracial relationship, breeding, and rape. Even though domestic slaves work a little bit easier, they also experience torment just like field hand. Both domestic slaves and field hands are haunted by slave trafficking that could separate them from their family. Black women also suffer from the prohibition of interracial relationship which could not help them in demanding white people's responsibility when they deliver the child as the result of rape.

