

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

After analysing two of Jhumpa Lahiri's books *Interpreter of Maladies* and *The Lowland* by applying Patriarchal Binary Thought to compare on how men and women roles is represent in the stories, the writer concludes that there are changes in the roles of men and women from the traditional society which is bound by the patriarchal society's system into the modern society. The writer believes that this change becomes visible because of the women bravery to break the social norms by her strong will and to shows people especially women from eastern country to become more independent and pursue higher education.

Lahiri in her previous book, *Interpreter of Maladies*, tend to portrays traditional gender roles as what men and women from patriarchal society would be. The male characters such as Mr. Sen and Haldar become the dominant because they are the man and the head of family. Both of them show the same roles by becoming the decision maker in the family. Meanwhile, the female characters such as Mrs. Sen, Bibi Haldar and Boori Ma are portrayed as the passive women who always obey the men and never try to fight for their right. Lahiri tries to show the marginalization of women because of the patriarchal culture which stereotypically classify women as the weak, submissive and dependent people.

In *The Lowland*, the writer argue, Lahiri tries to show that there are changes in men and women's roles in society. Men and women can switch roles. Subhash characterization shows that man can also become the mother in family. This is shown by Subhash close relationship with Bela, which is much closer than

Bela with Gauri. Subhash is also portrayed as a not dominant man in the family, the fact that he has always been protected by Udayan in the past and how he could not prevent Gauri and Bela from leaving home. Meanwhile, Gauri is shown as a strong woman. Gauri is not the typical patriarchal woman; she values knowledge better than jewels or sari. The fact that Gauri also makes her own decision to pursue her education and leave her family shows the independent side of her.

Moreover, by using the patriarchal binary thought by Helene Cixous that shows the position of both man and woman in patriarchal society wherein man occupies the superiority and woman occupies the inferiority, the writer argue that a change can happen in the roles of man and woman in society. This is shown from the characterization of each character from both books and by making chart to show the roles of both men and women. The result of analysis are that the position of Haldar and Mr. Sen in the story as the dominant men and the heads of family later is replaced by Subhash who shows more of his feminine side to show emotion and the motherhood side. Additionally, the female characters such as Mrs. Sen, Bibi and Boori Ma who have to suffer because of their passiveness and obedience, then changed by Gauri who shows that woman can also become independent and active.

The writer concludes that through the developments of gender roles in the two books, Lahiri as a female writer wants to shows her mature views about gender roles in the modern society. On the other hand, the writer claims that Lahiri wants to shows that women can also become independent and not always become the inferior one, meanwhile men can shows their feminine side too. The writer claimsthat Lahiri wants to break through the barrier of eastern culture

which still holds on to the patriarchal system. Lahiri already shows in both of her books that patriarchal system can lead to oppression and marginalization of women. The writer argues that Lahiri is trying to inspire men and women from the third world countries to become independent and break out from the stereotypes of the patriarchal culture.

