

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1. Conclusion

Kindred by Octavia Butler tries to bring up otherness issues against black people in antebellum America. *Kindred* reveals that the portrait of otherness is depicted with stereotypes and prejudice, and these reflect how black people are negated with bad. Otherness happens because white people tend to think negatively towards the black characters. Furthermore, otherness will also lead to the violence perpetrated by white people toward the blacks as a way to civilize them.

When it comes to stereotypes, black people have to deal with many assumptions against them. Many masters hold assumptions about their bondsmen, and these assumptions come from the cultural perspective that is shared with them in their daily lives. Some assumptions that masters hold towards their slaves, as seen in *Kindred*, are thinking that their slaves do not have manners and are filthy. These assumptions appear because they think the enslaved people are immoral and they have not been taught about proper manners like white folks have been trained. Another assumption against the enslaved people is judging them as strange because of what they do that seems strange and beyond logic. Furthermore, they are also associated with animals such as buck or other wild animals due to their savage behavior. They become aggressive in order to defend themselves from the dangers. However, their aggressiveness is misinterpreted by white folks.

Black people have to deal with many prejudices that their masters have against them as well. The masters do not want to acknowledge the fact, and they are unable to cross-check any information that they have. That is the reason why prejudices appear in their minds. Some prejudices that black people have to deal as seen in *Kindred* are being mistaken as a criminal who has the intention to hurt individuals, being misjudged as a prostitute, and being misunderstood as a witch or devil who possesses supernatural power that can cure someone's illness. Prejudice occurs because of the limited knowledge that the masters have of their enslaved people.

In addition, the portrait of otherness reflected in *Kindred* also leads to the justification of violence. The stereotypes and prejudice that white people hold towards blacks influence them to commit violence against black people themselves. Since black people are associated with foul images, white people tend to use violence as a way to rule and civilize them. There are two kinds of violence that white people perpetrate against the slaves, namely physical violence and sexual violence. They exercise violence as a way to make their enslaved people remain submissive and obedient. Therefore, the enslaved people have to prepare themselves for the punishment that they will get, either physical violence or sexual violence.

The masters use physical violence against their enslaved people because they associate them with savages and barbarians who need to be taught. The masters also physically abuse the enslaved people who violate the established rules. They will punish the enslaved person who teaches other enslaved people without their permission, and they will also punish the enslaved person who dares to answer the

master's words. The most common punishment used by the masters on their bondsmen is whipping.

The masters also utilize sexual violence against their enslaved people, especially the slave women. They tend to apply sexual violence because of the stereotype about black women who are associated as lustful and libidinous. They take advantage of this stereotype to exploit slave women sexually. In addition, they also exercise sexual violence on the slave women who violate the rules. For instance, they will sexually punish slave women who run away from the plantation.

Last but not least, *Kindred* tends to show that a sense of otherness appears because someone sees another person as a group. White people characters in the novel put individuals (black people) into a particular group and associate them with many characteristics that they think match the group. *Kindred* tries to encourage the readers to start to see people as individuals, not as a group. *Kindred* attempts to acknowledge that everyone is different because they come from different social backgrounds and different experiences. Differences in background and experience shape how someone thinks and behaves. It is what makes them unique. *Kindred* tries to show that there is no use in classifying individuals into specific groups and excluding them. Focusing on people as individuals is an excellent start to minimize the sense of otherness in a society.

In closing, the novel's author, Octavia Butler, encourages readers to start interacting with various people from different backgrounds to help them see the outside of themselves. Butler tries to show the readers the importance of

expanding their reading materials and avoiding getting stuck in just one type of reading material. Such ways can broaden their horizons, shaping them as tolerant people who appreciate differences. Butler highlights that the sense of otherness is more likely to occur due to ignorance and unfamiliarity. Ignorance and unfamiliarity make it easy for people to be brainwashed by the discourse. Therefore, understanding individuals is one way to minimize the sense of otherness in society.

5.2. Suggestion

The researcher realizes that the analysis conducted in this research is limited. The analysis of the novel in this thesis only focuses on how white people characters treat black people characters negatively. The researcher notices that white people characters in the novel also act nicely towards the blacks in some cases. Therefore, the researcher suggests that the next researcher conduct such an issue to enrich the analysis of the novel.

