

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

In analyzing two different works that present the story of Kwan's novel, *Crazy Rich Asians*, and its film adaptation, I got two different insights because the novel has been altered into a film. The novel and its film adaptation highlight the depiction of Singaporean Chinese upper-class society's life but are presented with different levels of emphasis. In the novel, the understanding of lifestyle and fashion behavior is told using detailed language, whereas, in the film, it is told through visual media, which can be seen more prominently in showing lifestyle and fashion behavior spectacularly and allowing the audience to see and feel these nuances. Kevin Kwan's novel explores the upper class by emphasizing the importance of family lineage, social relationships, and family dynamics, while the film presents the glitz and glamor of the upper class through a visually stunning depiction of a luxurious lifestyle. However, each work offers its own unique perspective on the diverse world of the upper class. I claim that the lifestyle in the novel is focused on the pleasures and luxuries that can be enjoyed by people who have great wealth, such as the way they dress, the way they eat, and the way they spend their leisure time, which is unusual because of the wealth they have. Meanwhile, the film is exaggerated and shows riches and luxurious parties.

In *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan, the author depicts the upper class through intricate family conflict, wealth and heritage, social status, and glamorous lifestyle to show their wealth. The novel delves deeply into the complex lives of upper class Asians by highlighting the importance of lineage and social status to them. Meanwhile, in the production of this film adaptation, the director focuses on a luxurious lifestyle in a more visually stunning way by emphasizing a lavish lifestyle and elegant parties. Even though it visualizes wealth and privilege, this film focuses more on luxury, giving a dazzling picture of upper class society whose prominence can be seen through the use of branded stuff, holding extravaganza parties, and holding fireworks parties. The film also emphasizes how the romantic conflicts between Nick and Rachel involve the intervention of Nick's family rather than the novel's detailed exploration of social hierarchies and family dynamics.

I argue that the fashion featured in the film reinforces the idea that fashion is one of the main ways for the characters to show their social status and wealth. These costumes or accessories function not only as clothing but also as a symbol of status and economic power possessed by the characters. I found several important alterations between the novel and the film.

I conclude that the novel shows a lavish and vivid lifestyle, expensive fashion, and excessive shopping to show the character's social status and taste by buying branded goods. Meanwhile, in the film adaptation, upper-class people are the main focus, which is shown directly and visually so that the audience can see their lifestyle and the striking and luxurious clothing styles of the characters. With

this direct visual appearance, the film succeeds in showing how important fashion is in expressing social status and wealth in the daily lives of upper class people. Viewers who have also read the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* will feel satisfied because the film was made while still maintaining the essence of the story from the original work. Kevin Kwan, through his novel, describes the lifestyle of the upper class to show their class and also the behavior of differentiating people based on their social class as a form of showing that they only associate with people in their same class. Meanwhile, Jon M. Chu describes in his film how Nick's relatives, namely upper class Singaporeans, treat Rachel very differently, even in a way that seems to trample on Rachel Chu, whom they see as someone who does not fit into their social status due to her appearance and social status in America. Jon M. Chu, through his film, tells the audience that upper class Chinese Singaporeans are people who look at their background and wealth, prioritize their previous class, and treat people who are not in their class badly.

As a result, I believe that the story of the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* was successfully highlighted by Jon M. Chu, especially in terms of lifestyle and fashion behavior, so this film exploded and was liked by people all over the world. The director succeeded in portraying lifestyle and fashion behavior in film form as a perfect visualization of the novel *Crazy Rich Asians*. Even though Kevin Kwan wrote so many details that it would be impossible to make it all into the film, Jon M. Chu has brought his film to life but has stayed in the original storyline in the novel. Packed with several differences in plot, background, and details, the depiction of the luxurious lifestyle of upper-class people with some

contradictions to the main character, Rachel Chu, who is from the lower class, is very well conveyed by Jon M. Chu in his film. Jon M. Chu describes the lifestyle of the characters who are elite and very wealthy. The movie also portrays the connections of high class society. The movie successfully reveals the fusion of fashion and culture, which produces the lifestyle of the characters in the Class, Status, and Power sections, as well as analyzing the fashion behavior of the characters by comparing it with the novel version using adaptation theory by Hutcheon.

I present a comparison between the novel and the film in several scenes. In this analysis, some scenes were visualized according to what was written in the novel, but several scenes were packaged in their own versions. However, the message of each scene conveys the same intention so that Kevin Kwan and Jon M. Chu remain in harmony in conveying the same message to readers and viewers, but of course, with their characteristics. The drawback is that due to the film's limited duration, many scenes in the novel were not carried over to the film. However, this does not reduce the essence of this film, directed by Jon M. Chu.

The film production and Jon M. Chu as the director of *Crazy Rich Asians* film successfully conveyed his message to the audience about how upper class Singaporeans Chinese live in a society with luxury accompanied by strong customs and culture, even though the storyline is slightly different from the novel, but these differences become the characteristics of each film and novel so that the audience can feel a different euphoria to enjoy the film and novel.

5.2 Suggestion

This research focuses on adaptation, which is focused on the lifestyle and fashion behavior of the upper class people in the novel and film *Crazy Rich Asians*. This research is still far from perfect since it only focuses on the upper class's lifestyle and fashion behavior. For this reason, I suggest that future researchers study the other issues contained in *Crazy Rich Asians* more deeply. I also hope that this research can help readers increase their knowledge about the novel and film adaptation of *Crazy Rich Asians*, more precisely, how it is depicted in the novel and film *Crazy Rich Asians* regarding the lifestyle and fashion behavior of the upper class Chinese Singaporeans.

