

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

#### 5.1 Conclusion

A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki is a novel that confides the story of Nao, a Japanese - American girl who experiences the predicaments when she moves back to her homeland, Japan. On another island, another Japanese - American named Ruth finds Nao's diary and feels the connection with her. The author finds the issue of alienation and identity confusion from the two Japanese - American characters are the main problem in the novel. Hence, the author utilizes the post - colonial approach to explore how the characters experience alienation and identity confusion and their ways to overcome it. By using the theory of hybridity, the author discovers that Nao and Ruth are the people who experience hybridity. Hybridity refers to the condition when someone has been exposed to two or more cultures that nudged them to become dubious with themselves. As a result, someone who experiences hybridity always feels they are "in between", instead of being confident to fess up their own identity. Nao and Ruth are hesitant to identify themselves because they have been exposed to Japanese culture and American culture at the same time. The impact of hybridity that the Japanese - American characters experience in the novel is the alienation and identity confusion.

The alienation is identified as the situation when an individual feels disconnected from the people who surrounded them. The author uses the theory of alienation by Seeman to discuss the issue of alienation that the characters undergo in the novel. The author finds that the concept of alienation that Seeman introduced are seen in the characters' social isolation and their cultural estrangement. Nao decides to dissipate herself from people around her when she

is in Japan because she does not speak Japanese well. Ruth on the other hand could not understand Japanese fluently even though she has resided in Japan for a while.

Their inability to speak Japanese shows the characters experience cultural estrangement. Another impact of hybridity is attested with the characters' confusion regarding their identity. Both are confused with the 'title' that can represent themselves. Nao feels like an adopted American child in a Japanese family. Similarly, Ruth feels weird with her own name that is hard to pronounce for Japanese people. In addition, Ruth also mentions how she is not sure with her 'home' because she is an immigrant. Lastly, the author also discusses the characters' ways to overcome the alienation and identity confusion. By relating the theory of identity by Stuart Hall, the author sees the importance to realize that identity is a progressive essence. Someone's identity is fluid and there are miscellaneous factors that influence it. Furthermore, Hall also mentions that to construct the identity, embracing the past that consists of someone's historical and cultural background and also embracing the present condition of someone are indispensable.

Therefore, Hall's statement is relevant with the Japanese - American characters in the novel. They should embrace their hybridity as it is a part of their past and their present condition as the Japanese - American. By embracing it, they can activate their sense of belonging with their background as Japanese people that they cannot erase from their hybrid identity. The author also relate the analysis with the theory of hybridity by Homi K. Bhabha that suggests the definition of hybridity is a process to produce the new transcultural form, and an individual's reconciling with their background is a part of the process.

Then, the author sees the characters' way to deprive their alienation and identity confusion through the interconnection. The connection that is discussed is related to the connection with culture, people, and religion. Nao builds a connection with her Japanese great - grandmother that helps her to better

understand her own family roots and assists her to speak Japanese fluently. The great – grandmother also introduces her to Buddhism and their meditation called zazen. Nao then practices zazen which helps her to escape from her imposition as the immigrant who experiences alienation and identity confusion.

The author also discovers that Ruth Ozeki promotes the importance of writing that can be used as a tool to connect with other people. By writing, the reader can get the story and the ideology of the author that can stimulate to be related with the author. In this case, Ruth, the character in the novel, is connected with another person through Nao's writing. Nao's diary influences her to embrace her Japanese culture by reading Nao's diary and finding out more about Nao's family who is also Japanese. She realizes that Nao shares a similar experience with her. Then, Ruth also reverts to her focus to write a novel in order to commemorate her mother who has passed away.

## 5.2 Suggestion

The author realizes that there are miscellaneous aspects that can be discussed through the novel, *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki. Although the author has analyzed the novel through post – colonial perspective to explore the alienation and identity confusion from Nao's experience and Ruth's experiences as the Japanese - American characters in the novel, the other researcher can analyse the novel from another perspective, such as sociological approach, ecocriticism, and many more. In addition, the issue of alienation can also be discussed to other minority groups, for example, black people and Muslim people. Overall, the author hopes that this study can be useful to bolster the understanding of the issue of alienation and identity from Japanese - American' experience in the novel by Ruth Ozeki, *A Tale for the Time Being*.