

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 5.1 Conclusion

After analyzing *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, it is concluded that Reid effectively portrays situations that lead to a counter-hegemonic movement against patriarchy by women. These movements arise due to myths propagated by men in their attempt to dominate women. Such myths depict women as weak and irrational beings who need men. The internalization of these myths leads to women being positioned as secondary or *the other* concerning men in society.

In response to the degraded position of women in society, Reid employs feminist narrative strategies through the character of Evelyn Hugo. Set against the sociohistorical backdrop of mid-to late-20th century America, where women were struggling for equality and independence, the analysis in the previous chapter demonstrates Reid's successful portrayal of female subjectivity through Evelyn Hugo, who counters patriarchal hegemony. This counteraction is reflected in several contexts: Evelyn achieves success as an actress, embraces intellectualism, and transforms society as an influential celebrity. Additionally, Evelyn's rejection of otherness within the patriarchal hegemony is evident in the novel.

Evelyn's significant contribution to the Hollywood film industry represents her resistance in a male-dominated area. This can be seen as an important step towards financial independence and self-determination, both crucial for achieving subjectivity. Furthermore, her ability to break free from societal pressures to

conform to traditional gender roles, such as the self-sacrificing mother, highlights her defiance. The myth of women as irrational and naive is also countered through Evelyn's portrayal as an intelligent woman who survives in a patriarchal environment.

Evelyn's role as a celebrity with a large platform is also utilized effectively to act as an agent of change against patriarchal hegemony. She leverages her influence wisely, including her decision to publish her biography. This act reflects a transformative challenge to societal norms, providing significant space for women and LGBTQ+ communities to reflect. Through her life story, Evelyn symbolizes resistance and empowerment, inspiring others to embrace their intrinsic worth beyond patriarchal confines. The socio-historical context of the feminist movements during the mid-20th century, which sought to dismantle oppressive structures and promote gender equality, is mirrored in Evelyn's journey. All the strategies Reid employs in depicting Evelyn's journey, her professional persistence, personal resilience, and the eventual sharing of her true self conclude in a powerful demonstration of female agency. Evelyn's life story and actions effectively challenge and destabilize patriarchal hegemony, expanding the horizons of female existence and subjectivity.

The findings of this study contribute to a deeper understanding of how women should build relationships, emphasizing mutual respect, autonomy, and equality. Evelyn Hugo's experiences highlight the importance of maintaining one's identity and independence within relationships rather than conforming to traditional gender roles and expectations. The novel's depiction of patriarchal

oppression and female resistance is highly relevant to contemporary issues of gender equality and women's rights. By illustrating the challenges and triumphs of a woman in a male-dominated society, this research underscores the ongoing struggle for gender parity and the need for persistent efforts to dismantle patriarchal structures.

Evelyn Hugo's story serves as an empowering narrative for women, demonstrating that it is possible to challenge and overcome patriarchal constraints. This can inspire readers, particularly women, to pursue their ambitions and assert their independence. Women facing patriarchal oppression can gain valuable insights from Evelyn Hugo's story. This research underscores the importance of self-determination, financial independence, and maintaining one's identity in relationships, offering practical guidance for building healthier, more equitable relationships.

Furthermore, by promoting a deeper understanding of gender dynamics and the detrimental effects of patriarchy, this research contributes to broader societal change. Educating the public about the importance of gender equality and the need to challenge traditional gender roles can foster a more inclusive and equitable society. In conclusion, this research enriches literary discourse and fosters a deeper understanding of the ongoing struggle against patriarchal hegemony. Examining the counter-hegemonic movements in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* provides valuable insights into the transformative power of feminist narratives and their role in shaping a more equitable society.

## 5.2 Suggestion

In order to build more insights presented in this research, the writer suggests that future research may focus specifically on the LGBTQ+ issues depicted in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*. Examining the novel's portrayal of LGBTQ+ identities and relationships might offer another perspective on how Reid addresses and challenges heteronormative concepts. Such research could also explore how the novel contributes to the wider discourse on inclusivity and the complexities of sexual identity. Moreover, future research may well investigate the intersection between class and gender, analyzing how women navigate and fight for their freedom within a patriarchal society. This could provide a deeper understanding of the complexities faced by women, particularly in terms of how class status influences their strategies and opportunities for resisting patriarchal oppression.

