

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

5.1. Conclusion

This study shows the other level forms of exploitation of the working class that occurred in South Korean contemporary society. These forms of exploitation are probably not as dominated as South Korea in other Asian countries. The three selected short stories incorporated in the book *Cursed Bunny* by Bora Chung illustrated the kinds of exploitation of the working class. Because of experienced those exploitations, the working class characters on the selected short stories were reacted negatively. There are two kinds of exploitation shown in three selected short stories of *Cursed Bunny*, such as social exploitation and economic exploitation. In social exploitation, it happened in a form of gender status doctrine where men have important roles in social and domestic environment of women and women are only seen as a commodity by the elite class men because of the influence of patriarchal capitalist society which depicted in "The Embodiment". However, "Cursed Bunny" and "Home Sweet Home" depicted the economic exploitation in the form of violent elite business monopoly leads to a class struggle and unethical business practices leads to a property business fraudulence.

In the short story "The Embodiment", the character Kim Young Lan faces a patriarchal capitalism where working class women are called as living commodities to conglomerate men. In that environment, women who get pregnant out of wedlock are considered useless because there is no man can support her child morally and financially. This condition is experienced by Kim Young Lan as she forces to forfeit

the control of herself and freedom to live as a woman herself. She forces to have a male partner in order to escape from the notion of being useless because of the doctrine of her gender position in domestic and social environment. This becomes the opportunity for conglomerate men to utilize working class women as child-producing commodities in order to get successors for their family business. They also can provide the bright and promising future life for the child as an exchange of themselves. This is what Suh Woo Chang does, intending to take advantage of Kim Young Lan's situation where he only sees her as a commodity and overrides her freedom as a woman in his sweet promises.

The character of grandfather's friend from the short story "Cursed Bunny" loses their business and dies due to injustice because his rival company was larger and had more connections, capabilities, and finances than him. They are able to control the media to promote their product and even spread lies about grandfather's friend's company. However, they violently ruin the smaller business and made the grandfather's friend's business take a nosedive. It shows how power and wealth are capable of destroying the lives of others who are inferior to them.

The short story "Home Sweet Home" shows the character of the young woman suffering disadvantage due to unethical business practices by her own property agent. The property agent manipulates the price of the building and do not show the entire building conditions to sell the building quickly. Then, the young woman suffers from the unwritten obligation to pay some money to the old tenant and spends her money to do some renovation for the building, however she cannot get incomes from the building

because the rest tenants of her building is moving out before the renovation starts. The property agent technically lies and does a fraud towards the young woman.

Furthermore, those exploitations that happened in South Korea as narrated in three selected short stories in *Cursed Bunny* lead to negative impacts. The characters who experience exploitations showing reactions that are inevitably negative for them. They have to experience suffering that they didn't expect just to survive despite being socially disadvantaged due to the reality of their position as the working class. These reactions are in the form of a desire for rebellion that creates a feeling of revenge that eventually leads them to consciously commit murder, feel psychological suffering, and experience a loss in material possessions.

5.2. Suggestion

The results of this study require further research that focuses on social issues in South Korea which not only shows the exploitation experienced by the working class, but also other economic problems that affect the lives of the Korean working class. There is also a need for research that uses Bora Chung's *Cursed Bunny* as an object to expand the subject and research references on the social life of South Korean society.