

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 5.1. Conclusion

After reading and analyzing *Red, White & Royal Blue*, I conclude that the novel depicts the main character's conflicts and journey of homosexual identity formation. These things lead to the reactions coming from discourse power (the public) as the judge of Alex as the main character struggles and burdens along the way. As a result, I can conclude this research with two main points.

The first one is the way at the very beginning Alex faces certain problems when he tries to embrace his identity as a bisexual. Alex in his journey to realizing his newfound identity for sure faced a pressure or two along the way. The most prominent one is the pressure that came from his mother. As the president herself, Alex's mother somehow feels responsible for protecting Alex's image and demeanor in public for the sake of the ongoing re-election, making sure there is no gap for her opponent to drag her down. After the public knew about Alex being bisexual and the relationship with Henry through the email leaked, somehow they gave Alex some sort of punishment for being who he is. They started demanding Alex to step up his game and make sure everyone knew the actual truth, not just by seeing it through leaked email. These pressures are being the form of outcome Alex has to deal with because him being the First Son, a public figure that everyone familiar with. Even though he has power as the First Son, he also needs to go against bigger power, because unexpectedly the bigger power itself came from his mother and the public who managed to understand and accept his identity.

The second one is the fact that stage 5 (identity pride) and also stage 6 (identity synthesis) are not achieved by Alex's experiences along the storyline, it proves that Alex just wants to show us his true identity on his name. As the First Son and also a bisexual person, he does not wish for people to tell him who he is by keep hiding "in the closet". Whether people like it or not, he still stands his ground and declares his true identity starting with family members, friends, and finally a formal statement as stated in his speech for the public to hear. At the end of the day, there is no intention from him to go against the people who tolerate him as a person. He realized that his acceptance of himself and the closest people in his life was enough to be seen as a form of rebellion. The storyline of the novel *Red, White & Royal Blue* does not just entirely give us some closure about how to admit and gather ourselves as part of the LGBTQ community. However it is more likely to focus on Alex trying to verify himself as the First Son (with so much of mental burdens, conflicts, and other things going around in his life), and his claim that he still has his right to feel and accept certain identity he comfortable with and no one could dictate him to be the person he is not.

## 5.2. Suggestion

Many other topics could be analyzed in the novel *Red, White & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston. This research is far away from perfection itself due to the limitation of my perspective and objective. The story would most likely need further research in terms of other studies as the object focuses on cultural identity and homosexual identity formation.

Therefore, I suggest that researchers in the future search for possible issues found in the novel.