

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

#### 5.1 Conclusion

*Normal People* by Sally Rooney is a book that focuses on the lives of its main characters, Connell and Marianne. The book mainly follows the relationship of Connell, who comes from a working-class background, and Marianne, who comes from an upper-class background. They have a relationship from their high school days until they attend university in Dublin. The central theme in this book is the class gap between the two main characters, Connell and Marianne, which causes them to be more insecure and causes misunderstandings.

This book can be analyzed using Marxist criticism. Specifically using the idea that applied to Marxism by Karl Marx. In this research, Marxist criticism by Lois Tyson and the idea of Raymond Williams towards the working class will analyze how social classes impact the romantic relationship between the main characters, Connell and Marianne, as Marianne comes from the upper class and Connell from the working class. After analyzing the book, it can be concluded that the book can be analyzed using Marxist criticism.

In *Normal People*, the main characters, Connell and Marianne, are repeatedly introduced as a couple who have different classes. Their different background creates more conflict that eventually shapes how they see themselves and their relationship. The author, Sally Rooney, in *Normal People* explores how the difference of social class in a relationship can have impacts. Connell, who comes from a working-class, often feels insecure about his class around Marianne's wealthier friends. On the other hand, Marianne, who comes from a wealthy family, has more privileges of her upper-class background, but it does not satisfy her

just like she wants; she struggles with her mental issues as her mother and her brother often abuse her verbally and physically at home. Even though Connell is a smart kid, it does not make him better; it only makes him more aware of their class gap as he struggles with his finances and the feeling of inferiority that somehow holds him back from embracing the relationship. As for Marianne, she cares a lot for Connell, but her privileges as someone from a wealthy family sometimes is the reason why she can not understand the pressures that Connell faces, leading to misunderstandings and barriers between them.

Connell and Marianne's relationship in *Normal People* shows how classism significantly impacts their bond, despite them being in love of each other. The class differences between Connell and Marianne often cause misunderstandings, making it difficult for them to understand each other fully. Throughout the book, Connell and Marianne constantly have an on-and-off relationship. Whenever they try to start a relationship, there is always something happens that causes misunderstanding. The misunderstanding is often caused by the feeling of insecurity and miscommunication, showing how class really impacts the relationship by powerfully holding their interactions.

As someone who comes from a working-class family, Connell is aware of the imbalance between him and Marianne. However, for Marianne, it is hard for her to understand his struggle because she has privileges that shield her from that, particularly when Connell needs a place to live in Dublin, but he cannot ask Marianne, even though Marianne does not know that Connell is suffering at that time. When Marianne tries to help, Connell does not accept it because he knows that his pride will not let him. Connell feels embarrassed if he accepts more stuff from Marianne, more than what she already gave him.

*Normal People* shares how relationships can be complicated because of misunderstandings caused by differences in class and lifestyle. Connell and Marianne try to

balance the relationship with their love for each other. Rooney shows how class differences created invisible barriers that impact relationships even though they care for and love each other and share a deep connection. *Normal People* prove that class differences can be fatal for relationships, especially if they feel insecure about each other's class. It not only impacts the relationship but also impacts them as individuals, the way they ask about their sense of self-worth and feeling unworthy.

In the end, Connell and Marianne do not end up as a couple, even though they have been through a lot from the beginning of the story. The significant factor is that they came from different backgrounds, which makes them not understand each other fully. Their relationship cannot be official because the capitalist system does not allow them. Relationships with different classes often have more obstacles and barriers than other relationships because it prevents them from becoming officially a couple.

## 5.2 Suggestions

For subsequent research on this issue, social class, discussing another book Sally Rooney may be interesting. Most of the book by Sally Rooney is talking about class even though she have not publish books that much. This can add more perspective to the research and gain more insights into how the book portrays its message.