

## **BAB V**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

#### **5.1 Conclusion**

This study analyzes Zora Neale Hurston's novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* using representation analysis within the framework of mimetic theory and a sociological approach to literature. The analysis focuses on two aspects: (1) identifying the social realities represented through the character of Janie Crawford as a black woman in the early 20th century, and (2) explaining how the author depicts these realities by utilizing intrinsic elements as supporting factors.

The results of the study show that through the character of Janie, Hurston represents a number of complex social realities. First, intergenerational trauma, where Janie's experiences are shaped by the legacy of slavery and sexual violence experienced by her grandmother, Nanny. Second, overlapping racial and gender discrimination, which causes black women to face a double burden due to racism and patriarchy, even within the black community itself. Third, the internalization of colonial values within the Black community, as depicted in the character of Mrs. Turner, who glorifies physical traits that align with white beauty standards and demeans darker skin tones. Fourth, the search for identity and resistance, illustrated through Janie's journey across three marriages to find personal freedom, symbolized by the horizon at the conclusion of the story.

This depiction of reality is reinforced by the use of intrinsic elements as mimetic devices. Characterization dynamically shapes Janie's personality and introduces

supporting characters that emphasize social conflict. The frame narrative structure mimics African American oral tradition, connecting Janie's personal experiences with the collective history of black women. Settings such as Eatonville and the Everglades represent the socioeconomic conditions of Black communities in the early 20th century. The dual perspective of the omniscient third person and first-person narration adds depth to the representation of reality. Symbolism, such as the pear tree, mule, horizon, and storm, adds layers of meaning, linking individual experiences to broader social-historical conditions.

Thus, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is not only aesthetically valuable as a literary work but also functions as an artistic representation of the social reality of Black women in the early 20th century. Through a mimetic and literary sociological approach, the novel can be read as a reflection of history, social critique, and a record of identity struggles, making it relevant both academically and culturally.

## 5.2 Suggestions

Based on the findings of this study, the author offers the following suggestions:

1. For literary researchers

The representational approach using the mimetic theory and literary sociology frameworks has proven effective in analyzing the relationship between fictional works and social reality. Further research is recommended to expand the scope of study to other literary works that also depict marginalized groups, whether within the same historical context or different ones, thereby enriching the body of literary research grounded in social-historical contexts.

## 2. For interdisciplinary studies

The results of this research open up opportunities to combine literary studies with other disciplines such as history, gender studies, anthropology, and cultural studies. Further research can explore how fictional narratives are used as a means of cultural documentation, a tool for social criticism, and the shape of collective identity.

## 3. For general readers

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* is worth reading not only as an entertaining work of literature, but also as a social document that voices the struggles of black women in the face of racial and gender discrimination. Understanding the socio-historical context of this novel will deepen readers' appreciation of its meaning.

## 4. For the world of education

This work can be used as teaching material that integrates intrinsic and extrinsic analysis in a balanced manner. By utilizing this novel in learning, students can understand the close relationship between artistic form (characterization, plot, setting, point of view, symbolism) and the social reality it represents.

## 5. For the development of representation theory in literary studies

This research demonstrates that mimetic theory can coexist with a sociological approach to literature in analyzing the representation of reality. Moving forward, this study can be further explored by comparing the results of mimetic analysis of literary texts with historical data or contemporary social documents to test the extent to which the representations that emerge are accurate or artistic reconstructions.