

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

After analyzing *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides, the writer concludes that several elements in the novel explore and develop the issue of gender dysphoria experienced by the main character, Cal Stephanides. The elements found include irony, paradox, and ambiguity, as tension, symbolism, and tone strengthen the analysis of gender dysphoria.

Based on this analysis, the writer states that those elements work together to unpack the topic of gender dysphoria. The irony comes from the relationship between family expectations, society, and the main character's reality. The irony here shows how the social environment can affect various aspects. We can see from Cal's experiences that he feels that he has no control over himself; this is evidenced by his family, who always convince him to undergo male genitalia removal even though, in reality, he is not willing. The following irony is when Cal is only used as an object for research by irresponsible doctors without thinking about or considering Cal's condition. Another irony is when Cal feels that he is never seen, even though he is physically there, but no one can understand the situation, even though Cal also wants to be seen and understood. From the irony, we can conclude that Cal's expectations of the family and society differ from Cal's reality and desires, making her feel alienated and closed.

The second is for paradox; the writer found some paradoxes that describe Cal's condition. Cal himself shows a mismatch between the gender identity he feels and his body, his feelings that seem to be contradictory and do not match his true self. However, such experiences can arise, especially in stressful situations like those experienced by Cal. In



addition, paradoxes also arise from the norms in a society where he must face these stereotypes. This causes tension between his needs and the desire to be accepted in a society that often categorizes and traditionally separates genders.

As for the ambiguity focuses on how Cal represents his condition through ambiguous narratives that give the reader several interpretations of what he is experiencing. The writer argues that there are some statements that Cal expresses that emphasize the ambiguity of what he is experiencing that arises from the assumptions and assumptions felt by Cal. Apart from these three elements, there are also elements of symbol and tone, which play an important role in exploring *Middlesex* to strengthen the idea of gender dysphoria.

In addition, besides analyzing elements such as irony, paradox, ambiguity as one unit as tension, symbolism, and tone. The writer also discusses the emotional imbalance experienced by Cal in facing many obstacles and also confusion over his identity, whether as a woman or a man. Although the emotional imbalance is a difficult thing for Cal, besides that, it is what helps him reach the stage of self-acceptance. This teaches us that in every difficulty experienced, there must be something positive, like what Cal experienced, who was initially full of confusion. However, in the end, he achieved self-acceptance.



5.1 Suggestion

After conducting this research, several shortcomings were identified in this analysis. Some formal elements still have not been explored further, which could strengthen this study. Various elements, such as imagery, language style, and figures of speech, can still be studied. In addition, there are still many themes that can be observed besides the theme of gender dysphoria, such as the theme of family heritage related to Greek mythology and the theme of

immigration. I suggest that further study can contribute to several aspects of complex family heritage that will add to the beauty of the *Middlesex* novel by Jeffrey Eugenides.

