

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

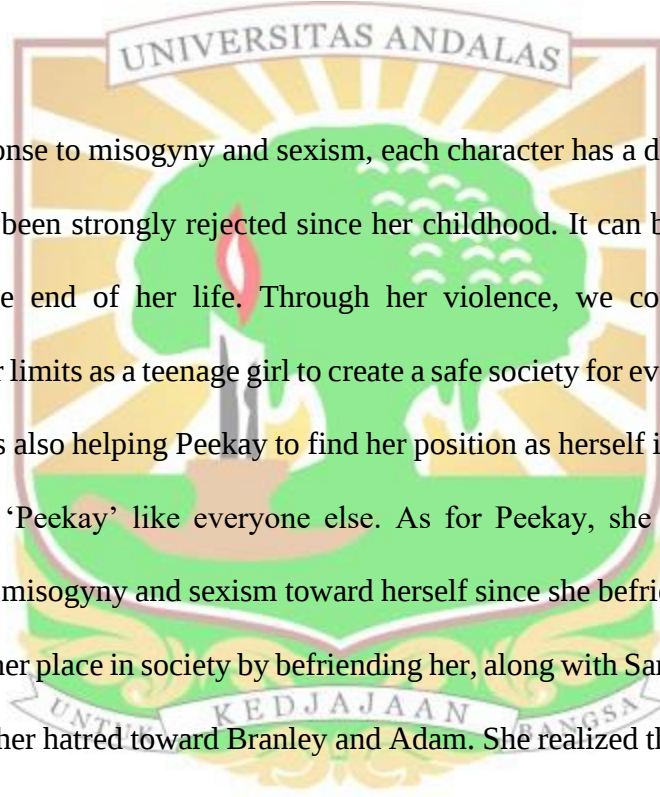
5.1 Conclusion

Based on the analysis result of *The Female of the Species*, the writer finds that McGinnis shows misogyny and sexism as the normalized social issues. The female characters are treated as the ‘other’ while the men are acting as the ‘subject’ in through the story. This aligns with Beauvoir’s concept of existentialist feminism, which shows the inequality of men’s and women’s positions. Through this inequality, McGinnis presents Alex as the main character who challenges the social norms by taking revenge on her way to seek justice for women.

In this novel, the misogyny is shown through objectification and gender-based violence. The biggest victim of objectification is Branley because of her reputation as the ‘hot girl’ in school. The girls are judging her appearance as something inappropriate, while the boys are using her appearance as an object to fulfill their desire. Almost all the female characters are the victim of gender-based violence that manifest through humiliation, mockery, sexual assault, and sexual violence. Although Alex was only affected through the chronology of Anna’s death, she still bears the agony from Anna’s death. As for Peekay and Branley, who receive the gender violence directly, the trauma still haunts their body and memories. The issue of sexism is portrayed through two stereotypes. First, women are ‘women are easily offended because they are emotional. It

can be seen through everyone's reaction when they see Alex and Peekay's anger. Second, women who dress up revealingly aim for males' attention. It can be shown by how Jack describes Alex and Branley's appearance. This stereotype shows that sexism makes it difficult for female characters who challenge the norm to be accepted in society. Through this research, the writer also found out that all of the female characters, except Alex, have been the perpetrators of misogyny and sexism because of their prejudice toward a specific person.

As a response to misogyny and sexism, each character has a different way to deal with it. Alex has been strongly rejected since her childhood. It can be seen through her violence until the end of her life. Through her violence, we could see how Alex transcendence her limits as a teenage girl to create a safe society for everyone, specifically for women. She is also helping Peekay to find her position as herself in society by calling her 'Claire', not 'Peekay' like everyone else. As for Peekay, she starts to reject the internalization of misogyny and sexism toward herself since she befriends Alex. She also makes Alex find her place in society by befriending her, along with Sara. Then, she started to move on from her hatred toward Branley and Adam. She realized that she did not need to be involved in a romantic relationship to become someone's 'object' to show her existence. Therefore, she could see Branley just the way she is and accept her apology for ruining her relationship. She feels bad seeing how Branley reduces her value as a girl to gain a place beside a boy. When Alex died, Peekay and Sara acknowledged her struggles to create a better environment, and they tried to do the same thing by removing



the anonymous graffiti or handwritten in lockers or the school's toilet that is full of sexual and misogynistic jokes.

However, the writer finds out that Branley Jacobs cannot follow the journey of Alex, Peekay, and Sara to free herself from misogyny and sexism. She was trapped in a feminine role-play as a narcissist who likes to be the center of attention. The reason is that she believes that her value as a girl depends on how boys see her. Despite their friendship, Jack did not choose Branley as her girlfriend because he had a date preference for someone with a mysterious and mature personality like Alex. That's why she is drowning into jealousy and decided to ruin Alex and Jack's relationship. However, she ended up feel guilty for ruining everything because Alex died after trying to save Jack and her from getting threatened by Ray and his friends.

From this analysis, the writer concludes that misogyny and sexism can take many forms, from the utterances to actions that violate women. It also shows that there are no single benefit for women who have received misogynist and sexist treatment. Through the feminist lens, *The Female of the Species* shows that female solidarity is important to resist the misogyny and sexism so they could help each other. However, this novel also shows that not all women are having the feminist mindset that motivates them to reject the misogyny and sexism. Some of them did not have the power to stand for themselves and decided to internalize the patriarchal values as a part of their personality.

5.2 Suggestions

While conducting this research, the writer rarely found literary analysis that uses *The Female of the Species* as their main object. Therefore, future studies could use several theories to analyze this novel through a different lens. For instance, future researchers could use a psychoanalytic approach to analyze Alex's behavior and her defense mechanism to survive after Anna's death. Another approach that could be used for future research is the comparative literature method, which compares *The Female of the Species* with other young adult literature on a similar issue to see how the teenagers in each book deal with misogyny or sexism.

