

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

The novel *Legally Blonde*, by Amanda Brown, tells the story of Elle's journey, which begins with wanting to pursue her lover to Stanford Law School to prove that she is a "serious" person and fits his criteria. But as the story progresses, the challenges faced by Elle also become more complex, and through this research will be a bridge to see more deeply using the lens of intersectionality. Through intersectionality, this research sees how gender and class intersect and create opportunities, inequalities, and challenges faced by Elle in the educational environment and the world of work until she achieves her empowering transformation. This novel also highlights how women have succeeded in challenging conventional norms, especially in environments dominated by men.

In the educational environment, Elle experiences representational intersectionality, where her feminine appearance and fashion sense are the center of people's thoughts about her, which are considered unintelligent and unsuitable for the educational environment of an elite institution. She also experiences structural intersectionality due to the academic environment that does not support women to express themselves outside of traditional norms. Although Elle comes from an upper-class background and can get an education at a prestigious institution, Elle actually has to work harder than her peers to gain recognition.

In addition, in the work environment, Elle is judged only based on her appearance. This assessment shows the existence of representational intersectionality. In addition, Elle also faces structural intersectionality, this occurs because she becomes a

victim of sexual harassment by her senior lawyer. This situation highlights that women who have privileges are not protected by the social structure that claims to support them. Furthermore, Elle's decision to leave her internship and continue her career independently shows political intersectionality. This occurs because she is given a choice between having to choose to continue her career or speak out against the discrimination she experiences.

This research aims to demonstrate the crucial role of representation in shaping awareness of empowerment. Stuart Hall is of the view that a cultural text is not only a reflection of reality but simultaneously shows how meaning is born. The character of Elle Woods shows how literature plays a role in spreading feminist ideologies related to gender and class. Elle's journey to fight power with a fresh perspective, empathy, and individuality will allow readers to see that privilege can support each other with support of feminist views. At the end, Elle shows us she's not just a character that appears in a novel, but a symbolic representation of women's empowerment in popular culture.

Finally, Elle Woods is a character who successfully embodies a complex yet progressive form of empowerment. Her refusal to abandon her inherent femininity and simultaneously demonstrate her superiority in the professional legal field is a challenge she faces and resists against forms of power and success closely associated with masculine concepts. Rather than feeling left behind, Elle successfully demonstrates that intelligence, empathy, and authenticity are elements that provide the strength to shape her empowerment, as well as challenging conventional understandings that arise due to the intersection of gender and class. The combination of intersectionality theory, representation theory, and liberal feminist theory is the right combination and the study

of this topic concludes that Amanda Brown's novel *Legally Blonde* is a literary work that presents an alternative feminist narrative, where women from upper-class backgrounds also face systemic obstacles with a form of complexity that is different from the obstacles experienced by women from lower-class backgrounds. This novel depicts a woman who not only survives but also thrives and remains true to herself while challenging structural rules and cultural differences. Therefore, this novel is able to demonstrate its contribution to the broader study of inclusive empowerment and the multifaceted experiences faced by women resulting from the intersection of gender and class. Through this study, it can be concluded that gender and gender have mutually supporting challenges to the formation of momentum for women's representation. Elle Woods' journey on *Legally Blonde* is a testament to how empowering moments require equal measures of resolution, from gender stereotypes to class assumptions. The analysis used in Elle's story also highlights that the struggles and successes that women experience in finding their moment of empowerment are very complex, especially in conditions where privilege and discrimination overlap with each other.

5.2 Suggestion

This study fills a critical need to analyze literature through an intersectional lens, which aims to understand how identity and systems of power are interrelated. In the future, similar research opens up opportunities for more complex analysis and combines other dimensions such as race, sexuality, and disability which are useful for retracing character experiences and community criticism. Furthermore, this analysis also provides space for comparative research with other literature works, especially with the same issues and analytical lenses. So, that we can see this issue from various layers of criticism and varied community views.