

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

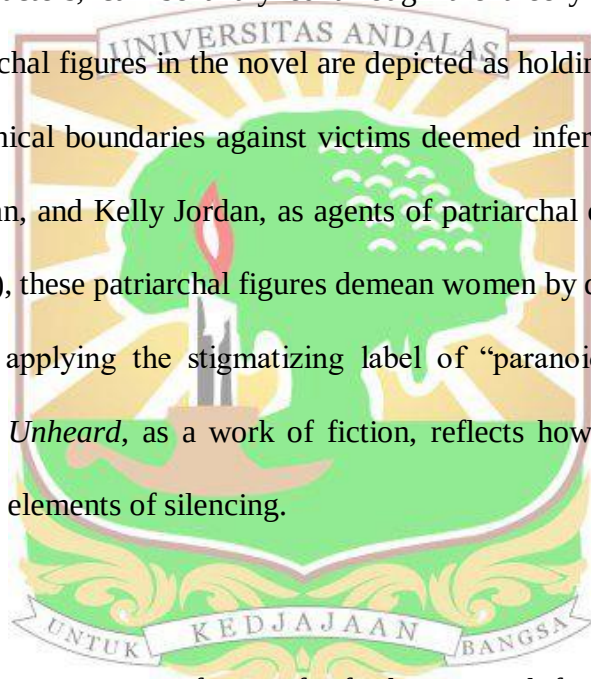
5.1 Conclusion

This thesis analyzes the literary work *The Unheard* (2021) by Nicci French that depicts forms of silencing oppression experienced by the main character, Tess Moreau. After analyzing the silencing oppression experienced by Tess, the writer finds that Tess faces silencing in both the domestic and public spheres. The perpetrators in this silencing are Tess's former husband, Jason, and her current boyfriend Aidan. On the one hand, Jason silences Tess through his authority as a father by positioning himself as the rational authority figure and labeling Tess as paranoid and irrational. On the other hand, Aidan silences Tess through psychological pressure and obsessive surveillance. Meanwhile, public silencing is carried out by Kelly Jordan, a police detective who represents the legal system. She acts as an enabler of silencing by dismissing evidence related to the murder witnessed by Poppy, Tess's daughter, which was committed by Aidan.

Moreover, there are several factors that contribute to silencing in both the domestic and public spheres. One of the major factors is patriarchy as a system that silences women, which is also reflected in the experiences of the main character, Tess Moreau. Furthermore, within the patriarchal system, there are other factors that influence the silencing of Tess in *The Unheard* (2021). One of them is the logic of phallogentrism, which plays a crucial role in rejecting Tess's maternal intuition as it does not align with the institutional logic that adheres to male-centered reasoning. Moreover, another contributing factor is the stigma and delegitimization of Tess's role as a mother by the people around her. In addition, male authority also plays a significant role, particularly

through Jason's authority as Poppy's father and Aidan's dominance in his relationship with Tess, both of which contribute to Tess's silencing. The last factor is gender oppression against a mother, as Tess is depicted living under Aidan's control, resulting in her having severe psychological distress.

This thesis shows that *The Unheard* (2021) illustrates how women's voices are silenced by the patriarchal system, which is indirectly portrayed through the characters of Jason, Aidan, and Kelly Jordan. The book explains that this silencing, as depicted through the supporting characters, can be analyzed through the theory of patriarchal binary thought. The patriarchal figures in the novel are depicted as holding absolute power and establishing hierarchical boundaries against victims deemed inferior. This is evident in the way Jason, Aidan, and Kelly Jordan, as agents of patriarchal control, treat Tess. In *The Unheard* (2021), these patriarchal figures demean women by delegitimizing the role of the mother and applying the stigmatizing label of "paranoid mother". It can be concluded that *The Unheard*, as a work of fiction, reflects how labeling and distrust function as essential elements of silencing.



5.2 Suggestion

This study can serve as a reference for further research focusing on the silencing experienced by Tess Moreau through the lens of Hélène Cixous's theory of patriarchal binary thought. By broadening the topic in *The Unheard* (2021), future research may offer a psychoanalytic perspective on the psychological pressure experienced by Tess Moreau. Other approaches within feminist literary theory could also be examined as potential causes of Tess Moreau's silencing. Ultimately, the writer hopes this study may serve as a reference for understanding how women, particularly mothers, experience silencing within both domestic and public spheres.