

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

After analyzing William Faulkner's *Go Down, Moses*, here are some conclusions that I could draw:

1. In *Go Down, Moses*, nature is represented in three ways. They are **Classic Pastoral; Romantic Pastoral; and American Pastoral**. The novel also reflects the author's environmental awareness which is found in three forms: **Understanding the equality of human and nature; Loving and respecting nature; and Being aware of nature protection and preservation.**
2. From Classic Pastoral perspective, in *Go Down, Moses*, the representation of nature is related to peace, relaxation and nostalgia. Nature provides Sam with a place to recover from his painful experience. In addition, nature also provides Ike with peace and relaxation. It also makes him nostalgic and filled with longing for the past.
3. Faulkner also powerfully describes the changes in the Southern landscape caused by urban expansion in *Go Down, Moses*. He emphasizes the beauty of nature and pointed out the better times away from the complexity of the city. The better time based on the presentation of nature as simple yet beautiful. However, as people continue to clear the land for economic benefits, this beauty has disappeared.

4. As from American Pastoral perspective, Faulkner presents nature as a resource to be cultivated and plantation as the boundary between the urban and the wilderness. Faulkner conveyed the idea of land to be utilized through the Southern tradition of passing on land over generations. Plantation symbolizes the wealth of a family, giving it various privileges in society, including enslaving blacks. Plantation also has a role as the boundary between urban life and wilderness, where people and nature are interdependent.
5. The first form of William Faulkner's environmental awareness found in the novel is understanding the equality of humans and nature. Faulkner demonstrates this idea through Ike McCaslin. Ike is described struggling with the Southern characteristic of conquering and dominating the land. This superiority over nature encourages humans to destroy nature in order to get the maximum benefit. Through Ike, Faulkner also claims that there is a curse in the South which is caused by the unfair way the white men took over the land from the native Indians.
6. The second form of Faulkner's environmental awareness found in *Go Down, Moses* is loving and respecting nature. The love and respect are expressed through Ike McCaslin who since the age of ten, was taught to hunt and to love and respect nature by Sam Fathers. It is found that the love and respect that Ike has for nature reflect Faulkner's. He also did many outdoor activities in his youth because his father encouraged him and his brothers to hunt,

track, and fish. Faulkner also expressed the love and respect for nature through his works that give nature a vital position in the story.

7. The third form of Faulkner's environmental awareness found in *Go Down, Moses* is awareness of nature protection and preservation. However, Faulkner illustrates this in different ways through Ike. While Ike is described repudiating his heritage and retreating himself from the society, Faulkner himself chose to take actions to protect and preserve nature. These choices somewhat indicate a refusal towards land clearance that took place in the South.

5.2 Suggestions

The result of the research shows that William Faulkner depicts the relationship between humans and nature in *Go Down, Moses* comprehensively. The analysis, however, clearly indicated there is historical links between slavery and landownership in the South. Unfortunately, these historical links have not been explored in this research yet. Therefore, further research is recommended to examine the correlation between Southern culture of landownership and the slavery institution which took place in the said area for centuries. Therefore, a study of the novel using a sociology of literature perspective is highly recommended.