

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter consists of two subchapters. The first subchapter is conclusion of this research. The second subchapter is the suggestion that might be useful for further research with Giovanni and Lorde's poems as the object.

5.1. Conclusion

Based on the previous chapter's analysis, the writer finds that Nikki Giovanni and Audre Lorde's poems address the issues of race, class and gender discrimination in their poems. The writer concludes that Giovanni and Lorde strongly present the impacts of gender discrimination and social class inequality toward black American women's life. Furthermore, Giovanni and Lorde as black American poets try to use their poems represent their voices that experienced some discriminations. To achieve those issues, this research employs Critical Race Theory by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic.

The impact of gender and social class inequality experienced by black American women caused some kind of suffering and damage to several aspects of their lives. First, black American women are marginalized in society. Nikki Giovanni described in her poem "Woman" that black American women could not contribute in a certain aspect due to the assumption that has been attached to black American women for a long time. Black American women in the patriarchal and white society are placed in an inferior position. They usually do not have an important role in society and become marginalized. For example, black American women were uneducated, poor, ugly, aggressive and weak.

Second, black American women are subordinated as second class. Audre Lorde in her poem "A Woman Speaks" claimed that Black American women's subordination refers to the inferior position of black women to men, such as black and white men. She describes black American women as human being should be valued. Men's power and women's powerlessness are the reasons why women are categorised as inferior and second class. Lorde depicts that being black is more difficult and complicated than being white woman. Since the black American women are black, women and have a low position in the social class.

Third, black American women receive negative stereotypes. The stereotypes of black women in America have existed since the slavery era until present. The stereotypes experienced against black American women in America are stereotypes that are negatively related to the personality and physique of black American women. Giovanni illustrates the negative stereotypes that lead black American women to be oppressed, put as second class in society in her poem "A Poem For A Lady Whose Voice I Like". They are considered stupid and uneducated because they did not get a proper education in the discrimination era. Giovanni describes that black American women do not have skills and abilities because they lack of education.

Fourth, black American women are targeted for violence. Black American women have always been the object of violence between men and white people in America. They experience violence because they are black and they are women. Because men think they have power over women, they can do everything, even violate them. Nikki Giovanni reflects how her as a black woman experiences psychological violence in her poem “Nikki Rosa”. Nikki and her family faced discrimination as the lowest class and the poorest people.

Furthermore, Giovanni and Lorde use their poems to depict black American women’s voices. They express their own experiences and other black American women to get justice and equality. First, black American women’s voices as minority race in America. The writer employs the everyday racism of Critical Race Theory to explain black American women’s voices as minority race. Everyday racism is portrayed in Audre Lorde’s poem “Power”. Lorde illustrates the brutality of a police officer that killed a ten year old.

The next is black American women’s voices as second class citizens in America. The writer uses Interest convergence or material determinism of Critical Race Theory to find out of black American women’s voices as second-class citizens. The poems “ Nikki Rosa” and “Poem For A Lady Whose Voice I Like” depict black American women as second class citizens. Giovanni and her family live in poverty due to the dominance of power, oppression and discrimination by white people in various aspects, especially in the economic aspect.

The last, black American women’s voices as black lesbian women. The writer uses Intersectionality of Critical Race Theory to reveal the black American women’s voices as black lesbians. Lorde was discriminated against not only because of her skin color, but also because of her race and sexual identity. She feels it more hard to avoid discrimination in American society because she is black, a woman, and a lesbian. Lorde explained that black women face more challenges than black men. In “The Black Unicorn”, Lorde illustrates the images of being black, woman and also lesbian in America.

5.2. Suggestion

In this subchapter, the writer suggests for the next researchers who are willing to take Nikki Giovanni and Audre Lorde’s poems as their object of the research. There are still several topics of the poems that might be examined. The writer’s suggestion to the next researchers is to analyze Nikki Giovanni or Audre Lorde’s poems by using biographical criticism and feminist theory. The next researchers may discuss the intrinsic elements of the poems