

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1. Conclusions

After applying the social exchange theory of emotion to the novel “Absent in the Spring” by Agatha Christie, the researcher forms a brief conclusion based on the findings of the analysis. It is found that the aspects of social exchange and emotions play a big role in influencing social relations in society. The aspects of social exchange towards the social unit’s emotions are important to attribute the social problem through a sociological perspective. According to Lawler & Thye (1999), emotions affect the context, process, and outcome of social exchange, hence determining the condition of each social relation. The context of social exchange determines an individual’s perspective in processing the condition of social relations, which results in different outcomes. In the novel, the conflicts that the main character faces individually and socially with other characters are generally caused by the unachieved equity of social exchange that is affected by emotions.

As for the findings, the researcher displays twenty-four data that are found to prove the existence of emotional aspects of social exchange in the “Absent in the Spring” novel by Agatha Christie. As the theory by Lawler & Thye (1999) proposes, emotions take roles in the aspects of social exchange context, process, and outcome. Based on the findings, eight data are unveiled for the context of social exchange, including four data in emotion norms and four data in status or social relation. It is revealed that the characters in the novel consider their social relation

based on the context of emotional norms and power or status condition of 20<sup>th</sup>-century society in Britain. As for the process of social exchange, the characters in the novel process the exchange of their social relation by undergoing emotion signal with four data presented and cognitive adjustment with four data presented, which in a total of eight data in the process of social exchange. It is found that emotions may signal the good or bad condition of the social relation, and cognitive adjustment may biasedly affect the character's judgments toward their interaction with each other. At last, the researcher presents eight data for the outcome of social exchange, which consists of four data in social attribution, and another four data in social cohesion. It is found, that the condition of social relations is affected by the context and process of social exchange which generate different outcomes. The social actors in the novel undergo social attribution and social cohesion resulting in either the end or continuation of the social relation.

## **5.2. Recommendations**

The researcher proposes some general recommendations regarding the significance of this research, both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the theory of social exchange and emotions by Lawler & Thye (1999) which is used in this research may contribute to more extensive social phenomena in literary works. Moreover, by combining the theories of emotion with social exchange theory, literary works can be analyzed both sociologically and psychologically. However, this research mainly focuses on sociological phenomena in literary work that are affected by the social actor's emotions. Therefore, the theories of emotions themselves can be observed in a more specific psychological analysis for future

researchers. This has been the limitation of the researcher himself because deeply analyzing psychology in social exchange theory will take more time and more extensive analysis. Future researchers may focus on the psychological sense of the theory so that the future field of social exchange theory in literary studies may be broader.

Practically, there has never been any research so far that discusses the sociology of literature by using the theory of social exchange and emotion by Lawler & Thye (1999). Therefore, this opens a huge opportunity for future researchers who are interested in the same area of sociology or psychology to analyze the chosen literary works using the theory used in this research. The researcher hopes that this research may open a broader opportunity for the understanding of the theory of social exchange and its emotional aspects proposed by Lawler & Thye (1999). Moreover, the novel "Absent in the Spring" written by Agatha Christie (1944) has never been used in any literary study. The novel has tremendous potential to be analyzed in many kinds of approaches to literary studies.