

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

The analysis reveals that gender dynamics significantly influence women's experiences and opportunities across various sectors. Despite advancements in gender equality, substantial gaps persist, particularly in areas such as employment, education, and political representation. The feminist movement has played a crucial role in highlighting these disparities and advocating for systemic changes. However, the impact of these efforts varies across different regions and cultural contexts within Indonesia.

Based on an analysis of "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood using the theories of Sylvia Walby and Simone de Beauvoir, the novel offers a profound critique of the systemic oppression of women. Walby's theory of patriarchy, which identifies six structures through which patriarchy operates (household production, paid employment, state, violence, sexuality, and cultural), provides a comprehensive framework to understand the multifaceted control over women in Gilead. De Beauvoir's, which emphasizes women's resistance to define their own existence and the impact of societal norms on their identity, further enriches the analysis. Together, these theories illuminate the severe constraints on women's autonomy and identity in the dystopian society depicted in the novel.

The researcher identified numerous instances of women's right restricting and resistance against patriarchal oppression in "The Handmaid's Tale." The data

collected includes specific examples of household production, paid employment, and state role in enforcing patriarchal norms through laws and policies. Additionally, instances of violence, control over women's sexuality, and the influence of cultural institutions were documented. The analysis reveals that women in Gilead are subjected to rigid and dehumanizing roles, with their existence tightly controlled by a patriarchal regime that strips them of their agency and self-determination.

Overall, the study found a total of 20 data points illustrating the various dimensions of restricting women's right in "The Handmaid's Tale." These include 4 instances related to household production, 2 instances of paid employment, 5 examples of state-enforced patriarchy, 2 cases of violence, 3 examples of control over sexuality, and 4 instances of cultural reinforcement. The findings underscore the pervasive and insidious nature of patriarchal control in the novel, highlighting the urgent need for feminist resistance to dehumanization and the reclaiming of women's autonomy and identity in the face of systemic patriarchy.

5.2 Recommendation

There are limitations and problems when writing this research. The first problem encountered was collecting data due to limited research time. Additionally, there are limitations in analyzing the data found. The researcher in this study only analyzed 28 data points because some data had similar issues, making it challenging to differentiate between them. Future researchers are encouraged to gather and analyze a broader range of data to enhance the findings. This research was limited to focusing on the restrictions on women's rights and the reasons for the female

characters' resistance in the novel "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. The novel, which blends dystopian fiction with feminist themes, provides a harrowing narrative of a society that severely restricts women's freedoms. The study explored the characters' struggles against oppressive societal norms and the various forms of resistance they employ. Future researchers might consider expanding this analysis by incorporating different theoretical frameworks or focusing on other themes within the novel.

The researcher recommends that future researchers analyze "The Handmaid's Tale" using a moral approach, such as the one proposed by Dr. Samuel Johnson, to explore the moral values depicted in the story. This approach could uncover the ethical dilemmas faced by the characters and the moral lessons conveyed through their actions. Analyzing the moral dimensions of the characters' struggles and resistance could provide deeper insights into the novel's themes and messages, offering new perspectives on the dystopian world created by Atwood.

Another valuable avenue for future research is the application of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory to analyze the characters in "The Handmaid's Tale." This theoretical lens can reveal the various unmet needs and desires of the characters, such as Offred's longing for freedom and autonomy or Serena Joy's complex relationship with power and subjugation. By examining the characters' motivations and psychological needs, researchers can gain insights into their behavior and development.