

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter consists of two main parts, namely conclusion and recommendation, which are drawn based on the results of the analysis presented in the previous chapters. The conclusion provides a summary of the key findings of the research regarding the forms of Juvenile Delinquency and the social factors that influence them as reflected in “Falling into Place” novel by Amy Zhang. Meanwhile, the recommendation section offers suggestions for future research and practical implications based on the outcomes of this research.

5.1. Conclusions

To conclude the results of this research, the researcher tries to bring together the important points from the overall discussion and findings that have been analyzed previously. By applying the Juvenile Delinquency theory from Siegel & Welsh (2009), this research concludes that status offenses, violations of the law that are only considered illegal when committed by minors, along with surrounding social factors, play a significant role in shaping the deviant behavior of teenage characters in “Falling into Place” novel by Amy Zhang. The novel shows that the actions of these teenagers are not just random misbehavior, but are deeply influenced by emotional pressure and difficult social situations. Using the Sociological Approach from Laurenson & Swingewood (1972), the researcher is able to connect the events in the novel with real social issues faced by teenagers in everyday life. Overall, this research shows that Juvenile Delinquency is not just

about breaking rules, but a reflection of deeper emotional and social problems that deserve serious attention.

From the total findings, 28 data were identified as forms of status offense, including: 5 data representing drinking alcohol, 2 data portraying disobeying parents, 6 data from skipping school and disobeying teachers, 4 data reflecting having bad companions, 0 data for running away, 5 data involving participation in sex or immoral conduct, 3 data from violating curfew, and 3 data showing the use of profanity. The difference in the number of each form of status offense shows a certain tendency in the "Falling into Place" novel. Since the frequency of their settings is often in the school environment, skipping school and disobeying teachers are the most frequent forms of status offense. Drinking alcohol and participating in sex or immoral conduct are also quite dominant because the characters are depicted as emotional pressures that drive them to seek escape. Meanwhile, having bad companions, violating curfew, and using profanity appear as the influence of the social environment and expressions of emotional instability. As for offense related to disobeying parents, it is rarely shown because it is not the main focus and is only briefly narrated in the storyline. However, one form of status offense was not identified in this research, namely running away. This finding indicates that although the characters faced emotional distress, they did not express it through extreme acts of escapism.

In addition to that, 9 data reflect the factors contributing to Juvenile Delinquency, which are divided into three elements, 3 data indicate family factors; 3 data shows school environment factors; and peer relationship factors there are

also 3 data. The even distribution of these three factors indicates that the cause of Juvenile Delinquency does not come from a single source, but from a combination of various social aspects that influence each other. Teenagers who do not receive attention or emotional support from their families, are in an uncondusive school environment, or have negative peer relationships have a higher tendency to engage in deviant behavior.

The results of the research also show that not all characters in the novel are involved in forms of Juvenile Delinquency, especially committing status offenses. Of all the characters, there are nine characters identified as having committed such behavior, namely Liz, Kennie, Julia, Jake, Kyle, Zack, Sammie, Abby, and Bailey. Meanwhile, three characters who are known to be influenced by social factors are Liz, Kennie, and Julia. These findings indicate a tendency that delinquent behavior is more dominantly carried out by the core group of adolescent characters, while the influence of social factors tends to be centered on the main characters who have a significant role in the storyline. In conclusion, the “Falling into Place” novel provides a strong depiction of Juvenile Delinquency through status offenses, supported by a variety of social factors. These findings highlight the importance of early detection, supportive environments, and emotional guidance in preventing further deviant behavior among adolescents.

5.2. Recommendations

Before making recommendations, it is important to first convey some limitations in this research. One obstacle is the time gap between the current conditions of adolescents and the situation depicted in the “Falling into Place” novel

published in 2014. Although both are in the 21st century, the lives of adolescents today have undergone many changes, especially in terms of the use of social media, family dynamics, and pressure from the school environment and relationships. This makes some of the findings in the novel may not fully describe the reality faced by today's adolescents. Therefore, the results of this research need to be seen as a general description, not as a real representation of the current conditions of adolescents.

As a final point, the researcher provides several suggestions that can be used as considerations for further research and practical applications in everyday life. From an academic perspective, this research can be an additional reference for literary studies that raise social issues, especially those related to Juvenile Delinquency. The theory of Siegel & Welsh (2009) and the Sociological Approach of Laurensen & Swingewood (1972) have proven to be effective in analyzing deviant behavior experienced by characters in literary works. For future research, it is suggested that theories from the field of psychology also be used in order to understand the causes of Juvenile Delinquency in more depth, especially those related to the mental condition and personal development of adolescents.

From a practical perspective, the results of this research can be learning materials for teachers, parents, and general readers to better understand how important the influence of the social environment is on adolescents. The “Falling into Place” novel by Amy Zhang can also be used as discussion material in schools or literacy communities, because its contents reflect various issues that are relevant to the lives of today's adolescents. This research can also inspire other researchers

to analyze modern adolescent novels using a similar approach, both sociological and interdisciplinary. Overall, this research is expected to be a mirror for all of us to be more concerned about the problems faced by teenagers around us, especially those related to the emotional needs and social pressures that they often experience.