

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1. Conclusion

The result of the study shows that *Gambang Semarang* dance costume is divided into two parts: the upper and lower parts. The researcher found out that the upper parts consists of pectoral girdle (*kemben*), *kebaya encim*, *sampur* (long scarf) and belt, while the lower part costume only consists of *jarik* or a long skirt. The dancer wore *kebaya encim* or *kebaya Semarang* (*kebaya* worn by Chinese descendent (*peranakan*)). In addition to functioning as a decoration, the belt is also used to wrap the *kebaya* and *jarik* to, so that the dancer can easily move in her dance. Another important element of *Gambang Semarang* dance costume is *sampur*. There is no specific way of wearing *sampur* as long as it is positioned in the side of waist not in the middle. Positioning *sampur* in the middle is the characteristic of court dancer's costume.

Other discussions on *Gambang Semarang* costume deal with fabrics, colors and patterns. They are discussed because the informants supply much information about those elements. The fabrics of the costume changes from time to time adjusting to popular fabric in particular time. Usually, the dancers use the fabrics which can be easily found in the market such as brocade, organza, tulle, and mori. For the *batik*, it is made from cotton. The researcher learns from the interviews that there is no standardization of the costume as it is changing by the time influenced by the aesthetic appetite of the era. The materials used for *Gambang Semarang*

dance costume are flexible. The dance company or dancing group can choose to wear or decorate their costume using any available materials depending on their needs in the performance. The costume can be in any color as long it is bright, for bright colors are believed to represent the colour of coastal culture. However, there is an interesting fact related to the colour. Although there is no consistency of the color used, the dancers or dance company recognize that the colour for their costume follows the symbolic color of the political group hiring them. This fact implies the dancers/dance group engage in the commercialization of their performance, including the color of their costume. For the *jarik*, they make use of coastal batik pattern elements on the lower part of costumes usually. The pattern depicts animal or plants which represent Chinese culture. As there is no uniformity on the costume, each dancing company makes their own distinctive costume for the dancers, for example, by putting the combination of cultural elements in the coastal area on the costume between Javanese, Chinese. The famous patterns used by the dancers or Dance Company for their costume are peacock, dragon or flowers. They do not randomly put any pattern; they use a certain pattern because it has auspicious meaning.

With regard to *Gambang Semarang* dance costume, there is no patent from time to time. In a certain time, the dancing company will have some additional details or change the costume depending on the needs, for instance, giving luxurious and glamorous looks in the costume. The look is important in performance. It enables the dancers to draw audience's attention, thus entertaining them, to give the

impression that their costume are not outdated, and also to highlight the aesthetic aspect of the costume embraced in a certain era.

Gambang Semarang dance costumes both the upper and lower parts clearly represent the multicultural characteristics of Semarang people. The design, colours, and patterns of the *Gambang Semarang* costume obviously accentuate the fact that Semarang is inhabited by people from different cultural backgrounds.

5.2 Suggestion

The researcher hopes that this research will raise awareness of preserving *Gambang Semarang* dance as one of the identities of Semarang city. This research is a small contribution to make this dance familiar to the people. Further, the researcher hopes that different aspects of the dance will be studied in details in the future.