

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Traumatic experience of a sexual abuse victim is the main theme of *Speak* because it is the root for the main character's, Melinda Sordino. Not only has Melinda been silenced, but also how society view her as a less human beings just because one simple mistake. She shows several symptoms of traumas which is coming from depression, excessive-consciousness, inability to concentrate, losing trust and also self mutilation. This study represents all of the symptoms of the mental illness that the character goes through, psychologically or emotionally. Melinda is only able to grow and develop as a person by getting over her depression. *Speak* allows the readers to completely understand the level of Melinda's trauma and shows them how Melinda as the victim of sexual violence copes with the trauma she has.

The idea of women oppression is clearly shown in this novel. Rape is undoubtedly common. Victims of sexual abuse still face massive amounts of public skepticism when they come forward. Radical feminists point out that because there are patriarchy in our lives women have come to be viewed as the "subordinate" to the male norm, and a because of that, women have been systematically marginalized and oppressed. The entire patriarchal system needs to be reformed, so that women are not always seen below men. The assault that happen to women is mostly motivated by power and control rather than sexual objectification itself and is a violent act rather than sexual act.

Melinda goes through an internalized struggle and journey to heal herself and cope her trauma with "speak". Melinda copes with her trauma through artistic expression and extensive self-reflection. Melinda, who is able to get past her traumatic events by herself, is the example of 'a survivor'. Melinda regains her 'voices' by everything that she needs to do, by discovering who she is.

Melinda refuses her sexual victimization. She is working through the ability that required to not only regain her voices but also try to accept the reality that she is not at fault. The cause of Melinda's trauma comes both from the rape and how her voice are taken by people who ignore her. The silenced is not just hers but it is also forced upon her. This novel is not just a story about young girl cope with the trauma she has, but it is a story about our world we live in, where sexual assault happen everywhere. A story about why women often choose to be silent about the crimes of sexual violent committed against them.

5.2 Suggestion

Based on the findings and the conclusions, the writer would like to contribute some suggestions as follows

1. The victimization of Melinda or any victims of sexual abuse should be more analyzed for future researchers because the writer found that Melinda's victimization not only comes from herself but also the society that put the pressure on her,
2. It is suggested that women oppression should be more discussed. Women's status as somehow lesser than men is used to justify men's power over women. This could be an interesting topic to be conducted using Kate

Millet's or Andrea Dworkin's approach, because they both are the pioneers of the second wave feminism which focused on patriarchal society,

3. To the further researchers, particularly those who have the same interest in conducting sexual abuse, the cause and effect of sexual abuse, and the form of women's oppression, it is suggested that this study can be a reference. Hopefully, there will be any further research on this topic so people would be more aware the concept of patriarchy.

