

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The woman described in the novel *Rara Mendut* by Y.B Manguwijaya is a description of women in the seventeenth century in Javanese society. In this context of time every woman has the character, role, and division of labor expected and idealized by Javanese society. Characters that women must have, as mentioned above, are caring, subordinate, submissive, being physically weak, nurturing, and revealing emotion. The roles that women also owned at that time which are told in the novel. Women play expected roles as good women, good wife, good mother, and good housewife. In *Rara Mendut*, the role of wife and the role of housewife are often depicted in the characterizations by characters such as Nyai Ajeng, Ni Semangka, and Putri Arumardi. Those characters are portrayed as appropriate women roles. In the division of labor in the seventeenth century, as told in the novel, many women still worked in internal roles or stayed at home. This follows the positions that are carried out, namely the role of the wife and the role of housewife, that is, when women do not work outside the house but only do cooking and take care of their husband, household, and children. Moreover, the patriarchal culture at that time was still firm in Javanese society, causing the role of women as wives and housewives to be very visible.

Rara Mendut, in this novel, is described as having an independent, intelligent, and rough character. Her character is in contrast with the character idealized by Javanese society in the seventeenth century. Rara Mendut has more masculine than feminine characteristics. One example of a character that is attached to Rara Mendut

is rebellious. This trait can be found in many pieces of evidence in her actions, speech, and even mindset. Y.B Manguwijaya wants to show that Rara Mendut is a woman with a strong and unique character. Rara Mendut's iconic character triggers the conflict in the novel when she disobeys Wiraguna. It makes her face a tragic death ending for being unable to comply with the rules in society.

5.2 Suggestions

Through this study, the writer hopes that future researchers can analyze other novels with the same themes, namely about women, fictitious or real. Furthermore, the upcoming researcher can connect with other feminist and cultural theories. By doing so, the readers can get more perspective about the socio-cultural description of women in a certain time and culture.

