

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the writer will explain the final conclusion of the study and the suggestions to the readers about this study.

5.1. Conclusion

The Book Thief novel tells a story of the life journey of a young girl, Liesel Meminger, in Germany in Nazi era. Liesel's real mother could not afford to pay for her needs and school; therefore, she was adopted by Hubermann family. Losing a little brother and a mother was not easy for Liesel which finally caused her suffered a bed-wetting hysteria. In the depressed condition of suffering the bed-wetting hysteria, Hans Hubermann as Liesel's foster father tried to calm her by introducing her with books. Besides introducing books, Hubermann family also taught Liesel to respect Jews. There are three main characters of the novel: Liesel Meminger, Hans Hubermann, and Rosa Hubermann. What make this novel different from the other novels are the narrator of the novel which is death and the history of Germany in Nazi era that is packaged in the life story of Liesel Meminger does not make the readers feel that they are reading history but they feel like they just read the life story of a young girl. The story depicts the real events that happened in Germany from 1939 until 1943 but the events are packaged nicely in the life story of Liesel Meminger.

The findings of the data in this novel which are taken from the words, phrases, clauses, and sentences show how time, space, and local wisdom influence the identity construction of Liesel Meminger who was a German but she could respect a Jew.

By using Bennett's theory of time, the writer can reveal the role of time in constructing the identity of Liesel Meminger. In the analysis, it can be seen clearly that time has a function to show the evolution of Liesel Meminger, starting from 1939 when Liesel suffered bed-wetting hysteria, 1940 when Liesel started to have the ability of reading books and she also had obsession of books, 1941 when Liesel felt that Max Vandenburg could replace her brother's position although Max was a Jew, 1942 when Liesel tried to look for Max because he went out from Hubermann family's house, and 1943 when Liesel lost all her loved ones. Time acts as the framework in every event that Liesel passed in her life, so that, if all times are seen thoroughly there are changes in Liesel's life in every phase. Liesel who suffered bed-wetting hysteria then finally could forget the hysteria after she had obsession of books and her brother's position was replaced by Max Vandenburg. Liesel changed her attention from the fear of the nightmares into the obsession of books and Max. So, the function of time in constructing Liesel's identity is being the framework to capture every event that she passed in her life that finally form Liesel into certain identity.

Although time plays an important role in constructing an identity, but the role of time is not as important as space because space consists of certain places,

individuals, and their interactions inside the space. By using space theory of Michel Foucault, the writer got the result that space has different types in their way affecting the identity construction: heterotopias of crisis and deviation, heterotopias may have same function but with different fashion, heterotopias may consist of certain places, heterotopia may have the accumulation of time, epochs, forms, tastes, heterotopias have permission and certain gestures, and the last heterotopias have interactions with other heterotopias. So, different people can be collected in one place with certain interactions that will finally affect each other's identity.

Liesel lived in Hubermann family, she had interactions with Hubermanns then finally she became a German who respected Jews and was obsessed with books. Liesel knew books because of the effort of Hans Hubermann then she found that book could cure her nightmares. Besides being introduced with books, Liesel was also taught by her foster parents to respect Jews. Everyday Liesel's foster parents taught Liesel to protect and care Max who was a Jew. By the influences of Liesel's foster parents, Liesel finally became a German who loved Jews and was obsessed with books. So, space plays really important role in constructing Liesel Meminger's identity because Liesel always had interactions within the space she lived in.

Besides time and space, local wisdom also plays important role in constructing Liesel's identity because Liesel lived inside the Hubermann family so she had to obey the regulations and wisdoms inside the family. In the analysis, the result shows that Hubermann family has different point of view about Jews than other

Germans in Nazi era. Hans Hubermann was ever saved by a Jew gave regulation to all family members that they should respect, protect, and care Max Vandenburg; therefore, Liesel's identity was formed into a German who could respect Jews because Liesel as the part of Hubermann family did not want to be alienated from the family. The obedience to the rules finally forms into a continuity then forms an identity.

Overall, time, space, and local wisdom play important role in constructing the identity of Liesel Meminger because Liesel had the accumulation of times in her life which brought the accumulation of events which were experienced in certain spaces and the events she had might bring changes to Liesel especially her identity. The events that Liesel had could also include the local wisdom because all what Liesel did should not break the wisdom where she lived; therefore, the identity of Liesel who loved Jews and obsessed books is strongly influenced by time, space, and local wisdom.

5.2. Suggestions

The writer hopes that the readers will use this study as reference to conduct related studies, especially in how identity is constructed by the influence of time, space, and local wisdom. The writer also expects that the other students of English Literature can conduct research which is never conducted before such as exploring more deeply about culture and cultural influence on the identity construction.