

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusions

From the discussions, it can be concluded that literature can reflect how is the society around it. From it, people can predict about matters such as the language, the nature of religious beliefs or most of other facts people wish to know about their society, although not very specifically.

The values of Gothic literature, too, reveals or reflects the characteristics of the society at the time, which in this case is Romanticism era in America. The values are horror and terror, death, gloomy, grave, incest, and romance. All of the values represents Gothic with its darkness and can be found in Edgar Allan Poe's works—*Berenice*, *Ligeia*, and *Eleonora*. The value of horror and terror showed when the main characters feel fear or scared over something, for example is Egaeus in *Berenice*, who got a kind of fear and terror feeling about his own thought for Berenice. The death and grave value in here is because every character—at least one, in Poe's story ended up dead, the death of the characters also usually described as a mysterious death and then came back to life from the grave. The value of gloomy is just how sad the effects of the story for the readers, it looks like Poe chose every word in every sentence carefully to create a gloomy mood. For the romance and incest value, readers can easily find and recognize

it since Poe wrote it very clearly: the characters—in *Berenice* and *Eleonora*—who fell in love with each other are cousins.

However, the three chosen stories for this research, shows the great emphasis in American culture upon idealizing romantic love depends closely upon certain features of the basic family system when choice of mates is relatively free, personal attraction occur larger in marriage than it could under any system of arranged marriage. For example is the main characters in Poe's stories can freely choose his mate, no matter if it is his own cousin because personal attraction influenced more. I shows 'need' for dependence in America is strong, and the institutional demand for independence too. Under these circumstances, it is necessary to break through complex and deep-seated resistances to marriage and its responsibility and emotional independence without the help of a clearly defined system of mate choice based upon status and wider kinship regulation. An almost compulsive emphasis upon romantic love emerges in part from this situation.

Then the characteristics of the American society which reflected in the story are melodramatic, rebellious, and obsessive, though there is one more which shows that American people would like to 'escape'. It seems like they are trying to get away from whatever it is that unpleasant for them. For example is in *Berenice*, Egaeus as the main character often described to be having a dream or losing in his own thoughts, or would like to be alone reading in his library as his escape, etc. It is believed that American men is 'men on the run', or either lust for

experiences. For the 'rebellious' character, then can be reflected in any rebels in the story where the character refused to do something or act differently than most people or what is accepted in the society such as incest. Furthermore, the exaggerated writing reflected the melodramatic and also obsessive character.

After all, it is clear that through a story, the emotions from the author indirectly transferred to the readers. It is definitely can describe the social patterns since human beings in society have complexes of action, thought, and emotion which is shared by many individuals and repeated in many situations. In a story, the culture of a society can be known. It is the social heredity, the total legacy of past human behavior that effective in the present, representing the accumulation through generations of the artifacts, knowledges, beliefs, and values by which people deal with the world.

5.2. Recommendations

After conducting this study, the writer suggested that Gothic values are important to be learned. It is very common for human beings to have such Gothic values like nightmare, fear, horror, despair from the deep heart we could not understand, superstition, religion, and faith that we created by ourselves. Gothic fiction is more than connect the boundaries of the nations but interpret the innate souls of humans. Gothic will not wither away, because we do need gothic to scare, to alert, to warn people to avoid evils to tempt us, corrupt us to the abyss that not even laws, religion, education, and morality can make.

Society also an important part of literature, as literature is a part of society too. Then Sociology as a branch to the study of society can be related to the study of literature. English Department or other institution which related to literature should not ignore this or can widen the further research related to this.