

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

We Are All That's Left conveys a story that vividly portrayed the trauma of violent history in shape of haunting memories, crises in acculturating multiple cultural identities, along with inferiority of Muslim in one of Bosnian War refugees who immigrated to United States and the second generation American-born. Nadja, the first generation main character, had been displaced from her hometown in Višegrad and had to survive in the capital city, Sarajevo while she was being haunted by the ghosts of her past memories, which followed her until she settled her life in the States. Meanwhile, Zara, the second generation main character, had witnessed her mother's unexplainable peculiar behaviors from her hidden Bosnian identity for years and had become an avid reader of them, which develop her curiosity to discover about her mother's past and her missing cultural identity.

Resulted from her inferior state as Muslim Bosnian, Nadja faced the terrible hatred, violent, resentment, and discriminatory acts from the Serbs militant in the Bosnian War that also executed her whole family in front of her eyes and without doubt took the lives of her best friend and her boyfriend. This terrible Islamophobia acts became the source of Nadja's misfortune in losing everything she had; family, friends, and home, and generated her trauma—her haunting legacies. As a result, Nadja lived her two years of her life in Sarajevo with anxious and troubled, since her daily activities were constantly interfered by

her unexpected haunting legacies, which appeared in every time she encountered all the fragments that reminded her of her past memories.

These continual memories that were always suppressed or buried by Nadja on the contrary interconnected with the crisis in her cultural identity, as in every time the haunting legacies appeared; Nadja faced back to the fact that she had lost her sense of belonging to her homeland, wherein the place she gained nothing but miseries and forced displacement. In consequence, from the time Nadja came to the United States as refugee, she had crises in acculturating her cultural identity. Because not only Nadja had problems in embracing all of the American customs that very far from her rooted culture, but also she had to face back continually her cultural customs and mindset from the haunting legacies. Therefore, Nadja was caught in ambivalence of being an American in appearance, yet practiced her old Bosnian values and habits.

The haunting legacies hand in hand with the ambivalence in Nadja had unconsciously generated to the second generation American-born Zara and made her developed her transgenerational trauma and her own ambivalence. The observation that Zara unconsciously started in reading her mother's peculiar emotions and attitudes made her tried to patch the fragments of her mother's secret past identity by trying to find everything that could connect her to her other unexplainable Bosnian identity. From absorbed Nadja's ambivalence in thinking and practicing her customs, Zara developed her own ambivalence, which in this case mostly generated from her cultural clash between her Western mindset towards her mother's Eastern cultures. Not to mention, the bombing incident,

which was claimed by ISIS from the media, had developed Zara's ambivalence more. As Nadja got into a coma, yet was still suspected as in having relation with the perpetrator only because of her Muslim identity, Zara became frustrated because she still understood nothing about her mother.

In the end, both Nadja and Zara overcame their haunting legacies and transgenerational trauma along with resolved their ambivalence state as well as their cultural identity crises. By accepting and being in peace with her haunting memories, Nadja overcame her haunting legacies, which then interconnected with her buried Bosnian identity, Nadja embraced both of her cultural identities through her process of hybridity. While for Zara, her mother's resolved haunting legacies and cultural crisis helped her to resolve her own transgenerational trauma in gaining stories and information about her mother's past, along with resolving her cultural identity crisis by finally understanding her missing Bosnian culture.

For refugees, the ones who immigrated to the States in order to escape from injustice or oppression in their motherland, a cultural identity crisis will generally occur. The contrast customs, values, languages, and even gestures that presented a sudden change environment could segregate one's cultural identity, which in possibility was already shattered from the former forced displacement. However, despite the fact that America was a free country, the majority society still considered the refugees, specifically from Islamic country, as a different human being than Americans. In consequence, these refugees oftentimes get discriminations and prejudices, for instance, Muslim refugees are still monitored in secret and straight to be suspected for any radicalism and terrorism incident.

Therefore, many Muslim refugees tend to internalize the American values of the majority and made their appearances of being American in order to be accepted by the Western community, although they still could not relinquish the values and mindset from their motherland that had already rooted inside. These first generations' cultural identities then will be in contrast with the American-born second generation refugees that mostly embedded American values, since they have never been in their origin country. In avoiding cultural clash between the first and the second generation, the first generations have to accept their past and embrace both of her origin culture along with their new culture. Then, they should provide understanding to the second generations about their other cultural values. Hence, both of the generations may embrace the mixture of their cultural identities.

5.2 Suggestion

We Are All That's Left by Carrie Arcos is a young adult novel that portrays trauma from violent history; haunting legacies, crisis in acculturating multiple cultural identities, and Islamophobia. Aside from analyzing their haunting legacies and transgenerational trauma by applying Schwab's postcolonial trauma concept of haunting legacies, and investigating their acculturating multiple cultural identities processes by deploying Bhabha's postcolonial concepts of mimicry, ambivalence, and hybridity as well as Edward Said's orientalism theory, Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory could also be used to explore how Zara handled her own PTSD after the bombing incident, while Schleiermacher's theory of

Hermeneutics could also be applied in analyzing the theological conceptions, which was predominantly found both in the main and the sub-plot of the novel.

