

CHAPTER III

CONCLUSION

This research aims to analyse how Hester Prynne was constructed as the Other in a patriarchal Puritan society in the novel *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne and how the construction reflect gender injustice based on the existential feminist perspective of Simone de Beauvoir. To achieve This goal, this research uses qualitative research methods with close reading and content analysis techniques so that every finding is obtained through the analysis of the narrative, dialogue, and events contained in the novel and associated with the concept of women as *The Other* put forward by Simone de Beauvoir.

Based on the results of the analysis of the first problem formulation, this research shows that Hester Prynne was constructed as the Other through the social system of the Puritan society built on patriarchal values. In that system, men have the authority to determine laws, morals, and social rules, while women are placed in a lower position. As a result, Hester's identity and position were not formed based on herself, but based on the view of society dominated by patriarchal values. That position then gave birth to various forms of gender injustice experienced by Hester, namely marginalization, subordination, stereotypes, public humiliation, and double moral standards. The five forms of injustice do not stand alone, but are interrelated as a process that gradually forms Hester into the Other in society Puritan.

Furthermore, based on the second problem formulation, this study found that Hester's construction as the Other has a strong relationship with the concept of

women as *The Other* put forward by Simone de Beauvoir. Beauvoir explains that women are not naturally in a lower position, but are placed as the Other through a social construction that places men as the center or the subject. The results of this study show that Hester's experience reflects that concept. Various forms of gender injustice that he experiences are not just a consequence of the violations he has committed, but are the result of the patriarchal system that gives men the authority to determine the values, morality, and identity of women. Thus, this research shows that Hester's position as the Other is the result of social construction which then gives birth to various forms of gender injustice.

However, Hester's position as *The Other* has changed along with the development of the story. His relationship with the Puritan society and the meaning attached to the "A" letter symbol are also not fixed until the end of the novel. This research does not intend to state that Hester is constantly in the position of *The Other* until the end of the story. The focus of this research is to see the process of how Hester is placed as *The Other* and how that position gives rise to various forms of gender injustice, especially when Hester becomes the target of open judgement and punishment from the Puritan community.

Overall, this study concludes that *The Scarlet Letter* not only presents the story of sin and punishment, but also represents how a patriarchal society shapes and maintains the position of women as the Other through various social mechanisms. Through the application of Simone de Beauvoir's existentialis feminist perspective, this research provides an understanding that the gender injustice experienced by Hester Prynne is not something natural, but is the result of a social

construction that puts women in a position that is not equal to men. This research shows that Simone de Beauvoir's concept of women as *The Other* can help explain how Hester Prynne was constructed as the Other through various forms of gender injustice in *The Scarlet Letter*. The results of this research are expected to be an addition to the study of feminist literature and provide an overview of the application of Simone de Beauvoir's theory in analyzing literary works that raise the issue of women and patriarchy.