

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the narrative technique used in *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Flesh and Blood*, I will draw a conclusion based on my analysis. Though both novels tell about women issues, there are some differences between them. *The Handmaid's Tale*, whose narrator is only one person, Offred, gives unclear story. The limitation in knowledge that Offred has makes the story seem hard to understand. Even so, the story is still presentable. The use of first-person point of view makes the story seen only through Offred's perspective as she sees the world around her. Offred is the narrator used by Atwood to present the women issue of freedom and equality.

Flesh and Blood is presented using the first-person point of view as well as the third-person point of view. However, the multiple characters make the story hard to understand. The use of first-person point of view and third-person point of view divide the story into two different themes, mother-daughter relationship and man-woman relationship which include sex. What is interesting is that one of the narrators is a man, "Federigo" which represents minor male voice in Robert's women world.

The Handmaid's Tale splits its time sequence into two big parts, the past and the present time. There are distinctive characters that mark the time sequence,

Luke indicates Offred's past experience and the Commander shows her present time. The tempo is overall slow. Since "Gilead" is a made-up country, Atwood needs to put many details to explain the rules and environment of the country. This detail is the one that makes the story go slowly in tempo.

Flesh and Blood shares a different time sequence. Not only is it marked by distinctive characters, but also each chapter stands on its own. The multiple characters make it hard for the readers to really link story one by one as they read the novel. Roberts makes her story go in a slow tempo. There are many details given in the novel about the environment to make the readers able to imagine the situation inside the story.

When it comes to the style, *The Handmaid's Tale* has a very unique style. Atwood's dictions are very Biblical. She uses Biblical terms and allusions in her story. Therefore, these Biblical allusions and dictions are manipulated in the story. The dictions are not used in the conventional way. In fact, Atwood manipulates the meanings. By using these dictions, Atwood wants to show that in real life, oppressions happen to women without us realizing it and sometimes through religion. This is what Atwood tries to show to her readers, especially to her female ones. Moreover, Atwood is trying to criticize the misinterpretation of Christian principles which can create a certain form of brainwashing.

Flesh and Blood presents the story in a form of stories within stories. "Anon", made in a form a poetry, acts as the mirror for each story told before it. After "Anon", the stories of each character reach their endings. The style that Roberts uses in her novel is very unique. There are varieties of writing format that

Roberts presents in her novel; a poem, a film script as well as the usual writing structure of a novel.

Now, I want to talk about distance. Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* is somehow not made for the readers to feel sympathetic towards the characters especially towards Offred. However, the readers can only give sympathy towards Offred because at the same time, the readers would be able to see that Offred's mind perception is wrong. This disturbs the closeness that the readers might have had towards Offred because of her pitiful life. The readers will know that Offred has been brainwashed by the society of Gilead and this makes the readers not being drawn by the story but realize the wrong perception the characters have especially Offred.

Atwood makes her novel's relationship with the readers a far-distance one. She means to make the story as a form of her awareness over the issue she sees in the society. As a feminist, she highlighted women issues in her story.

At a glance, *Flesh and Blood* seems to have close distance with the readers because it uses first-person point of view and there are many details about the environment in the novel. However, apparently this close distance is destroyed by the fact that there are too many characters with not enough details given about them inside the novel. This is what makes the readers unable to feel close with the characters. Moreover, there are two points of view use in the novel, first-person and third-person point of view. While the ones using third-person point of view talk about man-woman relationship, the more complicated one occurs in the use of first-person point of view. The use of 'I' is not only to one narrator but to multiple narrators. Moreover, they are not all women. There is a male voice inside

the story even though he does not tell a story about himself but about his sister. Another matter that makes the first-person point of view discussion complicated is the use of “We” instead of “I” as to indicate the first -person point of view. The other destroyers to close distance that the readers have towards the novel are the unclear time sequence and the wrong mind patterns that the characters have. These are what make the readers have far distance with the novel.

Therefore, just like in Atwood’s, the readers can only feel sympathetic to the characters in the story. The readers will not feel too close since the characters’ mind patterns are wrong.

Finally, after analyzing the two novels, I would like to make a conclusion that each book has its own unique way of using narrative technique, which makes the novels interesting pieces of reading.