

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the conclusion of the study. The writer also provides suggestions considering the importance of the study and further attempts that are possibly taken by others on the same topic.

Conclusion

Middlesex, through Cal's transition from being a girl named Calliope to become a boy named Cal, has shown that the spectrum of human sexuality is very wide. The belief in the society that says genitalia and gender are always congruous has proven to be incorrect.

Middlesex is the evidence that gender is socially constructed. When Cal is Calliope, he is raised as a girl, he wears girls' clothing, and he behaves like girls. He does what girls do based on the norms in the society. He does not choose to be a girl, but because he is recognized as female when he is born, inevitably, his parents raise him as a girl. Soon, when he is firm with his choice, he instantly changes his clothing, he has his hair cut short like men, and he starts to walk like men, too. Although sometimes Calliope gets into Cal, he still considers himself as a man. This also shows that gender is fluid.

Butler's theory deconstructs the traditional representation of gender by providing new perspectives on the concept of gender and gender categories. The transformation from Cal to Calliope is done through performance. This, like

Butler's idea, is a performance. Gender is performed through actions and appearance.

During the analysis, the writer discovers three inner conflicts experienced by Cal throughout his transformation from Calliope to Cal. First is the conflict between himself and his physical condition, his sexual orientation, and last, his gender identity. All of those are mainly caused by his intersexuality and is worsen by Dr. Philobosian's failure to examine Cal's genitalia.

It is agonizing being Cal. Being in between, he has to go through the entire rollercoaster journey to eventually come to terms with his differences and finally decide living as a man, not a monster like the definition "hermaphrodite" he reads in the dictionary or an experimental subject like Bigfoot or the Loch Ness monster.

Although most people, including religious and government institutions, are still ignorant about intersexuality and its problems, scholars such as Wieringa with her research and Jeffrey Eugenides with his novel have provided a little light at the end of the tunnel. The hope is there. By the adoption of the Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics Act officially by Malta, other countries could follow its steps, so that the practice of mutilating intersexual people's genitalia will be issues of the past.

Upon reading the novel thoroughly, it is difficult to give a simple description of what *Middlesex* is about. To the writer, it is not only about an intersexual person who is struggling with gender issue. If we take intersexuality off from the story, it can be a story of a Greek family who migrates to America, and intersexuality is only a part of other spices in the story.

Suggestions

Suggestion for the readers of the novel. *Middlesex* ends with a message that whatever we are, we are normal. Being female, male, or in between does not matter at all. We are still normal even when we choose to be a woman, man, or in between. We have the right to choose what we want to be, including the right not to be mutilated, and no one can take over the privilege.

This means whenever we are faced with a case of a young intersexual person, it is wise to wait until she/he is mature enough to make the choice.

Suggestion for further study. *Middlesex* is a very dense novel with intense time switching. There are many ways to analyze the novel. What the writer has done in this study is only one. He does hope, in the future, other scholars can explore extensively more on the extrinsic elements of the novel and the history mentioned in the novel to see how they relate to Cal's transition. Another possible way is to analyze the novel using psychoanalytical approach.

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