

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

After analyzing a novel entitled “Recipe for a Perfect Wife” by Karma Brown through intrinsic approach which consists of character and characterization, plot and setting, it can be concluded that the novel reveal two kinds of housewife representation, cultural identity, and symbolic interactionism reflected in two female characters, Alice Hale and Eleanor Murdoch or also known as Nellie Murdoch. Character and characterization are done by telling method and showing method. There is also a plot starting from introduction until denouement or resolution, and the setting that consists of setting of place and setting of time. In addition, there are two perspective or point of views; Alice and Nellie. This result is also specifically supported by extrinsic approach consists of the theory of cultural identity based on Hall and the theory of symbolic interactionism based on Mead.

There are two kinds of housewife representation reflected in two female characters, Alice Hale and Nellie Murdoch. Alice is a hard-working woman and a part-time housewife while Nellie is a full-housewife. Even though Alice is a housewife, she still maintains her career as a publicist and a new novel writer. In the other hand, Nellie spends her whole life as a housewife like the wife is used to in the past time.

Alice in the present time shows the wife nowadays where technology gets advanced. As all Americans nowadays, Alice reflects a value of speak up and independent. She shows the culture about speaking up and independent in American life. In addition, like all the urban citizens, Alice knows nothing about being a housewife. She does not know a thing about cooking and gardening. That is why Alice learns how to cook by the guidance of the cookbook that she finds in the basement of her new house in Greenville and learns how to garden considering her new house gets a beautiful garden. Meanwhile, Nellie Murdoch is full-housewife. She is an expert in doing the housewife tasks. Moreover, Nellie reflects four characteristics of the housewife in the 1950s era considering she is narrated living in Greenville in 1950s. First, Nellie reminds quiet and a good listener to her husband. Second, Nellie is good at cooking. Third, while serving her husband with

a good meal after he comes home, Nellie greets him a manifest of love. Four, Nellie views her husband as the boss. When it comes to this recent life, it seems that people can relate with Alice's life.

It reveals that there are the different cultures between two eras that constitute the cultural identity. Alice and Nellie have their own cultural identity that reflects the year of 2018 and 1950s. In 2018, through the character of Alice, there are five cultural identities. First, smoking is strange for the wife or woman. Second, there is a private party in which there are only friends and family. Third, there are laptop and smartphone. Fourth, living together without having marriage is common. Fifth, there is no worker in the house. In other hand, Nellie also reflects the cultural identity in 1950s such as smoking is common for the wife or woman, there is a Tupperware party where the society gathers to look for the tools for kitchen set, there is a letter to communicate with significant others, young marriage is common thing, and a worker is hired in the house to help the household back then.

It is found that there is a relation between symbol and memory. This relation is found in Alice's perspective. The symbol itself is cookie. The cookie makes Sally, Alice's neighbor, remembering about her mother's homemade cookie. The cookie also brings a story about the cookbook that Alice finds in the basement of her house that belongs to Elsie Swann, Nellie's mother. It brings Sally's assumption that cookbook is like legacy to new wife to know the recipe of cuisine in starting marriage life. This legacy is common to be delivered by the mother to her daughter. It is also found about three concepts in symbolic interactionism – mind, self, and society – in the portrait of Nellie's character. It is about Richard who abuses her wife, Nellie. The concept of mind is Nellie should leave Richard. The concept of self is Nellie survives because it is her duty as a wife for Richard. The concept of society is when Miriam, Nellie's neighbor, suggests Nellie to leave Richard because he is not a good man after all.