

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

This research thesis discusses the Afghan diaspora in American society depicted by the main characters in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*. The novel *The Kite Runner* offers an interesting depiction of the Afghan Diaspora from the point of view of the main characters, Amir and Baba. Amir and Baba are a privileged and wealthy family in Kabul; however, due to the instability of the political conditions in Afghanistan, Amir and Baba are forced to move to the United States which leads them to be a part of a dispersed community. They navigate how to adapt as they are in search of new beginnings and a better life. Set in the 1970s – 2000s, the story majorly takes place in two places: Kabul, Afghanistan and Fremont, United States. The intrinsic element discussion covers the characterization of Amir and Baba, the conflict and the settings of the story. Meanwhile, the extrinsic element discussion covers the diaspora characteristics, challenges that Amir and Baba faced, and the Afghan cultural traditions that are maintained throughout the diaspora experience

Amir and Baba's journey of immigrating finds similarities in the characteristics of diaspora, in which they still retain a sense of belongingness and memory of their previous home while being away. During their experience, Amir and Baba find a fellow Afghan community in the United States, where they are able to find comfort and a sense of brotherhood in the presence of people with the same identity.

While immigrants manage to find safety in the United States, blending completely into its culture often turns out to be a tough battle. They carry with them the culture, values, and practices of their homeland, which might not mesh well with the American way of life. Amir and Baba encounter many challenges as they adjust to life in a new place. The challenges that they face include language barriers, trouble adjusting to a new culture, and economic hardships, while also losing the social status that they once had back in Kabul. Despite these challenges, Amir and Baba learn how to figure them out by relying on each other.

In the midst of living in an American society, Amir and Baba still desire to reconnect to their roots as Afghans. This indicates a sense of cultural resilience, as they are able to continue to uphold a cultural connection through memory. The culture that they continue to practice in the United States is the usage of the Dari language, the marriage tradition with *khastegari*, and the presence of Afghan traditional food in various events.

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that a sense of belongingness and memories of the home country has influenced the character's journey to find a better life. Diaspora experience varies, and it is valuable to learn about immigrants' lives through the depiction of an early 2000s novel, *The Kite Runner*. It is important to take notes about the struggles that they face to ensure a sense of empathy for victims of many kinds of oppression and violence. Furthermore, related studies could be conducted to expand the topics with more discovery on other social issues and deeper explanations that the story of *The Kite Runner* has to offer