

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

Based on the analysis, this thesis discovers that a plethora of women-identified experiences in Bushra Rehman's *Roses, in the Mouth of a Lion* act as a resistance to compulsory heterosexuality. Three types of women-identified experiences occur in this novel, including a romantic relationship, female friendship, and a communal bond. These bonds become a quiet defiance that indirectly opposes the mandate where men should have the right to access women's bodies, emotions, and labor. Using a feminist approach and library research method, the writer found that several aspects of compulsory heterosexuality are interrelated with the patriarchal system. It involves traditional gender roles, the objectification of women by men, the imposition of heterosexual marriage, and the erasure of lesbian existence.

In conclusion, the novel suggests that primary intensity between women, which is manifested through women-identified experience, could resist the oppressive mandate of institutionalized heterosexuality. By applying the concept of lesbian continuum, this analysis demonstrates that the presence of lesbian identity or lesbian relationship is not the only women-identified experience that could oppose compulsory heterosexuality. A range of women-identified experiences also exists to challenge the systems of patriarchal oppression. This thesis contributes to literary analysis by setting off as the only research that uses

Adrienne Rich's concepts of lesbian continuum and compulsory heterosexuality to Bushra Rehman's novel *Roses in the Mouth of a Lion*. Future studies may expand this analysis by embodying an intersectional perspective to examine how the female characters' backgrounds, including race, religion, class, gender, and sexual orientation, further intricate their experiences of oppression in the story.

