CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

A. Conclusion

The novel *Bread Givers* that is written by Anzia Yazierska reveals the perception of American Individualism in the perspective of American Jews. It is because American individualism somehow influences the way of life of people including the way people produce their works such as in literary works. American individualism is represented by the character Sara Smolinsky, the main character of the novel and the narrator of the writer in the novel. In this case, the character Sara reflects American Individualism through her relationship with her family, people around them, and her way to reach her goal of life. Her character of individualism can be seen through the way she releases from restrictions to stand alone, the way she detaches herself away from tradition, the way she breaks her role in the family (domestic role) to become an emancipated woman that challenges the domestic roles, the way she runs away from her house, the ways she lives her life her own ways, the ways she isolates herself away from society to the solitude of her own heart, and the ways she makes her priority to her life that has been marked as her selfishness as her desire to get success in her life. All of them can be summarized as the result of Anzia’s idea on individualism.
The novel *Bread Givers* talks about Jewish Community that lives in New York. Jewish community is characterized based on religious norms and communal loyalties. It means Jews emphasize on the community as the primary organizing structure of Jewish life as their norms. It is because community is fundamental aspect to create social togetherness in Jewish life. However, such ideas are contrary with the idea of materialism that developed in America around 1920s. Materialism is the idea of material of success. In that period, people tend to be individualists that put their self-interest high above societies. Wealth-obsessed culture has destroyed the traditional value that focuses on togetherness.

Materialism is closely related to individualism since the idea of material of success makes people to be individualists. America is well known as the country that highly pursues individualism. In the name of individualism, America gives Jews the right to break the familial and communal ties and leave them behind. Leaving the community is the character of selfish people. The idea of selfishness challenges the idea of Jewish life that highly pursues togetherness. Thus, Jews see the character of American individualism as selfish people. It shows how American Jews construct the perception of American Individualism based on their perspective.

Living in old tradition becomes the main idea in the novel *Bread Givers*. The novel presents the main character who is thirsty for individual satisfaction because she lives in old tradition which restricts her personality to become an independent woman and to get freedom in any aspects of life. The way she struggles to detach
herself away from old tradition can be seen through her actions such as, marrying a man without the involving of her father, struggling to be emancipated woman, and breaking the rule of father’s orthodox tradition. She turns herself becomes anti-traditionalism and left her family to release her career as a teacher. It is clear that the struggles of women Jewish have been remarked as a way to get rid off their blacklife. Here, the struggle of women Jewish to get out from patriarchy tradition has been influenced by the ideas of materialism in America. The idea of materialism developed in the roaring twenties. Materialism encourages women to get the best out of everything that relates to the wealthy. Women begin to leave traditional values and start to enter the working places to be career women. Thus, it can be said that the writer’s ideas of individualism have been influenced by the ideas of materialism in the roaring twenties in America.

The conflicts between the main character and her father in the novel *Bread Givers*, show that American individualism is seen differently by the people of America. The need and the standard of life people in America is different. People will embrace individualism value to face the difficulties of life their own way. Furthermore, through the main character’s life shows that people exercise the values of individualism contradict with the exercise of American Democracy. This means that the danger of democracy is individualism. In the name of democracy, people have their own liberty and private interest. Individual liberty encourages people to do anything they want as the sense of freedom including drawing apart and isolate
themselves to the society. However, in the name of democracy, people must live with community to create society in harmony. Isolationism challenges the idea of democracy which highly pursues togetherness. Thus, it can be said that democracy combats individualism.

**B. Recommendation**

The research has analyzed a novel entitled *Bread Givers* reflecting the values of American Individualism embraced by Jewish Community. This research focused on the value embraced by the general of American society rather than on the issues of women’s life in this novel. It is recommended to other researcher to analyze the issues of women’s life in this novel. Hopefully, this research becomes the references for the next researcher to analyze American literature which contains various issues of American Culture.