CHAPTER V

CONCLUSSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusions

Woman as human being should have the equality of rights. Patriarchal system reduces women's change to get an equal right. The patriarchal system has limited women to her biological role. This is the reason why radical feminist argues that women's biological role limits women's action.

In *the Scarlet Letter*, women do not get the same treatment as men. Their rights are limited by patriarchal system held by Puritan. In public, they cannot even share their opinion. Women in puritan have no right to speak because their voice are seen as the source of sin. The different treatment becomes more severe for sinful women as reflected in Hester Prynne character.

Hester Prynne is sinful because she does the adultery with a pastor. As the punishment, she has to wear the scarlet letter on her breast. The usage of the scarlet letter which is exactly put on her breast as if to emphasize Hester's body is totally sinful. Hester should endure the mark of the sin for years. Moreover, Hester almost loses her right to take care of her own child. However, although puritan people assume that Hester's act is sinful and dirty, Hester is still needed by them. It can be seen when the governor gives an order to Hester to embroider his gloves that will be used for special occasion. People admit Hester skill in needling so the governor asks her to embroider the gloves. Actually, Hester should get payment for what she does. However, it's because she's a woman and she's sinful,

she does not get paid. Whereas, her skill can be her resource to provide her life since she has no husband to be depended.

Based on the depiction of women's rights above, it can be seen clearly that the women's rights in puritan society reflected in the novel the Scarlet Letter are really limited. Those rights are limited because of women's biological form. Hester gets a punishment that make her wear a scarlet letter in her breast shows that the limitation is bonded in her body. Radical feminism sees the limitation as the oppression toward women. The punishment tends to limit the right of women because of the biological aspect.

Those views of women's rights are influenced by the belief and the dogma in puritan. They believe that Adam is banished to earth as tempted by Eve's voice asking him to eat the forbidden fruit. Thus, the puritan believes that women are the source of sin. Therefore, in their society, women don't take big part and their rights are limited.

5.2 Suggestions

For the students who wants to make a research using the scarlet letter as the data source, they can use the other aspects such as psychological or ideological approach. The student also should make the deeper understanding of the Puritanism in order to comprehend the novel more comprehensively.