

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The life of mixed blood, Dutch-Indies people in the colonial period in Indonesia was coloured by ambiguity. In status, mixed blood could not be easily categorized into one of the specific group of people. Dutch “totok” marginalizes them as “Other” because they were not originally of Dutch descendent blood, on the other hand, they also could not be accepted in native society as well, because sometimes they were considered that they already betrayed their nation. Indies-Dutch’s appearance and behaviour sometimes showed them that they were Dutch, but the taste of native was also often aroused. Their ambivalence in their society cannot be denied and it is hard for them to hide their native side, for example because of their physical native appearance. E Breton De Nijs’ Faded Portraits can help us to understand and know more about that group of people’s life through some characters in the novel. This novel told about the life of Aunt Sophie, a mixed blood; Dutch-Indies woman. During her life, Sophie is always proud of herself as a Dutch woman with Dutch language and style. She always claims herself as a woman who has European upbringing and thinks that she looks better than “Other” and more honourable to be a mixed blood than natives. In the colonization period, natives were on the lowest grade. But, it results some negative sides toward Sophie. Because of her pride, Sophie always discriminates the others who are engage in the native style and appearance, unexceptionally her

own family, the three girls of Alex and also Alex her own brother who are often mocked by her.

However, behind Sophie's pride, she herself still does her Javanese traditional habits, like other natives do. Even she tries to be as good as white or European, she cannot abandon her native habits easily. Then the writer thinks that she is ambiguous in her character. Inside the novel of Faded Portraits, the life story of Sophie is dominant.

This novel is a picture of the mixed-cultural life of Dutch-Indies among Javanese people. How their interactions are in which the native has to honour in front of Dutch or Dutch-Indies people who have higher social class and status than natives. Native always been the object of colonial authority and were discriminated because of their colour skin. Inside of the story, we can also find out the Dutch-Indies and native people expectation to be *white*, and their efforts to imitate a European life style in order to be considered equal with the Dutch. Some of Indies-Dutch and native chosen can engage in Dutch community through re-education that is built by the Dutch. However, even they can imitate and having intellectual, language and upbringing as well as white, the native cannot raise to be admitted that they are same as Dutch. Besides, their desire to be white is blocked by their physical appearance.

At last, the writer concludes that during colonial period there were a lot of important events happened in Indonesia, including the interaction between native people with Dutch or Indies-Dutch, both in political, economy, social, and also the interaction in sexual relationship between the colonizer and colonized people, then

the mixed blood children and culture some as the results. It will arouse discrimination, oppression, and also the act of imitating colonizer lifestyle and behaviour by the colonized, with their expectation in order to be considered equal as colonizer's social status. It is a native thought that being white is better and more honourable than native. Ironically, because of this imitation, natives who can imitate and live with European upbringing and intellectual, some of them, are not often able to abandon their own native habits. So then it invites the ambiguous character toward them. Like Sophie, even she claims herself as white or Dutch woman, but in reality, in her daily life she still often does her native habits and traditions.

BIBLIOGRAPHY