

## CHAPTER 5

### The Conclusion and Suggestion

#### 5.1 Conclusion

The feeling of love is universal among human beings. It is related to biological forces—instincts. However ideas of love are extremely particular to a culture or historic period. The way we respond, use, interpret or build systems of thought and religion are various through different eras and cultures.

The philosophical question of love has various study methods and answers throughout the ages. Plato's love is an instinctual ways by which human beings transcend their limitations in time and space. Christianity picked Plato's thought and interpreted the transcendence in terms of religious concepts of a divinity who was himself outside of time and space. In medieval courtly love and romantic love of nineteenth century, we get a kind of naturalization or even humanization of love inasmuch as it need not be elicited by an ultimate Platonic form, or the Christian God, but rather issues from the mere experience of oneness between human beings on earth.

In short, love has a two-way history. The first is broadly change based on cultural. The other is a personal history associated with individual's life, the way the individual changes the inherited nature into practice.

The study of “Concept of Love from Irving Singer's Perspective” intends to study the concept of love and how it relates to human beings from Irving Singer's perspective. The purpose of this study is an attempt to analyze the concept of love from Irving Singer's perspective through his writings in order to give themselves an understanding

in regard to what it is when we are in love. The methodology of the research is Documentary Research by studying Irving Singer's writings including other relevant researches and articles. Books and documents used in the scope of this study were specifically selected, relating to Irving Singer's concept of love.

This study mainly focuses on the analysis of Irving Singer's perspective of love to find out how love works on the human mind, to analyze the relevant internal and external conditions and to observe which enables love to occur as it does and to see how it manifests, which can be summarized as below;

Irving Singer is the combination of idealism and pragmatism. Although he suggests us to concern about worldly things, he also recognizes and derives many ideas from the idealism. Therefore, pluralism love is the best word I could think to describe the concept of love from Irving Singer's perspective. These is the distinction between bestowal and appraisal; the idea of interdependence rather than dependence—love as an acceptance of another being. There are difference kinds of love—the love of things, the love of persons and the love of ideals.

Singer studied by collecting information and critical issues related to the concept of love from key thinkers of each period, presented in *The Nature of Love* and connect love to the various aspects of human life in the *Meaning of Life*. He also spoke of the importance of creativity as a key element of love in *Feeling and Imagination*, and proposed the concept of love as appraisal and bestowal which is his interesting concept of love.

From Irving Singer's perspective, when we discuss about love, there are two main concepts of love—appraisal and bestowal. Previous philosophers have assumed that all love is a device for getting someone else to give us the love we desire. It would follow that love is just a search for goods one values because of their utility to oneself. Singer called it as an appraisal. For appraisal, others matter to us and affect our emotions because of benefits we hope to derive from association with them. Singer tried to go beyond love as the appraisal. He offered that love is the bestowal as well. Bestowal is created by the affirmative relationship itself, by the very act of responding favorably, giving an object emotional and importance regardless of its capacity to satisfy interests. Insofar as love is bestowed, it creates a kind of value in the beloved that goes beyond appraisal. In loving

another, we make things or people we love valuable in a way that would not otherwise exist. Singer suggests that love creates a new value, one that is not reducible to the subjective or objective value. It is both of them. Love is related to both; they intertwine in it. Unless we appraised we could not bestow a value that goes beyond appraisal; and without bestowal there would be no love. For the effort to succeed, it must be accompanied by justifiable appraisals, objective as well as subjective. Love is more than just an appraisal or a desire to be loved. Therefore, human love is both appraisal and bestowal.

## 5.2 Suggestion

This study has presented the concept of love from Irving Singer's perspective, as well as a brief history of the concept of love. The topic deserves further research. We can see that the issue of love is being talked and studied for a long time. There is no absolute answer for questions about love. Love is a very wide concept. It has special characteristics that it is both objective and subjective. It happens universal but each will have a different experience of love. There should be an applied study of love in accordance with time, situation, cultural and social conditions. In addition, the study of love associated with other branches of knowledge such as neurology or psychology on love will enable us to visualize a different kind of love and create more understanding about love. To understand the love, which is what we encounter at all times, will enable us to understand the possibilities of the world and human society, empathize with others and live together peacefully in society.

From previous studies, we can see that the question of love is not something new. It is also a matter that we pay attention and try to understand it all the time. Whether we know it or not, love has influenced people's lives for a long time. I believe that people will continue to question love, which is a good thing. *"Ask questions like a child and understand them as a rational and experienced adult."* Asking questions is not just for an answer, but for understanding the problem. Make yourself open, accept and understand a variety of ideas that have evolved over time.