

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

5.1. Conclusion

This picture book, designed as an educational tool to promote appreciation of physical diversity among children aged 10–12, was created in response to the prevalence of discriminatory behavior, particularly bullying, in elementary school settings. Such behavior is deeply at odds with children’s developmental needs, which require a safe and comfortable environment for their education. The lack of adequate educational media to help children understand the importance of valuing physical diversity is one of the reasons why *bullying* cases remain prevalent in their school environments. Picture books serve as an engaging and suitable alternative medium, aligning with children’s preferences for visual-based content over text-only materials and other overly conventional media.

This picture book is designed as a more engaging educational tool by combining narrative elements with illustrations to create a medium that helps children understand that physical diversity is something to be valued. The story in this book is built around character development, where the main character (Rama) is confronted with various physical differences he rarely encountered at his previous school, leading him to make light of them—or even mock them—which impacts his school life. Rama’s character development—from being rude and arrogant to becoming more aware and respectful of his friends—is one of the book’s key messages for children, serving as inspiration for them when facing the physical diversity they encounter at school. The other main characters—Rama’s friends—are also portrayed as responding with kindness rather than returning bad behavior with more bad behavior, serving as an example for children to always treat others with kindness. Additionally, the character of Mr. Supri is depicted as firm yet knowledgeable in properly educating students, making him a model for teachers in guiding their students.

Based on the above explanation, this book is intended to serve as an enjoyable educational tool for children, using a story-based approach that is easy to understand and from which the underlying messages can be grasped. The inclusion of physical diversity as a trigger for bullying behavior aims to help children appreciate every form of physical diversity they encounter in their social lives. This also aims to curb bullying behaviors from

an early age so that children develop more stable self-control and can distinguish between right and wrong. By using a narrative that is not overly dense and colorful illustrations, this book is also intended to serve as a first step for children to boost their reading interest, which has been steadily declining.

5.2. Recommendations

The design of the picture book “*Aku Sekarang Mengerti: Keragaman Fisik di Sekitarku*” resulted in a final product that feels somewhat incomplete due to various limitations in the design process—both in terms of the story and the illustrations—so this book certainly does not cover every form of physical diversity found in daily life. To include more examples of physical diversity in the book, a longer and more extensive process is needed to provide children with a more comprehensive education on learning to appreciate physical differences. With a sufficient number of pages and a story that is dense yet not overly long, it is hoped that children will be able to grasp the messages and morals contained in the book and apply them in their daily lives. The use of the title “I Understand Now” as the main title is intended to make this a book that will continue to explore children’s social issues in future series. Thus, this book can become a series that comprehensively addresses children’s lives through diverse storytelling, solutions, and moral values.