

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introductory elements of the present research. It covers seven sections: background, research questions, scope of study, aims of study, research method, classification of terms, and organization of paper.

### 1.1 Background

1960 was the year of the emergence of the second Feminist movement. Historically, a Feminist movement has begun since the writing of Virginia Woolf. The first Feminist movement was in 1880-1920. Feminist movement designates not only the issue of woman's right but also the emergence of gender issue. At the Second wave of Feminist movement in 1960s the term of gender was introduced. Second wave feminism stresses the difference between sex and gender: sex is our biological and natural being; gender is the social and cultural interpretation of that being. Besides stresses the difference of sex and gender, second wave feminist movement also introduces the sexual rights; being lesbian, gay, transgender at that time were being legally.

Nowadays, homosexual relationship, transgender and intersex are still questioned by society. The society who still holds the belief of heterosexual relationship regards the kinds of them are not part of the society. For example, there is no rule which allows the homosexual marriage. Besides, a person who decides to be a transgender will be somehow expelled from the society. There

might be a law which legalizes someone to change the gender by surgery, but after that their existence were considered as an alien.

Traditionally, society believes that human consists of woman and man. The second wave feminism which focuses on the sexual rights only becomes a history. The emergence of gay, lesbian, queer and transgender are still being questioned by the society. The existence of them is just like an alien in the society. That phenomenon inspires many writers to write about the issue of gender. In addition, literary work is one of the social documents about the society condition (Anwar, cited in Susilo, *et. al*: 2005). What is happening in the society is written in the form of literary work in order to be one of evidence of the social phenomena.

Human consists of two different sexes, male and female. Basically, the difference between male and female are from the sexual organs, male owns penis and female owns vagina. Genetically, the difference between male and female is from their chromosome: XX belongs to female and XY belongs to male. Both of the chromosomes determine the development of sexual organ in human. Every human consists of thousand genes. Every gene carries their own function to build the complete a human being. Scientifically, human can own the abnormal gene; this abnormal gene can cause the unusual establishment of human organs, for example hermaphrodite.

Hermaphrodite is caused by the heritage of abnormal gene in human, in which human can be the carrier of the gene or he owns the gene. The person who owns the gene is one who will be a hermaphrodite. A hermaphrodite or an intersex is person who has some or all of the primary sex characteristics of

both genders. There are three types of hermaphrodite, true hermaphrodite, male-pseudo, and female-pseudo. A hermaphrodite person can be born as male but genetically, he owns the XX chromosome; someone is born as female but she genetically owns the XY chromosome.

The history of hermaphrodite has been known since the age of Ancient Greek. Historically, hermaphrodite comes from the name of Greek God, Hermaphroditus. Hermaphroditus is a god who has two sexual organs. Hermaphroditus was born as boy and he is the son of Hermes and Aphrodite. Hermaphroditus was loved by Salamaxis, but he refused the love of Salamaxis. Salamaxis asked God to be united with Hermaphroditus forever, and God answers her prayer. Hermaphroditus was united with Salamaxis in one body (Parada, 1997). Since then, Hermaphroditus owned two sexual organs.

*Middlesex* is a novel by Jeffrey Eugenides tells about a hermaphrodite main character. This novel has won Pulitzer award in 2003. It is about hermaphrodite character who struggle to find the true of identity. Born as female, the character gradually realizes that genetically he is a male. Based on this phenomenon, the researcher is interested in investigating the changing gender of the main character. In addition, this research also is purposed to gain the new information about the concept of gender. In relation to this, this research attempts to identify and analyze the phenomenon. This research entitled “Being a Man or Woman: A Gender Analysis of the Novel *Middlesex*, by Jeffrey Eugenides”.

## 1.2 Research Questions

The research is conducted to answer the umbrella question: How does the main character decide to change the gender? To answer that question the research will be guided by the following research questions:

1. What factors support the main character in changing the gender?
2. What attitudes does the main character take to negotiate and resist the new gender identity?

## 1.3 Scope of the Study

In interpreting data, it is the researcher who decides which details to emphasize and which one to leave out. In this research, the research is aimed to analyze the changing gender of the main character in the novel *Middlesex*. The research will analyze a novel by Jeffrey Eugenides entitled *Middlesex*. This novel is chosen because it supports the issue of changing gender. As in all qualitative study, the role of the researcher is dominant because it is the researcher who decides which data to exclude. The data is limited on term of source text, the novel which is the source text will focus on the issues that shows the negotiation of changing gender.

## 1.4 Aims of the Study

Based on the research questions, the study investigates the issue of changing gender in *Middlesex* ;specifically, this research paper aims to:

1. find out the factors that supports the main character to change the gender.
2. find out the attitudes that the main character takes to negotiate and resist the new gender identity.

### **1.5 Research Method**

In writing the research, the writer uses qualitative approach. Qualitative approach aims to understand the richness and complexity of social experience by attending closely to the actions, interactions, and social contexts of everyday life. According to Kirk and Miller (1986) qualitative approach research and study the human behavior and interaction in their territory or speaking with them in depth about their thoughts and feelings. In this research, the novel will be the territory of the research. The data that collected from the novel will be interpreted descriptively. Nyoman K. Ratna (2004) asserts that qualitative research is a method that uses the interpretation of the data that will be delivered descriptively.

In collecting the data, the researcher will first of all do a close reading of Middlesex novel by Jeffrey Eugenides. The issues that shows the negotiation of changing gender will be highlighted. The data collection will mainly be concerned on the characterization of the main character and social relationships with others which support the changing gender issue.

The data will be analyzed using Gender theory by Judith Butler. According to Butler (1990), gender is performative. Performative is a person's repetition of acts which is influenced by the society. Here, performative is

different from performance, performative is not singular act but repetition of acts. For Butler (1990), the repetition of acts formed the identity of someone.

## 1.6 Clarification of Terms

To guide the analysis, there are a number of terms that have to be identified in this research. The following are essential key terms used in this present study:

### 1. Hermaphrodite

Hermaphrodite or intersex is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. For example, a person might be born appearing to be female on the outside, but having mostly male-typical anatomy on the inside. (ISNA, 1993)

### 2. Gender

The repeated stylization of the body, a set of repeated acts within a highly regulatory frame that congeal over time to produce the appearance of substance, of a natural sort of being. (Butler, 1990)

### 3. Identity

Identity means how we interact with other people and our environment where we live. (Woodward, cited in Sari, 2007)

## 1.7 Organization of Paper

The paper of the research will be organized into five chapters. Chapter One contains introduction that consists of background, research questions, scope of the study, aims of the study, research method, clarification of terms and organization of the paper. Chapter Two covers theoretical foundation related to the study namely, gender theory and hermaphrodite. Chapter Three consists of the research procedure and data presentation. Chapter Four recounts finding and discussion of the investigation. Finally, chapter Five contains of conclusions and recommendation related to the research.

