

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the procedure of the entire research process. It consists of four sections: research method, data collection, data analysis, data presentation, and synopsis of the novel.

3.1 Research Method

The methodology applied in this study is a qualitative approach and is delivered descriptively. It means that the data which is being analyzed will be delivered in the form of description.

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.

A descriptive approach was used as the framework for the research. This includes collecting and analyzing the data. The textual evidence which concern on the main character's changing gender issue were taken as the data.

3.2 Data Collection and Analysis

The study researches a novel entitled *Middlesex* written by Jeffrey Eugenides which becomes the source data of the research. The novel was published by Bloomsbury publishing in 2003. It consists of four sections, 28 chapters and 529 pages.

From the study, the data will be collected by enlightening the main character's changing gender factors . After identifying the text, the data is listed and then it is classified into some categorizations.

After the data was collected, it will be classified into some categorizations. The data is classified into 3 sections: the changing gender factors, the taking ,and resisting the new gender identity of the main character.

After that, the next steps is analyzing the data using the gender theory. The last one is writing the interpretations, giving elaboration, and presenting conclusion.

3.3 Data Presentation

The data which has been collected are presented in the next chapter with the discussion. The data is categorized into three sections: the changing gender factors, the taking, and the resisting new gender identity. Those data will comprise the secondary sexual characteristics development, self-acceptance, sexual orientation, physical appearance, family and social relation of the main character.

3.4 Synopsis of the Novel *Middlesex*

It is a story about hermaphrodite named Calliope. At first, Calliope was born as a baby girl, but then Calliope figured out that she genetically is a male. Calliope grew up as a normal girl before she knew that she genetically is a male.

Calliope was born on January 1960 in Detroit. Her parents are Milton and Tessie; both of them come from Greek-American descendants. Milton's parents are Greek who immigrated to United States because of the war. Lefty Stephanides and Desdemona were brother and sister. Lefty was Desdemona's younger brother. There was a forbidden love that grows between them. Both of them fall in love with each other and decide to be a husband and wife. They were married on their runaway journey to United States where no one knows their true relationship.

Unconsciously, both of them were carrying a recessive mutation gene. They stayed with their cousin in Detroit, Sourmelina. Sourmelina was surprised when figured it out that Lefty and Desdemona becomes a married couple. But then, she does not care about it. Lefty and Desdemona have a son from their marriage, Milton who carries the recessive mutation gene. Surprisingly, Lefty also has a daughter with Sourmelina named Tessie, who also carries the gene. Milton and Tessie decided to get married. At first, the parents did not agree with the marriage, they preferred their children to marry with someone else. But, they still get married.

Milton and Tessie have two children, one son and a daughter, Chapter Eleven and Calliope. Both of them did not know that they are brother and sister. When Tessie gave birth to Calliope, she did not know that she bequeathed the mutation gene to her daughter. This gene makes Calliope having recessive mutation on her fifth chromosome. The reduplicates of the fifth chromosome makes Calliope become a hermaphrodite.

Calliope grew up just like a normal girl. The way she acts and dress shows that she is a girl. But then she realized that she is not like the other girls. She did not undergo the sexual organ development like other girls. She did not have menstruation and other development that shows her sexual identity as a girl. Otherwise, the secondary sexual development of her is same like the male. Her body grew really fast; she becomes the tallest girl in the class. Mustache is grown around her face. She had to come to saloon to cut it.

She was scared that she is different from other girls. She began to avoid any activity that relates to show off the sexual organ of her. When she was in the locker room, she is the last girl who clean up herself because she feels different and it scares her. She even faked her mother about the menstruation. She began to lie to her mother that she has got menstruation. Her sexual orientation directs to different way with other girls. She was not interested in making relationship with boys just like the girls in her environment. She was more interested in the girl.

Calliope met Obscure Object. She is Calliope classmate. At first, both of them were good friends. But then, Calliope realized that she is in love with Obscure Object. She tried to hide her feeling toward her . One day, Calliope

and Obscure Object were playing around in the backyard. Both of them were doing something that directs to the sexual activity. Obscure Object's brother found it out; he ran and tried to tell the parents about it. Calliope chased him, but then she was hit by a truck. She was run to the hospital; there she found out that she was different from other girls.

Callie's parents took her to New York to meet a doctor who is mastering on Callie's condition. Callie met Doctor Luce; there she was examined to check the true condition of her. The doctor interviewed her about everything, her life, peers, love relationship and others. Callie was so scared, she felt that she has to tell lie about her condition to make sure that she is normal. Then, the doctor came up with conclusion that even though she is genetically a male, but her act and behavior shows that she is a girl. The doctor suggested that Callie should have a surgery and hormone injection to transform her to be the real woman. Callie realized that she is not a girl, she is a boy. She ran away from the parents and began to build her new identity as a man.

She cut her hair and wore man's clothes. She went to San Francisco and faked her identity to convince her disguise. She traveled to San Francisco by taking her father money. At first, she used the bus, but then she rode in other cars which are willing to take her. Her disguise was so perfect until she met Bob Presto.

Bob Presto is an owner of a club. He helped Callie when she was beaten by people. He took Callie to his place and asked her to work for him

because he knew her true identity as a hermaphrodite. She used Callie identity to get a lot of money from the customers.

Callie worked as a dancer; there she met Zora who is a transgender. Zora is the one who helps Callie in accepting herself as a hermaphrodite. She learned that even though she was different from other people, the life should go on and she has to make decision which part that she will take in her life. It means that she has to choose between a man or woman that she will be. Everyday, Callie has to show his “identity” as hermaphrodite to customer by swimming in an aquarium. One day the club was raided by the police because the club is an illegal club. Callie and other members of the club were taken to the police station.

She called Chapter Eleven; there she found out that her father died because of a car accident. Chapter Eleven picked her up in the police station. Chapter Eleven took her home. Chapter Eleven could take her to be his brother but the mother still could not take her as a son. But finally, she could accept it. His first and last duty to his father as a son is to guard the door from his father spirit. It is a Greek tradition which believes that if there is some one die, then a son of the family has to guard the front door to make sure that the spirit will not come back to the house.