

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. BACKGROUND

Fiction comes from the Latin word *fictio*, which means ‘a shaping or counterfeiting’. Therefore fiction is a name for stories that are not entirely factual, but it is partially shaped, made up and imagined by the author (Kennedy, 1983). Through the story in their novel, the authors try to build their imaginary world. Although the story in fiction is imaginary, it can include reference to reality- to real people and real events, which is happened in the real life. It can also evoke real emotion and produce an important lesson for life, which makes the novel more interesting.

There are several types of fiction in literature and one of them is known as novel. Novel is considered as a larger length of fiction than short stories and poem. Klarer (1998) states that to this day, novel still maintains its leading position as the genre, which produces the most innovations in literature. This innovation includes the authors’ ways in conveying the extrinsic or intrinsic elements of the novels in their story.

Nowadays many Indonesian novelists have emerged and they have been succeeded in publishing their novels. In each novel, they try to reveal various kinds of themes, which are regarded as familiar to their readers so the readers will be attracted in reading their works. Alberthiene Endah is one of the Indonesian novelists and she has written several novels, short stories and biographies. Most of her stories are then categorized into ‘Lajang Kota’ by the publisher. In *Lajang Kota*, the author tries to depict unmarried women who live in a big city, such as Jakarta, along with their

problems. At times Endah describes the main characters in her novel as a materialistic woman, a drug user or a lesbian. One thing to highlight that in *Lajang Kota*, Endah illustrates the women characters in her novel as unmarried women (Retrieved from [http://www.gramedia.com/buku\\_detail.asp?id=EFQN0806&kat=4](http://www.gramedia.com/buku_detail.asp?id=EFQN0806&kat=4) on August 20, 2006).

In some of Endah's works, the writer found some lesbian issue presented. *Dicintai Jo* is one of her novels, which tells about this lesbianism. It can be seen from the main character in that novel that is depicted a lesbian. In her other novels, such as in *Jangan Beri Aku Narkoba*, Endah also presents the lesbian character but in this novel Endah does not pay too much attention in the lesbianism possessed by the main character. She focuses her story only in the main character's characterization as a drug abuser. Meanwhile in *Dicintai Jo*, Endah focuses her story in the characterization of the main character as a lesbian and it makes the lesbian character in this story is presented clearly. For those reasons, the writer chose *Dicintai Jo* as the material to be analyzed in this study.

The novel itself tells about a young woman who lived in a big city- Jakarta. As a journalist she had experienced many things, and finally various experiences lead her to be a lesbian.

There are several definitions about lesbian but basically it is defined as homosexual women who are sexually attracted to other women. In our country, it is still regarded as a deviance since heterosexuality still maintains its leading position as a normal form of human relationship. It forces some lesbians to hide their lesbian identity with one reason that being a lesbian is such a shameful fact. The society they lived will not accept them as lesbians.

After finding out the portrayal of lesbians through characterization, queer theory is then used to frame this lesbianism. Hedges (1997) states that queer theory is often used to liberated homosexual. The queer theory involves the study about gender and sexuality.

## **1.2. REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE TOPIC**

There are three reasons for choosing Endah's novel as a subject of this study. First this novel reveals the lesbian characters clearer than any other Endah's novels. Few years ago, the theme homosexuality (including lesbianism) was rarely found in fictions, especially in Indonesian literature. Most of Indonesian novelists wrote their stories concerning heterosexuality relationship. Though they tried to reveal some homosexual issues, they would cover it well. They would present the lesbian character indirectly through the actions, symbols, etc, which were done by the characters in the story. They would not state the term 'lesbian or gay' in their novel clearly. Moreover they would not make it as the main theme in their stories. However, nowadays the writer found several fictions, which portray homosexuality life clearly. Endah's novel entitled *Dicintai Jo* is one of Indonesia novels, which reveals the lesbianism. In this novel, Endah put forward the main character as a lesbian and she also presents other three lesbians characters in this story.

The second reason is because some people flatter Endah's good way in presenting lesbian characters in this novel. She presents the lesbian characters from positive sides, which view lesbian as a woman who has a positive attitude and does not do any violence or harm the society she lived. Endah also points out that lesbianism is part of life, in her opinion it can be found anywhere and it is not a kind of disease or something that should be avoided by other normal people. (Retrieved

from [http://metropop.blogdrive.com/archive/cm-6\\_cy-2005\\_m-11\\_d-6\\_y-2005\\_o-.html](http://metropop.blogdrive.com/archive/cm-6_cy-2005_m-11_d-6_y-2005_o-.html) on April 10th 2006).

The third reason is because there is no study about lesbianism on the literature before in English Department of Indonesia University of Education. Therefore the writer tries analyze the lesbian issue in this novel.

### **1.3. THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

In this study, the writer analyzes one of Alberthiene Endah's novels entitled *Dicintai Jo*. The writer limited the research on the analysis of characterization focusing on the four lesbian characters portrayed in the story. The lesbians characters are Santi as the main lesbian characters, Shinta, Jo and Devy.

### **1.4. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

To specify the problems to investigated, the writer attempted to formulate the questions as follow:

- How four women characters are portrayed as lesbians in Albethiene Endah's novel entitled *Dicintai Jo*?

This question will be guided by answering the following questions:

1. What types of women are described as a lesbian in the story?
2. What kinds of features are indicated the women characters as lesbian as evidenced in the story?
3. How does queer theory frame these portrayals of lesbians?

## **1.5. THE AIM OF THE STUDY**

The aims of the study is formulated as follow:

1. To find out the types of women which are described as a lesbian in the story;
2. To investigate kinds of features that indicated the women characters as lesbians as evidenced in the story;
3. To interpret the portrayals of lesbians according to queer theory.

## **1.6. RESEARCH PROCEDURE**

This study is conducted in the form of descriptive qualitative method. According to Subana and Sudrajat (2001), qualitative research is descriptive in nature because the data analyzed are not to accept or to reject the hypothesis, but the result of the study is a description from the observed symptom.

Library research technique is also used in this study in order to find numbers of books that have an explicit correlation with the topic of this study in order to support the validity of the result of the study.

In analyzing the data, the steps are:

1. Doing a critical reading toward the novel;
2. Determining the main issue from the novel;
3. Finding out all lesbian characters in the story;
4. Presenting the characterization of four lesbian characters and features that indicated them as lesbians in the story in the form of table;

5. Analyzing the data using queer theory;
6. Drawing the conclusion.

### **1.7. CLASSIFICATION OF TERMS**

- Character refers to person involves in action. It is also called as an actor in a literary narrative meanwhile characterization is the presentation of the attitudes and behaviors of people in a fiction. (Hawthorn 2001)
- Homosexuality is referred to a person who sexually attracted to another person in the same sex. It is divided into a homosexual man, which is called gay and homosexual women, which is called as lesbian. (Atkinson, et al 2006)
- Lesbian is a kind of homosexuality. It is defined as a woman who sexually and romantically attracted to another woman. (Wikipedia Online Dictionary)
- Materialistic woman is referred to some women who have belief that only money, possession, etc are important in their life. (Oxford Advanced Dictionary)
- Portrayal refers to the act of showing or describing somebody or something in a picture through words (Hornby 2000)
- Queer theory is a theory which attempts to expose different sorts of concealed or disguise elements in literary works. Although queer was originally used as a term

of abuse to stereotype homosexuals, it has now been reclaimed by men and women and used to express pride in their sexual identity. (Hawthorn 2001).

## **1.8. ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPER**

### **Chapter 1**

This section consists of background, reasons for choosing the topic, the scope of the study, the statement of the problem, the aim of the study, methodology, clarifications of terms and the last organization of the paper.

### **Chapter II**

It contains theoretical foundation. Some related theories for the study are reviewed in this chapter.

### **Chapter III**

This chapter provides a close description on the methodology adopted in this research, the subject of the research and the data collection and technique.

### **Chapter IV**

This chapter is the core unit of the research paper. It provides some findings and discussions obtained from this study.

### **Chapter V**

This chapter reveals some conclusions drawn from the discussion and some suggestions for further research.

