# CHAPTER I

# INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the research, significance of the study, research questions, purposes of the research, scope of the research, research methodology, clarification of terms and organization of the paper.

## 1.1 Background

Technology is the cause of change. Technology brings positive and negative effects to our society. The positive effect from this alteration is the progression of communication technology that thrives in the city and country, such as the existence of cell phone and internet. Cell phone allows us to communicate with every one without having to worry about distance whereas internet gives us an access to explore the world. Technology can bring us to cross the universe without any limitation and open up people's mind then gives them a new idea. However, negative effect emerges from this technology as well, for instance the increasing of curiosity to the new thing. Once people get curious of something, they will try to get to know what they are curious about. After they get to know it, they want to try it, for instance life style. Life style changes overtime and people always want be an up-to-date person to lifestyle. However, some of them do not really have a good filter to know the lifestyle, as a result, they just try the new life style, one of them is same-sex love or

what so-called homosexual or gay ('gay' is a term for male homosexual). It is consistently stated by Papalia (2001), homosexual is a person who is consistently attracted sexually, romantically and affectively toward the person with the same sex.

The spread of homosexuality is shown by their courage to show up in public. In Bandung for example, there are so many associations in order to support the existence of gay that is GAYa Periangan. It is a piece of proof that they have already been coming-out and begun to show their existence.

Coming-out is a confession of someone to public about his sexual orientation. It is an important thing to do because they can accept themselves fully. This coming-out process has advantage and disadvantage. The advantage of this process is that they will be able to accept themselves fully and there will be a process of psychological adjustment. After it is achieved, they will get their confidence because of that acceptance. However, it is such a long and painful process and the disadvantage will emerge from this process as well. This process is considered as a painful process because they have to be ready with the disadvantage they have to take from this coming-out process. It will be the rejection of people or someone you are close to and they will feel uncomfortable and do not know how to react. As a result, gay people will have to deal with this after they try to do coming-out process.

Gay is very interesting to investigate because of the sex role that is portrayed by gay in a relationship. In gay relationship, there is always a role play, one is "male"

**Rizky Dwi Okatavianto, 2012**
Gender Discourse : Determining "Male" and "Female" Of Gay Couple in The Movie Entitled "The Birdcage"
Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia  |  repository.upi.edu

and the other is "female". It is as same as normal couple although they both are man but there is always the "masculine" and the "feminine", it is called sex-role.

Some studies have been conducted by some researchers in order to know more about gay, for instance gay language and gesture. Ratna (2008) writes "Slang Language Phenomenon As A Community Language Of Gays In Bandung" investigates how gay communicate with one another in their community or what is so-called gay language and Rotee (2008) in her research entitle "Phenomenon of Gay Community: Verbal and Non Verbal Communication Among Gays in Medan" investigates the gay language as well. However, in this research, the writer wants to analyse conversation in movie script between homosexuals or gays by using gender discourse to know the position of male and female in their relationship. Gender discourse is a discourse that is used to analyse the discourse between men and women. Also it is said that men and women are different in the matter of interpretive frames.

The analysis of this research, the gender discourse is based on nine dimensions of DeborahTannen's Theory (1990a), namely intimacy-independence, connection-status, inclusive-exclusive, relationship-information, rapport-report, community-contest, problems-solutions, novice-expert, and listening-lecturing. In this research, the researcher applies this gender discourse to the conversation between gay couple to know the position of "male" and "female" according to interpretive frames.

## 1.2 Significance of the Study

Homosexuals are hidden from the public because they are still afraid of the consequence such as being expelled or even being insulted by people. However, as time goes by, they try to be open to the public gradually and at last, community and association of gay appear. In addition to that, the release of gay themed movie is also the sign of existence and support to the presence of gay.

The presence of gay is raised to the movie in order to show the public that gay is existed. The movie has various genres such as drama romantic, drama musical, drama comedy and so forth. In this research, writer attempts to analyse the sex role through conversation in movie script between gay couple using Gender Discourse. The writer will attempt to find the characteristics of the sex role in gay relationship, male and female.

Thus, it is expected that the discussion of the study may help the reader to know more about gay relationship in terms of discourse if gay couple is the same as normal couple. In addition, in this research, the researcher also tries to reveal one aspect of gay life in order to make gay acceptable in society and people can understand more about gay.

## 1.3  Research Questions

The researcher formulates the problems in the following questions:

1. In what ways are "male" and "female" in gay relationship determined in conversation?

2. From the above question, what patterns can be drawn out?

## 1.4  Purposes of Research

The study is conducted at the following:

1. To investigate the position of "male" and "female" in gay couple using gender discourse

2. To discover the pattern of gay conversation

## 1.6  Scope of the Research

To answer the research question, the researcher provides the limitation of the study, explanation of drama comedy and the process in doing a research.

This study is limited to "The Birdcage", a gay movie. The researcher chooses this movie because it is considered as a potential movie to be investigated and the characters in the movie supports the idea of "masculine" and "feminine" in gay

relationship. The genre of this movie is drama comedy. According to ensyclo, drama comedy is the genre of dramatic literature treating trivial material superficially or amusingly or showing serious and profound material in a light, familiar, or satirical manner. So, it means that the drama comedy is always exaggerating, in other words, what is represented in the movie is not real.

In this study, the researcher focuses on the conversation between gay couple in movie script. Then, the movie is selected then investigated to discover the position of "male" and "female" in gay couple and to know the pattern of their conversation by using gender discourse.

## 1.7  Research Methodology

There are several steps in collecting and analyzing the data.

### 1.7.1  Data Collection

The research is carried out by watching a gay movie entitled "The Birdcage" and then the writer transcribe the movie script to be analyzed. The analysis will be done by using gender discourse. It will be used to analyze the conversation between gay couple in the movie script. After it is analyzed, the writer attempts to make characteristics of sex role in gay couple.

### 1.7.2. Data Analysis

The data are analysed based on Gender Discourse and the researcher analysed the conversation of gay couple in "The Birdcage" movie and then categorised them by the sex-role in "male" and "female" gay relationship. The next step is conversational interpretation. Lastly, the Gender Discourse is applied to the conversation and decided the sex-role.

### 1.8 Clarification of Terms

In order to understand the idea of this paper, there are three terms that have to be elucidated: Gender Discourse, gay and homosexual.

In this study, Gender Discourse refers to discourse that is used to analyse the discourse between men and women. Men and women have different discourse especially interpretative framework. Men tend to be more dominant then women in conversation because men are more powerful than women. In accordance to that, in gay relationship, this idea is existed as well; man is more powerful than woman. Since in gay relationship as it mentioned before, there is always someone becomes man and women.

Gay According to Psychological Theories (1995)

*The* word *gay* is now standard in its use to refer to people whose orientation is to the same sex, in large part because it is the term that most gay people prefer in referring to themselves. *Gay* is distinguished from *homosexual* primarily by the emphasis it places on the cultural and social aspects of homosexuality as

opposed to sexual practice. Many writers reserve *gay* for males, but the word is also used to refer to both sexes; when the intended meaning is not clear in the context, the phrase *gay and lesbian* may be used. *Gay* is often considered objectionable when used as a noun to refer to particular individuals.

So that, gay is a term that is usually addressed not only for male but also for female as well. However, the term gay and lesbian is used to specifically name male and female who are same-sex lover.

The word homosexual (whether it refers to both men and women − "gay," or women only − "lesbian") has its roots in the Greek language, where "homo" means the same or similar. It indicates the focus of sexual attraction towards people of the same gender. On the contrary, the opposite of "homosexual" is "heterosexual," which also has its roots in the Greek language, where "hetero" indicates "different, distinct", underlining the fact that sexual attraction is targeted towards individuals of the opposite gender".

In conclusion, homosexual refers to a person who is attracted sexually and emotionally to the same sex, whereas Gay is a term which is used to a person who likes same sex or a member of the same sex. In addition, there are some terms that refer to same-sex love but researcher uses terms gay in this research.

## 1.9 Organization of the Paper

The paper of this research will be organized into five chapters. Chapter 1 deals with introduction that covers background of the study, significance of the study, research questions, aims of the study, limitations of the study, methodology, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper. Chapter 2 covers the literature review of the research and the theories related to this research. Chapter 3 deals with the methodological aspect of the research. Chapter 4 deals with finding and discussion. Chapter 5 provides conclusions and recommendations for further studies.