

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a general description of the paper. It covers background of the study, research question, object of the study, aims of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, research methodology, clarification of term, and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of the Study

Men and women are distinguished by sex and gender. Sex and gender are different. Pilcher & Whelehan (2004) stated that gender is used as a line of boundary between biological sex differences and the way men and women behave which tend to be either 'masculine' or 'feminine'. Both men and women can have masculine or feminine attributes by their activities in society and the environment surrounding them. Butler (1990) states, that gender is not born within a person but it is developed by social and cultural interpretations as an interrelation. As a result, its' created the gender stereotypes which are masculinity and femininity.

Therefore, masculinity and femininity are always influenced by cultural and environmental aspect. According to Cornell (1995, as cited in Paetcher 2006) masculinity is a practice in gender relations and the effect of practice experiences, personally and culturally. The practice of masculinity and femininity in the society develops the gender identity. In butler's performativity, the individuals have the potentials to free play in a society that does not follow the constructed of being male or female. This created gender trouble that the construction of masculine or feminine can be performed by both men and women (Butler in Pilcher and Whehelan 2004).

Furthermore, in feminism theory, feminism originates from the way of describing feminine traits in men or the masculine traits in women (Pilcher and Whehelan 2004). In addition Beynon (2002), states that in feminism, masculinity is also a viable concept to be explored, also the study of masculinity is not as many as femininity. The research in masculinity is not only questioning how to be a man but also how men experiencing masculinity. This research is limited to how

men demonstrated their masculine side, are they act to be a man or it can be less manly.

In the book “What Are You Afraid Of?” a collection of short stories about phobias edited by Donald R. Gallo, there are all about the main characters which have problems with phobias of different aspect. The book is stories of teenagers who struggle against their own fear. The focus of the research will be the analysis of masculinity in male characters. In analyzing the stories, it is focused on the characters’ traits and behavior while they were facing their own fears and struggled to overcome their fears.

It is interesting to investigate the gender issues, especially masculinity performed in the book. The previous study about masculinity is conducted by Thyssen (2000) in “The representation of masculinity in children’s literature”. Thyssen (2000) investigated the way masculinity represented in children’s picture books written in English and published between 1984 and 2008. This analysis focused on analyzing the male characters’ construction using Beynon’s masculinity, supported by Butler’s gender identity theory, and masculinity from Brannon. This research is expected to contribute in elaborating the cultural phenomenon of gender identity construction especially masculinity commonly reflects the society condition and to enrich the study in masculinity in literary works.

1.2 Research Questions

To deliver the research into more certain detail, this research is based on the following questions:

1. How is masculinity performed by the main characters in “What Are You Afraid Of?”
2. What meanings can be derived from the masculinity performatives?

1.3 Object of the study

The object of the study is a book entitled “What Are You Afraid Of?” edited by Donald R. Gallo. The book is a collection of short stories about phobias. It was published in 2006 by Candlewick Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts. The

language used in the book is English and it consists of 10 stories and 200 pages. The book contains stories of teenagers who face their fears and struggle to deal with the various fears. Only 4 stories analyzed because of the similarity in the male main character aspect.

1.4 Aims of the study

The research is aimed to analyze the characters in “What Are You Afraid Of?” edited by Donald R. Gallo and identify the masculinity performed by characters in the story and explain the meanings of the construction.

1.5 Scope of the study

The scope of the research is around the characters traits in the book entitled “What Are You Afraid Of?” edited by Donald R. Gallo. The study examines how the masculinity is performed in the story by the main character in the four story analyzed.

1.6 Significance of the study

The book is chosen for the study because the writer’s curiosity about the story implies the masculinity issue in the way of their appearance and actions which is the main characters given attributes that is considered as non-masculine, and also by the need of the research to enrich the studies of masculinity to the field of literary studies.

1.7 Research method

This research is focus on the character trait which is performed. The traits are divided into two parts, first is their actions that is physical and verbal actions. Second is the characters appearance such as clothes and physical appearance. The research was conducted by using the textual analysis and masculinity theoretical perspective by Beynon (2002) and Brannon (2004). Furthermore, Frankel and Wallen (1993 as cited in Pujilestari 2009) stated that descriptive method is used for elaborating, analyzing and classifying the data using a type of techniques, survey, observation and test. The writer believes that this approach is the appropriate method to use in the research, because the purpose of the research is

described accurately the data and illustrated it explicitly. The primary data are textual analysis collected from the printed book “What Are You Afraid Of?” edited by Donald R. Gallo.

The data that have been collected will be analyzed by using the masculinity perspective to analyze the main character’s stereotypes constructed in the book “What Are You Afraid Of?” First, the writer categorized the characters actions which are physical actions and verbal actions, and characters appearance. Second, the data collected will be classified and categorized to analyze it using the masculinity perspective that will analyze the main character tending to be masculine in the specific categories. Third, the analysis of textual evidence and the data analysis which related to theories are presented to answer the research questions. In conclusion, the findings of the research are combined to show how the book tells something about masculinity in masculinity perspective.

1.8 Clarification of the Terms

To avoid misconception and misunderstanding, there are some significant terms have to be clarified here:

1.7.1 Masculinity

Masculinity is an attitude of men, which is not originally born with men, but it is shaped by age, ethnicity, believes sexual orientation, social, cultural, historical and geographical location (Beynon 2002).

1.7.2 Gender

Gender is a way to describing the limit between biological sex difference and the way these are used to inform behaviours and competencies, which are then assigned as either ‘masculine or ‘feminine’ (Butler 1991).

1.7.3 Character

Character is similar to a person in real life which each person or character has own unique personality, but then in the novel or fiction the character is usually a fictional that is not a real person (Hawthorn, as cited in Anggraeni 2008).

1.9 Organization of the paper

This research will consist of five chapters. It will be organized as follows

CHAPTER I

This chapter will focus on the introduction of the research, including the background of the study, research question, the object of the study, and significance of the study.

CHAPTER II

The second chapter will discuss the theoretical background and the literature reviews as the foundations of the research.

CHAPTER III

In the third chapter, the discussion will revolve around the research methodology describing the steps and procedures of the study as well as the data resources in the study.

CHAPTER IV

The fourth chapter will present the findings and discussion of the research.

CHAPTER V

In the last chapter will be the conclusion of the research and the suggestion for further studies.