

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Human beings need to fulfil several things to stay alive. To remain healthy and to avoid the heat/cold, for instance, they must fulfil their basic necessities, such as food and clothes. Unfortunately, they do not only require something for their body, but also for their mind. The need for entertainment can be taken as an example of mind necessity. To refresh their mind or entertain themselves, people choose various ways. One of the ways is reading literary works, both local and international works. It is because literary works do not only provide entertainment, but also offer knowledge.

To define literature, or literary works, precisely is not easy because the definition is getting expansive. However, literature refers to “books, plays, poems, etc that people think have values” (Gadsby, 2001, p. 828). The values or messages can be found in meaningful and coherent texts which usually have something to do with an issue or a circumstance in a society (Klarer, 1998, p. 1). That is why literature is often called a reflection of life. At last, the values which are in literary works will enrich our knowledge and might help us to see the world.

Initially, people only recognize prose, poetry, and play as types of literary works (Klarer, 1998, p. 3-4). Then, at the end of the twentieth century, film emerged and developed rapidly (Klarer, 1998, p. 56). As a literary work, a film

requires intrinsic elements, such as characters, characterizations, plots, points of view, and settings, to build a story. However, film also needs another element to transfer a story into moving pictures that is the use of a camera. This is the difference between film and another genre, especially play.

Basically, film is a complex literary work. Therefore, different aspects of film can be analyzed, including the screenplay. A large amount of information in a screenplay will be used by a director or producer to plan many things in three phases of production; preproduction, production, and postproduction (Effendy, 2002, p. 15).

The screenplay of "Philadelphia", the text which will be analyzed, mainly talked about the life of a young promising lawyer, Andrew Beckett, who got bad treatment from his workplace and surroundings after having AIDS and revealing that he is a gay (Nyswaner, 1993). The text is worth investigating, because it presents the issue of discrimination towards people with AIDS that might be happening, even in our country today. Discrimination towards people with AIDS might happen because people lack information about HIV/AIDS. Consequently, some societies believe that people with AIDS should be punished since they bring something shameful and break religious or moral principles (Fredriksson, 2006, para. 4).

The screenplay of "Philadelphia" also shows us conflicts where the exercise of discrimination occurs. In the writer's understanding, the exercise of discrimination might have something to do with the issue of power. Thus, the

writer relies the analysis of this study on the theory of power from Michel Foucault.

The study is expected to come up with how the issue of discrimination is constructed in the text by analyzing how it is exercised by the characters and how the character resists the discrimination.

1.2 Statements of Problem

The study is conducted to find out how discrimination is constructed in the text. This study is developed from an umbrella question.

- How is discrimination depicted in the text?

This question will be guided by answering the following questions:

1. Who exercises discrimination? In what situation?
2. What forms of discrimination are exercised by the characters in the text?
3. What kinds of resistance does the character respond towards discrimination?

1.3 Aims of the Study

The purpose of conducting the study is to reveal how discrimination is constructed in the text by analyzing:

1. The characters who exercise discrimination and the situation that might provoke discrimination, including the places where it occurs.

2. The forms of discrimination which are exercised by the characters in the text.
3. The resistance from the character towards discrimination.

1.4 Research Procedure

To conduct this study, the writer uses a descriptive-qualitative design. A descriptive method is “a method to study various issues, rules, and situations in a society, including its perceptions, relations, attitudes, activities, processes, and effects which are related to a particular phenomenon” (Hasan, 2002, p. 13-14).

Meanwhile, Bogdan and Taylor (1975) as quoted in Moleong (2005) define a qualitative method as “a research procedure which produces descriptive data such as words, both written and spoken, from the subjects and behaviours observed” (p. 4). A focus on an analysis in specific text characterizes this study as a case study.

Since this study focuses on the analysis of written texts, a close reading method is applied as a tool to find textual evidences from the text. Dialogue, monologue, action, stage direction, and so forth are several aspects which are studied from the screenplay to get textual evidences. The textual evidences then are categorized to make data interpretation easier. Further, the result of the categorization is going to be analyzed using the theory of power from Michel Foucault and finally the writer draws a conclusion from the subject she investigated.

1.5 Organization of the Paper

1. Chapter I (Introduction)

This chapter consists of background of the study, statements of problem, aims of the study, research procedure, and organization of the paper.

2. Chapter II (Theoretical Foundation)

It covers the analysis of the theories and other relevant references.

3. Chapter III (Research Procedure and Data Presentation)

How to collect the data is something which is presented in this chapter. Besides that, it also contains data presentations which are derived from the screenplay of "Philadelphia".

4. Chapter IV (Data Analysis and Discussion)

There will be discussions about the findings using related theories.

5. Chapter V (Conclusions and Suggestions)

This chapter consists of two things; conclusions and suggestions. A conclusion is a brief and general interpretation of all findings which are found by the writer. Meanwhile, a suggestion contains some advices for next researchers who will conduct a study on the same issue.

