

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses a general description of the paper. It covers the background of the study, the research questions, the aims of the study, methodology and organizations of the paper.

1.1 Background

What we do in everyday life indicates who we are. It leads to one's identity. As stated by Woodward (1997:1) "... identity gives the idea of who we are and how we relate to others". It means that the ways we relate to other determine our identity. For example, the identity position of a girl with her mother who works as a teacher in the girl's school can be different, depending on how and where they relate to each other. In school, the identity position that occurs is between teacher and student. Yet, in their house, the identity position might be mother and daughter.

The notions which are related to identities such as nationality, social class, and sexuality are the constructions of identity positions (Woodward, 1997:12). It means that the social and cultural conditions construct identity. Identity might categorize people to a certain society, economic situation and culture in

which one lives. Identity is closely related to socio cultural aspects of our life. The socio cultural system will determine who is included or excluded into the system. In other words, social and culture relations could affect one's identity.

One of the identities concerns sexual identities. Sexual identity is the way one views oneself as a male or a female. Sexual identity stands for one's thought in terms of whom one is sexually attracted to, whether one is attracted to the same gender or to the different gender (Diamond, 2002). Sexual identity can be biological and social. Biological sexual identity or sex identifies one as a male or a female biologically or from his or her anatomical body. Another sexual identity or gender is socially constructed; male and female are differentiated by social construction. As Moore (1994, cited in Woodward, 1997: 60) stated, gender is socially constructed and basically is not dealing with biology but involves certain social context of the biological sex instead. It means that society determines the notions that are indicated as masculine and feminine features, which finally become existing stereotypes about what male and female should be. For instances, crying may be considered by the society as female's usual behavior, gossiping is usually performed by female, and bus driver is considered male profession. Those social mind-sets are constructed by the society.

Sexual identity becomes problematic because, as a matter of fact, there is something universal which cannot be indicated biologically. For example,

certain profession is considered only for male or female whereas the profession can be performed by both. When a female become a Trans Jakarta bus driver then mass media reported it extremely (Anton, 2005).

On the other hand, a radical conception of identity – from Butler for example – leads a model that creates space for some sexual identity such as gay, lesbian and transgender that works to undermine identity category (Butler 1990. cited in Woodward, 1997). Since then, those new sexual identities begin to develop. These new identities usually deal with how people behave sexually, and are attracted to the same sex.

One of the above sexual identities deals with transgender phenomenon. This identity becomes issue because there are some transgendered people who become artists and famous. Then some opinions appeared as responses to the phenomenon. As cited in *Studia Magazine*, the opinions from the mass media lead to the idea about the choice to be a transgendered character. The choice is considered natural or normal. The case in Papua 1992-1997 is an example of how transgendered people fight for their identities' assertion in their identity card (Hafidz, 2005).

However, the communities of transgendered people can not be denied. For example, there is a *Miss Waria Indonesia* pageant, transgender community held a huge event to choose *Miss Waria Indonesia 2005*. The beauty pageant had been protested but it kept going (Hafidz, 2005). This problematic issue above had attracted my interest to do research to study this

novel about how transgendered character is portrayed in the novel. The transgenderism issue is depicted not only factually but also fictionally as presented in novels, poems and poetries. In the present study, transgenderism issue will be analyzed from a novel.

Focusing on identity, the study will examine the characterization of the main character as a portrayal of a transgendered character in the novel entitled *Beri Aku Dunia; Banci Juga Manusia* by Andy Stevenio. The portrayal of this transgendered character will be analyzed by using the method proposed by Hawthorn to examine characterization. Queer theory (Butler, 1990) as a framework theory to interpret the findings. The data will be taken from the whole chapters of the novel in order to get a thorough analysis.

1.2 Research Questions

The present study will be guided by the following questions:

1. How is a transgendered character portrayed in the novel?
2. What meaning potentials can be constructed from the portrayal in the novel?

1.3 Aims Of The Study

This study investigated the portrayal of a transgendered character depicted in the novel and examined the meaning potentials of the portrayal of a transgendered character in the novel.

1.4 Methodology

A descriptive qualitative method will be used as the basic framework by collecting and analyzing the textual evidences which refer to character's traits. According to Alwasilah (2002: 92) qualitative studies are aimed at describing the data intensively. Thus, qualitative study investigates the data by describing and interpreting them in words. As Richie (cited in Moleong, 2007) argues, a qualitative study is an effort to present social life and its perspective from the concepts of behavior, perception, and humanity problem.

The context of the study is the novel *Beri Aku Dunia: Banci Juga Manusia*. According to Hawthorn (2001), character's features can be analyzed through description or report, action, thought or conversation, and symbol or image. Those steps will be done to analyze the main character's features as a transgendered character in the novel.

1.5 Organizations of the Paper

The paper is organized into five chapters. The first chapter comprises introduction which includes the background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, methodology, and organizations of the paper. The second chapter deals with theoretical foundation which takes account of some related literature reviews to acts as the basis in investigating the research problem. The next chapter covers the methodology of the study including method of the research, data collection, and data presentation. The fourth chapter is the centre unit of the study. The data is analyzed and discussed systematically in this chapter. Chapter five includes the conclusions and suggestions. This chapter describes the conclusions and suggestions for further research made on the basis of findings and discussions in the previous chapters.

