

Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter presents a general description of the paper. It covers the background, the reason for choosing the topic, the scope of research, research question, aims of the research, method of analysis and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

Identity defined through sexual orientation and object as the homosexual or heterosexual has been an ongoing debate among queer theorists (Sedgwick, 2004). In her book *Epistemology of the Closet* (1990), Sedgwick demonstrates that the homo-hetero distinction at the heart of modern sexual definition is fundamentally incoherent in two reasons. On the one hand, there is the persistent contradiction inherent in representing homosexuality as the property of a distinct minority population and a sexual desire that potentially marks everyone, including ostensibly heterosexual subjects. On the other hand, there is the abiding contradiction in thinking about the gendering of homosexual desire in both transitive and separatist terms, where a transitive understanding locates that desire as originating in some threshold space between gender categories while a separatist understanding takes it as the purest expression of either masculinity or femininity.

While Foucault in his book *The History of Sexuality* (1970s) understands that sexuality is not as 'a kind of natural given' but 'a historical construct', some communities are still struggling with the idea of same sex relationship; those people who refuse to acknowledge and exclude the being of people with different sexual orientation are classified as homophobia. Homophobia as has been proposed by Tatchell (1997) is a perpetuation of straight supremacy based on a

rejection of sexual difference. The word is used to describe prejudice and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities. Some recent psychological literatures suggest that behaviors and thoughts that are frequently considered homophobic are not fear-based but instead reflect a disapproval of homosexuality (see Foucault 1970, Weinberg 1972, McFarlane, 1998, APA Help Center, 2007).

Related to the point mentioned above, the research would like to make an analysis related to the phenomenon of the type(s) of homophobic attitude(s) and how homophobia is constructed as evidenced in text. The object of the analysis is a screenplay of a movie entitled 'Milk' by Gus Van Sant. The research decides to use 'Milk's screenplay because the research believes it is a good delineation of the phenomenon above. It describes a detailed situation during the beginning of gay movements, especially in predominantly gay neighborhood known as The Castro in San Francisco. It also illustrates the certain layers of refusal from anti-gay community or homophobic people and how it is constructed toward the gay community there.

In accordance with that notion, the research analyzes the script in the perspective of Queer Theory. Queer Theory as proposed by Jagose (1996) is an umbrella term for a coalition of cultural marginal sexual identification. It is used to describe a nascent theoretical model which has developed out of more traditional Lesbian and Gay Study. Furthermore, Queer Theory also tests the model of stability which claims heterosexual as its origin and focuses on mismatches between sex, gender and role. Since Queer Theory challenges the notion of unitary identity and rejects the binary models; the idea of homophobia, in the eye of it, has been a sensitive phenomenon that clearly challengeable and significantly important (Tomsen and Mason, 2001; Cruz, 2003 in Beasley, 2005).

Thus, by analyzing the object in the perspective of Queer Theory, supported by other theories concerning social and gender issues it is expected that the reasons behind homophobic attitudes as they are manifested in the text and how homophobia is constructed can be comprehended.

1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic

The research focuses on analyzing type(s) of homophobic attitude(s) implied in 'Milk's screenplay because it is believed that there are some implicit and explicit acts (in this context) that show abomination toward same sex relationship promoted in the movie. In deeper level, the research reveals the construction of homophobic attitudes in it.

1.3 Research Question:

The research is aimed towards answering the following research questions:

1. What type(s) of homophobic attitude(s) is depicted in the text?
2. How is homophobia constructed in the text?

1.4 Aims of the Research

Based on the questions above, the research aims to:

1. Identify the type(s) of homophobic attitude(s) as depicted in the text
2. Identify how homophobia is constructed in the text

1.5 Scope of the Research

The research is limited to discuss only the type(s) of homophobic attitude(s) and how homophobia is constructed as evidenced in the text.

1.6 Research Method

The research employs a descriptive analysis which is qualitative in nature. The research analyzes and describes phenomena in the form of type(s) of homophobic attitude(s) and how homophobia is constructed as evidenced in the text.

1.6.1 Data Collection

The data that were collected from 'Milk's screenplay is in the form of words, utterances, and dialogues that are purposively selected and directed to answer the research questions.

1.6.2 Data Analysis

The collected data are then analyzed using the framework of Queer Theory. In analyzing the data the following steps are taken:

1. Making a printed copy of the original movie script to be read thoroughly and carefully.
2. Identifying collected data by underlining words, utterances, and dialogues that might help in representing the idea of homophobia.
3. Categorizing all collected data that are related to the issues of homophobic attitude(s) and how homophobia is constructed.
4. Analyzing and interpreting the collected data within the framework of Queer Theory.
5. Making conclusions and suggestions for further researches.

1.7 Clarification of terms

1. Gay and Lesbian Study; academic program dedicated to the study of historical, cultural, social, and political issues of vital concern to lesbian and gay (Weeks, 2000)
2. Homophobia; the irrational fear of homosexuals, homosexuality, or any behavior, belief, or others which does not conform to rigid sex role stereotypes (Wall, 1995)
3. Homophobe; a person characterized homophobia (Gibbons, 2003)
4. Homosexuality; a categorization invented to marginalize and constrain queerness within an identifiable, demonized minority (Tatchell, 1997)
5. Queer Theory; a set of ideas based around the idea that identities are not fixed and do not determine who we are. It rejects conceptualization(s) of sexuality, gender, and sexual identity as innate or fixed (Love, 2002)

1.8 Organization of the paper

This paper is organized into five chapters as follow:

Chapter I: This chapter presents a general description of the paper. It covers the background, the reason for choosing the topic, the scope of research, research question, aims of the research, method of analysis and organization of the paper.

Chapter II: This chapter discusses theories used as the framework to discuss the issues that encompass the notions of homophobia and Queer as the framework theory.

Chapter III: This chapter presents the research methodology, which includes an explanation of the research question, method of the research, data source, data collection, data analysis, and data presentation.

Chapter IV: This chapter presents the analysis, findings, and discussions of the findings of the present research.

Chapter V: This chapter presents the conclusion of the research, which are based on the findings and the discussion in the previous chapters. This chapter ends with suggestions for further research on text analysis.

