

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. Background

Homosexual issue is controversial because it is a taboo issue for some people while it is not for others. As an example, in Spain, exactly on June 18, 2005, more than five hundred thousand Catholics supported by twenty senior Bishops demonstrated against the legalization of homosexual marriage. In contradiction, Spain becomes the third country after Belgium and Denmark that legalizes homosexual marriage. The religion of Spain's majority, which is Catholic, seems to ignore the Pope prohibition that homosexuality is not allowed in the Bible (Husaini , 2005). It could be summed up that homosexuality actually cannot be accepted in that country.

The condition above is not different from Indonesia as well. In Indonesia, homosexuality is considered as an offence against religious norms and cultural script. In religious norm, especially in Islamic principle as stated by Husaini (2005), Homosexuality is considered as a sin. The sinner must be sentenced to death (HR Abu Dawud, at-Tirmizi, an-Nasai, Ibnu Majah, al-Hakim, dan al-Baihaki). And in the cultural script for romance, women are expected to be attracted to men, and men are expected to be

attracted to women (Berhm, 1992) cited by Wood (1994). So, there is no place for homosexual in society.

This condition makes homosexual in Indonesia is hidden because their live experience are not accordance with the religious norm and cultural script. They assume that when they act as a heterosexual the society might accept them. As stated by Goode (1984:176):

Most homosexual are not readily spotted by straights as gay. Their sexual orientation is typically accepted as "normal" by themselves, is usually known to their homosexual friend, but is hidden from the heterosexual community.

Everybody has a choice in life and being a homosexual or heterosexual is that kind of matter. However, the choice of being homosexual is against the norm and cultural script in the society. The status of homosexual will influence the society to treat them unfairly.

In a general lecture held by ITB students from *Pusat Studi Ilmu Kemasyarakatan (PSIK)*, on 18 March 2006, Bumi Hardiati, a lesbian, stated that "... *the lesbian that are not sexually attracted to man, they are alienated in their social life.*" Bumi's statement also proves that in the real world, there is discrimination for homosexual in social interaction in a society. (Krishna et al., 2006),

At present day, that issue has been no longer the focus of the discussion since many text describe many kinds of homosexual issue for example homosexual experiences, the discriminative

treatment, homosexual character, etc. That is why, studying text about homosexual is worth analyzing because it might represent homosexual characters in a homosexual relationship. One of literary texts describing homosexual character in Indonesia is *Lelaki Terindah* (2006). This is a novel written by Andrei Aksana. I am interested in analyzing this novel because *Lelaki Terindah* represents homosexual characteristics. In the homosexual relationship described in the text, there are male and female genders, whose roles imitated that of male female gender in heterosexual.

2. Research Question

In conducting the analysis, the following question is employed. How is the male homosexual character represented in *Lelaki Terindah* ?

3. Aims of the study

Based on the background and the research question above, this research is aimed at investigating the representation of male homosexual character in *Lelaki Terindah*.

4. Scope of the study

In this study, the novel entitled *Lelaki Terindah* written by Andrei Aksana was chosen as the focus of the study. Queer theory which focuses on gender and sexuality is applied to analyze the male homosexual character in the novel.

5. Research Method

As the basic framework of the study, the writer uses a descriptive method. According to Bogdan and Taylor (1975) as cited in Moleong (2000), descriptive method is a method in which reasons, descriptions, analysis, and inferences are formulated in the written or essay form. The research employs this method because this research intends to find out and describe the representation of homosexual, especially male homosexual in a novel.

This study uses a qualitative analysis. This study would be descriptively analyzed and interpreted.

The findings were further analyzed by using the theory of representation and queer theory as proposed by Judith Butler (1990).

6. Clarification of terms

There were some terms used in this paper that might need to be clarified:

7. Character refers to the people in the story meanwhile characterization is the process of creating a character and how the character is constructed in the story.
8. Homosexuality is referred to a person who is sexually interested in another person in the same sex. It is divided

into male homosexual, which is called gay and female homosexual, which is called lesbian.

9. Representation in a story can be defined as any image or statement, which seems similar to any fact or reality.

10. Queer theory is a theory which is used as framework of discussion of the study.

11. Organization of the paper

The paper of research will be organized as follows:

Chapter 1. Introduction; this chapter contains an introduction that discusses background of the study, scope of the study, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, clarification of the terms and organization of the paper.

Chapter 2. Theoretical Foundation; this chapter presents the theoretical foundation that is queer theory. It serves as a basis to investigate the research problem. It also discusses the definition of character and characterization, novel, gender, sex, homosexuality, representation, biography of the author and synopsis of the story.

Chapter 3. Research Methodology; this chapter contains the research method which explains the object of the research, the technique and data representation.

Chapter 4 Result and Discussion; this chapter represents result and discussions. It provides the result of the data analysis. The

result includes the character representation of male homosexual in the novel viewed from queer theory.

Chapter 5. Conclusion and Suggestion; this chapter contains the conclusion and suggestions relates to the study.

