

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Research

One of the intrinsic elements in a literary work, whether it is presented in the form of a short story, novel, or a film, named Characterization. It is a way that the writer determines the character and traits of a character into a character. Now days, it can be seen that various characters have been created. In this case, many characters are presented in the form of short stories, or even novels. It cannot be denied that there are many short stories or novels that have eventually been developed into a work that can be enjoyed in the visualization. This is as well as the development of science and technology. Visualization can be presented in the form of a film. Film itself is a communication medium that utilizes technology to present a story with a series of images and motion.

The story is presented an idea or basic idea behind it. In other word, it is called a theme. The themes are presented in a film are certainly various, one of theme that is raised from a problem, especially present in people's lives. The problem becomes a social phenomenon, such as bisexual, feminism and the homosexual phenomenon. An opinion conveyed by Siahaan (2009) that homosexual is an advantageous term to describe the general tendency of having sex with other people of the same sex (p. 43).

Talking over about homosexuality is not taboo in society anymore. Sociologically, it is someone who tends to prioritize people of the same sex as

sexual partners. It denotes to an attitude, called homosexual. The men who do such acts are called homosexuals while lesbian is the name for women who do so (Soekanto, 2007, p. 333). Homosexual life in the community is still considered to be a phenomenon that can pose a threat for it is an incompatible behaviour between elements of culture or society. This discrepancy can be categorized as a deviant behaviour which is said to be a violation of the norm laws that apply in society, especially religious norms. Religion is a vertical relationship between God and His people. Thus, society should be more able to think more and more openly in giving an assessment of someone, including a homosexual person.

An overview of society towards homosexual tend to obtain unfair discriminatory treatment. What's the impact? can be found by the people's life surround the writer, they as homosexuals close themselves about their identity and also their relationship. This discriminatory view has an bad effect where homosexuals cannot freely live and live in preteens. It strengthened by launching from a news story on 25/01/2018, an online news site CNN Indonesia released a story with the title "Violence against LGBT Americans Raised 86 Percent in the Trump Era", this news might describe how there is an injustice against LGBT people in America at the glory of President Trump. Through this news as the background, the desire of homosexuals to shut themselves off is getting stronger. In fact, they realized that they don't want to live in this condition. Moreover, they don't want to be said to be different because their feeling is a choice of life. What's matter?. Everyone has and is entitled to human rights, and human rights cannot be linked to sin, but with the right to live.

The real is the laws apply in countries, such as Indonesia do not directly regulate homosexual issues. The main purpose of the legislation is basically made to protect humans against sexual aggressiveness, protect minors against sexual exploitation and also protect society against sexual exposures that have negative effects. In Indonesia, there is no specific laws that specifically regulates homosexual issues. Sociologically, this legislation is a form of depicting taboo against homosexual attitudes which are determined by customs, religion, and so on. The homosexual phenomenon actually existed in ancient times. Through an act that is considered deviating from religious teachings and is considered a form of crime. This is explained in a human history that began with the inhabitants of Sodom, Prophet Luth (as) who was completely destroyed, but the crime of homosexuality continues and continues among mankind. This crime of lust against men (Sodomy) and homosexuality was rampant in the 13th century AD. In 1212 AD, a law officially declared the penalty for homosexuality as a death sentence.

Homosexual life in society can be seen from a literary work. Because literary works come from phenomena or problems that come from society, therefore literary works can be said to be a reflection of their times. According to Endaswara (2011. p. 169), explains that the mirror is a transparent object. Mirrors can reflect light. Literature is also a mirror. Reading literature, as well as being self-reflective from the start, the presence of literary critics, critics of sociology of literature have paid attention to literature and mirrors. Beautiful literature, because it is able to reflect the social world aesthetically.

Therefore, the homosexual life that occurs in society is reflected through literary works in the form of novels which were made into films, and the film is "Love Simon". This film tells the life of a boy who goes to high school and realizes that he is different from other boys. This teenager named Simon Spier, a homosexual who must hide his identity to his family and people around him, and lives in the pretenses of being a normal person until one day his friend Leah told him about a student who had uploaded a confession about his identity as a secretive homosexual in their school who disguises himself as "Blue". Simon, who was curious, finally decided to create an account under the name "Jacques" and their relationship began to be established through online communication which they made in reply to emails. The homosexual phenomenon represented through the life of a homosexual teenager in the film "Love, Simon", is told that he is looking for self-identity and recognition and same-sex love life that exists in society. Therefore, in this case, sociology of literature can be used to study homosexual life in films.

So, the real life of homosexuality in society but not yet acceptable makes homosexuals unable to be opened about their identity to their environment, and makes homosexuals secretive. They must interact as if with two environments, namely an environment that accepts their sexual orientation and an environment that rejects their sexual orientation. This is done in order to get a view that is not different from the community. In this study, the problem of the homosexual life phenomenon experienced by Simon Spier and also the attitudes of the people around him regarding his identity and same-sex relationships are appealing to study. Homosexual life in socializing makes writer needs to reveal it in a study entitled

"REPRESENTATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL PHENOMENON IN FILM LOVE SIMON."

## **B. Questions and Scopes of the Research**

### **1. Questions of the Research**

Based on the background described above, in this study the writer formulates the following problems:

- a. How is the phenomenon of homosexual life represented by Simon Spier as the main character in the film Love Simon?
- b. What is the representation of the attitudes from the people around Simon Spier feel about his homosexual identity?

### **2. Scopes of the Research**

This study will limit the scope of research on the life of the main character in the film "Love Simon" which represents the phenomenon of homosexual life using the homosexual theory described by several experts, one of which is Siahaan in his book entitled "*Perilaku Menyimpang, Pendekatan Sosiologi*" and also the supporting factors in this research. Reveal his identity as a homosexual.

## **C. Objectives and Significance of the Research**

### **1. Objectives of the Research**

Based on the question that has been described, this study was made with the aim of:

- a. Analysing the representation of the phenomenon of homosexual life in a film, where the main character in this film represents the life of a homosexual.
- b. Analysing what are the representations of the supporting factors that ultimately make the main character reveal his identity as a homosexual.

## **2. Significance of the Research**

In this study there are several benefits that can be taken. The writer hopes that this research can provide significance in the form of theoretical and practical benefits.

- a. Theoretically, this study aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the representation of homosexuals and how they socialize in society. In addition, the writer also hopes that this research can provide an introduction and insight into a social phenomenon, one of which is the homosexual phenomenon which is used as literary research.
- b. Practically, this research is expected to be a reference material to provide an understanding of the representation of homosexual phenomena in a film, so that readers can be motivated to be smarter in acting when dealing with or making friends with people who have an identity as a homosexual.

## D. Operational Definition

### 1. Homosexual

Homosexual is the identity of someone's sexual orientation that is not normal or deviant based on the fact that a man is attracted to other men excessively.

### 2. Sociology of Literature

Sociology of literature is a relationship between literature and society. Sociology of literature also sees literature as a mirror of people's life, which represents a form of literary work that has great attention to social phenomena.

### 3. Character and Characterization

Character is an actor who works to develop events in the story so that the event becomes a story full of conflict. While characterization is a representation that is built in literary works through characters which ultimately make literary connoisseurs able to conclude and evaluate the literary work.

### 4. Film

Film is a part of literature that has a special nature in presenting a story that can come from a social phenomenon, psychology or many other things. Important aspects in the film such as characters, setting, lighting, and costumes are also taken into consideration for the audience in enjoying and assessing a work that is presented.

## **E. Systematization of the Research**

The systematization of the research is explained in order to make the reader understand the content of each analysis easier. The systematization are follows:

Chapter I Introduction explains about the background of the research, the scope of the problems, the question of the research, the objective of the research, the significance of the research, and the systematization of the research.

Chapter II explains about consist of some theories taken many references to support the research such as the definition of homosexual and sociology literature.

Chapter III explains about methodology of the research about procedure of the research, technique of data collection, technique of data analysis, and source of the data primary and secondary data.

Chapter IV explains about research findings and discussion which show about data description, data analysis, and interpretation of research findings.

Chapter V explains conclusion and suggestion which give the summary of the conclusion which relate of the discussion, and suggestion which relate of the research.



