

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background of the research, question and scope of the research, objective and significance of the research, operational definition, and systematization of the research.

### A. Background of the Research

Humans were originally born with different sexes. In fact, sex is carried from birth with a biological condition that cannot be changed or in other words, it is the destiny from God. However, a gender term was born which is defined as when we are born as male or female the readers can still choose what to become, either being a woman or a man. In fact, gender is also the result of the influence of social factors.

Social factors are happened when the reader and also the writer growing or in the process of becoming an adult but not happened in child. There are some people who turn out to be educated to grow up as a woman or a man completely. For example, parents who have sons do not allow their children to cry or even have dolls even though they are not dolls with female elements. But, still, it is not stopping few of them to become who they are as their 'belief' of sexes. The concepts itself is not valid. As time goes by, concepts of gender keep changing because people's thoughts continue to have different concepts and points of view of gender.

Transgender or transsexual does not happen immediately when the readers are just born. There are many factors that make a person want to change themselves into the opposite sex which are biological factors and environmental factors. Sex in the knowledge of biology separate individuals into men and women. Which, it can not define by themselves. Even chromosomes can only say what a person is born with, not how they see themselves. Different from biological factor, environmental factor can make us or form us into transgender. For example where boys are able to wear make-up when previously it is only able for a girl. Also for a girl, they were able to paint their body or also we know as tattoo that make them feel masculine. That what makes change to Lili Elbe.

Lili Elbe is the main character that will be writer concern for this research, especially for gender construction. At first, he was just an ordinary and also truly man who loved his wife but there are many things that made him interested and even determined to become a woman. Here, it has been seen that gender is not born with only biological, but gender can also be formed from environmental and social factors. This is what makes the process of human desire to change the identity of the main character occur. Because of it environment factors, human can choose what they wanted to be as a person especially a gender.

Lili Elbe was not only transgender. Basically, many people are confused or maybe do not know by the differences between transgender and transsexual. Transgender is a term for someone who does not perform genital

surgery but performs or expresses things that deviate from their sexes. Either man or woman. Unlike the case with transsexuals, the term is a person who has reached the stage of doing surgery, hormone injections, or other medical things that are used to completely change their identity. These two has very different terms and explanation. The description has a purpose for the readers to understand the difference between transgender and transsexual. So, this main character obviously a transsexual.

*The Danish Girl* is the name of the movie that writer chose for the research. The Danish Girl is a movie which adapted from a non-fictional novel written by David Ebershoff in 2001. In 2015 the movie was made with a scriptwriter named Lucinda Coxon then became success in that year. The interested thing and also the reason why writer chose this is that because this movie is based on true story that happen in Denmark in 1926.

In 1920s gender deviations has become wider. Especially as a female masculinity had become something of a fashion statement during the 1920s (Taylor, M 2000, p. 9). Furthermore, this case is the first case that happened in the world which Lili Elbe was the first person who did the first genital surgery even though in the end she did not make it to the final stage and died whether in real life or movie but still this is like a major history for the transgender life as we can see a lot of people turned out to be like Lili Elbe. She made a big history to life for other transgender and transsexual. Especially, in Denmark that has been shown in the movie.

This movie tells a story of a famous painter named Einar Wegener who decided to change his identity into a woman because he felt comfortable and also feel like in his body, he is actually a woman when he put his wife dresses on, heels, even wigs. His wife, Gerda Wegener, is also a painter but not as famous as her husband. Until one day, Gerda hired a model for his painting who was a friend of her named Ulla. But she was too late to come so she decided to use her husband as a medium for her painting by wearing her husband the female attributes that should be worn by the model. Since then, Einar is comfortable being a woman and decides to become a complete woman by performing a surgery and changing her identity to Lili Elbe.

The reason why the writer chose this as an object is because the movie was interesting to analyze for this research. There are few reasons. First, *The Danish Girl* is a movie based on true story which the main character really did a genital surgery and the first transsexual case in the world that happened and became hyped all over the world. Second, this movie is telling about the situation and also portrays 1920s in Denmark which we can see the point of view by its people in there at that year such as the culture, the people, and the situation that happened. Third, the writer wants to highlight the gender construction through socially perspective as seen in the movies, also to make readers can see through many point of view from the experts for the gender case so the reader will understand the theories first before judging the performer, which it is interested to be analyzed.

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

### **1. Question of the Research**

According to the background of the research above, the writer found and formulates the problem as follow :

- a. What does main character 'Lili Elbe' do as gender construction seen in *The Danish Girl* Movie?
- b. How do the people around Lili Elbe's perceive gender construction in the movie?

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

In conducting this research, the writer focused on gender construction through Lili Elbe as the main character in this movie. The writer also tried to find out how people perceive gender constructions of the main character in the movie. There are a few theories which are used, such as: This research uses queer theory and follows the novel's thought of Judith Butler's "Gender Trouble" (1990) sort of ideology and sexual stereotypes that has been published by routledge. The queer theory is about whole thing concern in changing identity, gender, feminism and also subversion. For exploring *The Danish Girl*, Queer theory is suitable. The writer also analyzes this with a literary approach by Lois Tyson who also take a gender approach. By classifying and analyzing those above data we can understand what gender construction and its effects in society lives.

## C. Objective and Significance of the Research

### 1. Objective of the Research

According to the research with the questions that have been discussed before, there are two objectives of the research as described as follows :

- a. The writer wants to know what main character “Lili Elbe” do as gender construction seen in *the Danish girl* movie.
- b. The writer wants to find out how people perceive gender construction in the movie.

### 2. Significance of the Research

In this research, the writer was expected to provide a theoretically and practically contribution. Theoretically, the benefits of this research are for provide broad insights for readers about literary works and this study can be useful to the reader to know more or add some knowledge about gender issue and how gender construct not only biologically but also socially. Also, the reader can see the point of view of Einar both life and give a interested writing for a people who have the same problem in gender through a literature.

Practically, the writer expected that this study can be useful for the relevant research or reference to a person who have the same exact research, especially for english literature student of STBA JIA who chose to write a paper with this kind of literature element. Maybe this is expected to be helpful for the student who tries to analyze gender construction. For another scholars or people who interested in literature, this paper can used for a

comparison. It also believe for people in public to understand lot more knowledge in gender issue to know more about their desire gender.

#### **D. Operational Definition**

The writer will describe the definition or meaning of the important words or phrases used in this research that might be important for finding a keyword. These are as follows :

##### **1. Gender Construction**

Gender Construction is where people were not only biological constructed like born only as a female or male, but they can be socially constructed when they will find opposite sex interesting. Then become a different gender than the previous one (in fact it is assigned as male/female at birth).

##### **2. Transgender**

Transgender is a term for someone who does not perform genital surgery but performs or expresses things that deviate from their sexes. Either man or woman.

##### **3. Transsexual**

Transsexuals is a person who has reached the stage of doing surgery, hormone injections, or other medical things that are used to completely change their identity/sex as they want to.

#### 4. Movie

Kind of art that moves from a pictures or video that is usually have short and long duration and made with human experience or imagination literary genre that consists of movie through a typically related sequence of events.

#### 5. Main Character

Main Character is the most important figure/role in the movie. It always move the plot goes or we can say main character is a person thing who built the pot all the way. Usually it will always be the center of the story.

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

Systematization of the research requires presenting the paper in a well-edited composition. The research was divided into five parts, as follows:

Chapter I Introduction explains about background of the research and reason why the writer chose the research, question and the scope of the research, objective and significance of the research, operational definition and systematization of the research which consist the resume of the content of the research as a whole.

Chapter II Theoretical description consists of the definition of literature, the definition movie, the definition of movie, the definition of character , the definition of characterization, and the definition of gender and also *gender construction* where appear in the definition of gender and how it



explained and last but not least research which shows the previous writer that had been conducted.

Chapter III Methodology of the research involves procedure of the research, technique of data collection, technique of data analysis, and sources of the data primary and secondary data.

Chapter IV Research results and discussion explain about data definition in the movie, data analysis where the writer analyzes all the data identified by the writer in the corpus data, interpretation of data and discussion.

Chapter V Conclusion and suggestion give the summary of the conclusion which relate to the discussion, suggestion which relate to significance of the research.

