



**AN ANALYSIS OF HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE
OF THE MAIN CHARACTER
IN ALAN HOLLINGHURST'S *THE LINE OF BEAUTY***

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for S-1 Degree Majoring English Literature in the English Department,
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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PRONOUNCEMENT

I honestly certify that this thesis, entitled “An Analysis of Homosexual Lifestyle of the Main Character in Allan Hollinghurst’s *The Line of Beauty*”, is written by myself without taking any result from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in diploma degree of any university. I also ascertain that I do not take any material from other works except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 29th December 2022



Yuliana Filmafiroh

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Go, O my sons, and ascertain concerning Joseph and his brother, and despair not of the Spirit of Allah. Lo! None despaireth of the Spirit of Allah save disbelieving folk.

(Quran.com)

The Quran / Surah Yusuf (12): 87

*This thesis is dedicated to
myself, my family,
and those whom I love the most*

APPROVAL

**AN ANALYSIS OF HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE
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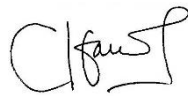
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I realize that this thesis is far from perfect. Therefore, I will be happy to accept constructive criticism and suggestions to make this thesis better. I hope this thesis can be useful for readers.

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Yuliana Filmafiroh

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ABSTRACT

The Line of Beauty is a novel written by Alan Hollinghurst. The purpose of this study is to describe the homosexual lifestyle of the main character in the novel using queer homosexual theory. The textual and contextual style of literary analysis is used in *The Line of Beauty*. This method concentrates on the inherent qualities of character and conflicts. Meanwhile for the extrinsic aspects analysis, the writer analysis homosexual lifestyle, triggers of finding homosexual partner, constructions of homosexuality, impact of homosexual activity, and self-identity and social identity. The findings of this study are that homosexual life is carried out in secret. The cause of choosing a homosexual lifestyle, among others, is the lifestyle of the upper class who is freer to do anything. Furthermore, there is the concept of self-identity, where someone who commits homosexuality always hides his identity.

Keywords: literature study, queer theory, homosexual.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Literary works are imaginative work that depicts how people live in societies. It is something which society may appreciate, comprehend, and is used by the public. According to Eagleton, “literature can be interpreted as ‘imaginative’ writing in the sense of fiction” (1983: 1). This means that literature is an imaginative mindset that comes from the sense of human imagination or real events that may occur in real life. Novel is a literary work in the form of a narrative story which is expected to amuse readers. Experiences from life and problems in the story become important points in fiction to remain the story interesting. In addition, problems also provide the story to have a coherent structure and still have an aesthetic intent (Wellek & Warren, 1948: 212). Every literary work there must be its own rule that can make it to be right, and literary works of course have intrinsic and extrinsic aspects.

The writer chooses *The Line of Beauty*, a novel by Hollinghurst, which was published in 2004, but was written in 1983. The novel tells the story of how two men become homosexual. In this novel, Alan Hollinghurst wants to show the readers how Nick Guest, the main character, learns about the radical differences that existed between Feddens family’s lavish lifestyle and his own middle-class upbringing when he lives with Feddens family. Continually, Nick’s naïve life turns into hedonist one, and he also smokes cocaine for the satisfaction of his life. Not

only that, he also begins to explore his gay identity which adverse is imagined to be manifested by dating a man whom he met in the 'Lonely Heart' advertisement, named Leo Charles. Afterwards, he dates a wealthy man who is his classmate at Oxford, named Wani Ouradi.

Although Nick moves out from the Feddens' family, homosexuality issues instilled a feeling of discomfort in Gerald Fedden and his wife, Rachel Fedden, the owners of the house occupied by Nick. Gerald Fedden is very charming and charismatic. He is astute and great at politics. His loving, smart, beautiful wife comes from a rich family background, and she is cultured and sophisticated. She runs a beautiful household and is a brilliant hostess for endless dinner parties and *soirees* or parties take place in the endless evenings. Gerald has one son, named Toby Fedden, and one daughter who is very beautiful but a depressed woman treated by Dr. Edelman, named Catherine Fedden. Gerald Fedden is a parliamentarian and *Bon Viveur* or someone who likes to go to parties and other social events and who enjoys good food, wine, etc. In his work, Gerald is very dependent on Penny Kent, his secretary and cannot work without Penny. Gerald has an affair with Penny until his affair is exposed by Nick and Catherine. The Feddens family's attitude toward homosexuality is evident early in the novel when the family discusses the case of *Hector Maltby*, a junior secretary of the State Department who is caught having sex with a rented man in his Jaguar. The Feddens think homosexuality is ridiculous.

The Line of Beauty is set in London in the early 1980s, a period recognized for its dynamic urban club culture, homosexual civil rights demonstrations, and the

AIDS pandemic, all occurring at the same time. Florence Tamagne defines homosexuality as follows: Simply described, homosexuality is a form of sexuality in which a person exhibits interest for other people of the same sex (1919: 4). The world's widespread discovery of homosexuality centuries ago has made it one of the taboo topics in conversation. Many people are still resistant to accepting homosexuality because all religions state that they do not condone homosexuality. However, a large number of activists have also attempted to address the issue of homosexuality. "The essentialists believe that a person's identity is permanent and congenital from birth, while constructionist claim that a person's identity can change based on the circumstances surrounding the identity owner" (Jagose, 1998: 8). As a result, the writer would like to examine the factors that lead to the main character of the novel developing feelings for the same sex.

In the novel, the topic of homosexual lifestyle is highlighted, where the main character's faces the press, society, politics, and themselves. Hence, the writer wants to elaborate the story by doing research on queer homosexuality. Hither, people will become aware that there are other perspectives on homosexuality and comprehend the entire implications of being a homosexual.

1.2. Research Problem

In constructing this thesis, the writer chooses five problems which are going to be discussed as follows:

- a. How is homosexual lifestyle described in the life of Nick Guest in the novel?

- b. What are the triggers of Nick's homosexuality in *The Line of Beauty* by Alan Hollinghurst?
- c. What are the constructions of Nick's homosexuality in *The Line of Beauty* by Alan Hollinghurst?
- d. What are the impacts of homosexual activity on Nick in *The Line of Beauty* by Alan Hollinghurst?
- e. How do Nick's self-identity exist in *The Line of Beauty* by Alan Hollinghurst?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

In relation to the issues raised by the study, the objectives of the study are:

- a. To describe Nick's homosexual lifestyle.
- b. To analyze the triggers of Nick's homosexuality.
- c. To analyze the constructions of Nick's homosexuality.
- d. To analyze the impacts of homosexual activity on Nick.
- e. To analyze Nick's Self-identity.

1.4. Previous Study

Previous studies are important for research because they are used to figure out which area of research has not been covered by other writers. For *The Line of Beauty*. The writer found a number of previous studies which then lead the writer to do this study. The writer could gather ten previous studies about the novel.

The first previous study, a thesis by Soon Ye Kim, entitled "Betrayed by Beauty: Ethics and Aesthetics in *The Line of Beauty* by Alan Hollinghurst". This

thesis examines how Nick Guest's aesthetics, which love beautiful things, and the ethical dimensions of Hollinghurst's novels, which consider Nick's uncritical moral character, and Wani, his boyfriend, depict a novel figure of beauty corrupted by sex, wealth, and power. The second previous study, written by Dion Kagan, is entitled "Homeless Love: Heritage and Aids in BBC2's *The Line of Beauty*". This thesis analyzes the relationship between queer bachelor ambivalence and semantic load. The third previous study, a thesis by Ida Suryani, is entitled "Portrayal of the Protagonist in Alan Hollinghurst's *The Line of Beauty*". This thesis focuses on the characteristic changes experienced by the main character named Nick Guest. The fourth previous study, written by Dana Shiller, is entitled "Bleak Hilarity in Alan Hollinghurst's *The Line of Beauty*". This thesis discusses *The Line of Beauty* which satirizes the upper class for ignoring the less fortunate and their blind devotion to Prime Minister Thatcher. The fifth previous study, written by Angel Daniel Matos, is entitled "Fact versus Fiction: Alan Hollinghurst's *The Line of Beauty*". This study analyzes the novel, which depicts the triumphs and failures of characters who are captivated and enslaved by the pursuit of beauty, even at the expense of truth, pragmatism, and reality. Due to the discussion of AIDS, these novel uses pastiche to bring out the historical conception of AIDS in a contemporary context.

The sixth previous study, written by Ella Reilly with the title "There are some alternatives remembering 1980s Britain in contemporary British literature". The thesis submitted to the Victoria University of Wellington. Analyzes Specters of Heritage in *The Line of Beauty*. *The Line of Beauty* puts forward the ingenuity of national heritage (which become a politically charged concept during the 1980s) in

representations of the 1980s. The seventh previous study, written by Edward Dodson, is entitled “Postimperial Englishness in the Contemporary White Canon”. This thesis contains a chapter from Alan Hollinghurst’s sexuality and Postimperial Englishness, which analyzes various literary critics. This thesis has grown more nuanced and less personal by placing Hollinghurst in the context of queer theory and his sexually explicit and historically informed explorations of literary homosexuality. The eighth previous study, written by Alexander Williamsom, is entitled “Cocaine and the English”. In this article, analyzing cocaine abuse is very important for the plot and flow of the narrative, the linguistic journey, and the text structure. Until recently, narratives focused on cocaine use were overwhelming in American and English usage. Users use cocaine compulsively to recapture past memories. The ninth previous study, written by Charlie Tyson, is entitled “Loneliness of the Gay Aesthete: Alan Hollinghurst and Queer Theory”. This article analyzes the difference between “gay” and “queer” at its best when it is fluid. To suggest that Hollinghurst, as a “gay but not queer” novelist, falls outside the bounds of queer studies would seem like an obvious fallacy. If novels about men loving and having sex with men do not fall under the purview of queer studies, then the field has narrowed its outlook to the point that it is disturbing, if not illogically exclusive. The tenth previous study, entitled “Homosexuality in Hollinghurst’s *The Line of Beauty*”, is written by Namdev Kashinath Patil. This paper uncovers he attempts to derive homoerotic pleasure from its protagonist, Nick who gets caught up in a critical event due to involvement with the family affairs of the Fedden

family. Then Nick is always looking for opportunities to have sex with Leo and Wani.

What differs this thesis from the previous studies is that the writer does not only analyze the main character's homosexual lifestyle, but also analyzes the triggers of finding homosexual partners, constructions of homosexuality, impact of homosexual activity, and self-identity as well as social identity in the novel.

1.5. Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is to analyze the intrinsic aspects such as character and conflict in Alan Hollinghurst's *The Line of Beauty*. In this study, the writer chooses to describe the extrinsic aspects such as triggers of finding homosexual partner, constructions of homosexual, impacts of homosexual activity, and self-identity and social identity.

1.6. Writing Organization

Four chapters make up the study, which will be arranged as follows:

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

This chapter has six sub chapters those are background of the study, research problem, objectives of the study, previous study, scope of the study, and writing organization.

CHAPTER 2: THEORY AND METHOD

The writer discusses all the ideas that are employed to analyze the topic in this chapter. It includes the notion of intrinsic aspects and

extrinsic aspects theories. For the intrinsic aspects character, and conflict that will be defined. For the extrinsic aspects, general theory of homosexuality from Annamarie Jagose, and Tamsin Spargo, triggers of homosexuality, constructions of homosexuality, impacts of homosexual activity, and concept of self-identity in society.

CHAPTER 3: NICK GUEST'S HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE

The writer describes the thesis' discovery as well as the novel's examination, that is intrinsic aspects covering character and conflict, while extrinsic aspects covering the theory of queer homosexuality that explain Nick's homosexual lifestyle, triggers of homosexuality, constructions of homosexuality, impacts of homosexual activity, and self-identity in society.

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION

This chapter contains the summary of the analysis of the main point of the research that has been analyzed by the writer.

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1. Theoretical Framework

2.1.1. Intrinsic Aspects

2.1.1.1. Character and Characterization

Character is an intrinsic aspect that builds the storyline in literary works. Character is “people” who appear in literary works and are interpreted by readers as individuals with emotions, morals, and intellect. The emotions, morals, and intellects of the characters can be deduced from their discourse, how they say it, and how they act (M.H, Abrams, 1957: 32). In other words, character is one of the important aspects that can be used as a medium to convey the plot, the author’s concept, and the story value.

There are two types of character based on how significant their roles are in novels or other literary works, namely main or major characters and minor characters. Major character is described as the most significant character in a novel or other literary works. Because the existence of major character in the plot depends on the conflict, the main character is often portrayed as protagonist or antagonist (Barsam and Monahan, 2010: 135). According to Barsam and Monahan, protagonist is a hero, whereas the antagonist is referred to as the villain (2010: 15). Barsam and Monahan’s explanation about protagonist and antagonist can be seen in the following quotation “A protagonist can be a hero, and the hero can either be

good people or bad people. The antagonist, on the other hand, is a figure who opposes the protagonist and most likely the one who prompts the protagonist's actions or reactions" (Barsam and Monahan, 2010: 16). Meanwhile, minor characters are seen as being less significant characters in a novel or other literary works (Barsam and Monahan, 2010: 136). Their existence will not impress the plot of the story. However, the inclusion of minor characters will only serve to forward the plot to move or take out the main characters' motivation. Characterization can be classified into take various form, among other thing as:

2.1.1.1.1. Emotions

Emotion as "a lived, believed-in, situated, temporally embodied experience that radiates through a person's stream of consciousness is felt in and runs through his body, and, in the process of being lived, plunges the person and his associates into a wholly new and transformed reality the reality of a world that is being constituted by the emotional experience" (Denzin, 2009: 66). This means that Emotions as experiences that radiate through the stream of consciousness, and are shapes by emotional experiences.

2.1.1.1.2. Moral

According to Hazlitt, morality is a sacrifice from small goodness to large goodness (2003: 111), Stenberg defined morality as the concern with what is right or good in how individuals relate to one another. Understanding morality requires a clear explanation of what is good or harmful and what is right or wrong (1994: 938). A

morality consists of four elements: (1) beliefs regarding the nature of man, (2) ideals regarding what is right or desirable or worthwhile of pursuing for its own sake, (3) laws outlining what should be done, and (4) motivations that influence human decision-making. As kids, we are taught to be selfless and to not tell lies (Edwards, 1967: 150). This means that moral has four elements that everyone needs to know.

2.1.1.1.3. Intellectual

The phrase "thinking disposition" is used to describe a propensity for intellectual activity patterns that condition and direct positive cognitive behavior (Perkins et al, 1993). The idea of intellectual character is the high-level disposition profile of critical and creative thinking that includes motivation, attitude, passion, sensitivity, values, and mental habits (Tishman, 1995). Intellectual assert that in order to engage in high-level thinking, a person has to exhibit three key dispositional traits: inclination, sensitivity, and ability (Perkins and Tishman, 1998).

Intellectual values of open thinking, justice, curiosity, and metacognitive reflection that must coexist with these disposition behaviors. These components and values are combined into three dimensions of dispositional thinking: 1) inclination to think: open minded, investigating assumptions, speculating, asking, sharpening concepts, planning, thinking ahead, being careful, and being skeptical; 2) self-sensitivity towards: narrow thinking, hidden things, the possibility of being wrong, self-awareness is not always accurate, and at shallowness; and 3) ability to: identify assumptions, object assumptions, process information, and think inductively

(Perkins et al, 1993). This means that intellectual has three components and values that everyone needs to know.

2.1.1.2. Conflict

Conflict is a set of events in a plot that involves the interaction of two or more characters that cause them to contradict each other (Holman, 1985:98). According to Wellek and Warren in *Theory of Literature*, conflict necessitates both action and retaliation, as well as an equal amount of energy from both parties (1949: 225). Heated battle and physical violence are the result of conflict. In any work of fiction, conflict is employed to create tension and propel the plot along. It is frequently used to disclose a deeper meaning in a story while stressing the motivations, ideals, and flaws of the characters.

According to Meyer, there are two types of conflict that occur in every literary work, namely internal conflict and external conflict. Internal conflict, or also called *inner conflict*, usually involves moral or psychological problems. This kind of conflict must be resolved by the character himself. The external conflict is the kind of conflict occurs between humans and humans and in adventure literary works. It is considered an external conflict because the protagonist must make physical contact with the antagonist in order to resolve it. Furthermore, an external conflict is not only a conflict of humans against humans, but also a conflict of humans against nature or society (2011: 51-52). This means that conflict has two types, internal and external, and each has its own way of resolution base on the types of conflict that occurs.

2.1.2. Extrinsic Aspects

Extrinsic aspects are elements that come from outside the literary works. In analyzing *The Line of Beauty* by Allan Hollinghurst, the writer focuses on the queer homosexuality theory from Annamarie Jagose and Tasmin Spargo that explains the triggers of finding homosexual partners, constructions of homosexuality, impacts of homosexual activity, self-identity and social identity as the extrinsic aspect analysis.

2.1.2.1. Queer Homosexuality

Sexual orientation is determined by many factors, including gender, sex, and race. The three characteristics are used to identify a person's sexual orientation that can be seen not only visually, but also psychologically (Stein and Plummer, 1994: 180). Among sexual orientation, homosexuality is one that is often talked about.

Homosexuality is a term usually used to describe the sexual attraction to individuals of one's same sex. It can be understood that homosexuality is sexual intercourse of the same sex (Foucault, 2007: 92-131). According to Jeffrey Weeks, homosexuality has been present throughout history in all societal groups and at all social levels. However, the way each civilizations see homosexuality as well as the meaning each civilizations assign to it and how gay people feel themselves are all quite diverse (1972: 2). This means that homosexuality is still one of issues that is not easily accepted by society.

The term gay is commonly and widely known as sexual desire for individuals of one's own sex (Jagose, 1996: 7). A homosexual is defined as a sexual

relationship between two people of the same gender, whether they be men or women. However, the conspicuousness of homosexuality is still indecisive. There is ongoing debate regarding who should be labeled as homosexual. For instance, there is a debate about whether a man who has a girlfriend but also a boyfriend is deemed to be homosexual as well as a man who has a wife and children but engages in sexual activity with another man. A person's identity is permanent and congenital, according to essentialists, from the moment of birth. While constructionists believe that a person's identity can change based on their environment (Jagose, 1996: 8). It is clear that essentialists believe that things have an inherent essence to humans, while constructionists believe that nothing is inherent but things are created through environment.

There is a conclusion that may be made between the constructionist and essentialist groups. Some people choose to be homosexual because they have unpleasant experiences or traumas associated with the other sex, while others who are homosexual by birth. As the constructionists' organization desires, individuals who choose to become homosexuals may be "cured," but those who were born homosexuals cannot benefit from the "cure." (Jagose, 1996: 10).

Foucault said that sexuality does not come from biology but from human social life, history, and culture (1999: 12). Spargo also stated that while sexuality resembles gender, sexuality is in fact more unique and personal. It is all about your "inner-most desires". In renaissance era until the 16th century, any sexual activity outside marriage, be it homosexual or heterosexual, was deemed a disgrace by the Church and forbidden by the law. Then, in nineteenth century, if a guy had a sexual

relationship with another man, he was labeled as a homosexual (1999: 18). In addition, Foucault asserts that homosexuality is the result of indigenous culture (1999: 44). It has been clearly states above that homosexuality is the culture of the original people who come from that place.

2.1.2.1.1. Lifestyle

Lifestyle is one of the demarcations of social standing. It is achieved by living your life in a certain way that is not inherited but learned and similar to other people (Weber, 1956). According to Alfred Adler, each person has an own distinct life style that may be somewhat similar to other people's ways of living, but it will never be exactly the same. In the early years of life, a person's endogenous creative power shapes their lifestyle. It is not brought on by environment or heredity. The same event never has exactly the same impact on two people, and we only gain knowledge from experience to the extent that our way of life lets (Adler,1956: 178).

To Adler, Life Style is the completeness of individuality, which is difficult to understand. Life style not only establishes identity but also unites thoughts with feelings and behaviors (conscious and unconscious), reflecting the "direction chosen by the individual for his striving". In other words, it is a guiding principle that directs every expression and shapes all experience in order to achieve the exclusive individual (1956: 175). This means that lifestyle not only builds identity but also unites thoughts with feelings and behaviors that direct every expression and shape all experiences by reflecting the direction the individual chooses to pursue.

2.1.2.1.2. Triggers of Homosexuality

Triggers of homosexuality or gay can come from social factor, environmental factor, and heredity. According to Ray Blanchard, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Toronto, a factor that triggers homosexuality is family care style. Biologists believe that the cause of homosexuality is genetic factors, and psychologists believe that the trigger of homosexuality is environmental factors (2002: 63-71). Homosexuality is largely not innate or directly related to parenting problems or social factors, but the results of unique reactions of oneself to personal experiences. Social factors most likely can trigger homosexuality, and only a small percentage of heredity can trigger homosexuality (Bell, Weinberg, and Hammersmith, 1981).

2.1.2.1.3. Constructions of Homosexuality

Constructions of homosexuality or the model is binary is that it asserts a social and sexual opposition between male and female, or the feminine and the masculine. (Marinucci, 2010). So, it can be conclusion, in the constructions of homosexuality, there are those who act as masculine and there are those who act as feminine in sexual relations that take place.

2.1.2.1.4. Impact of Homosexual Activity

Bancroft acknowledged that those living as homosexual have an impact on the lifestyles in society at greater risk, such as a ruined reputation, community ostracism, sexually transmitted diseases (1988: 396). According to the Gay Lesbian

Medical Association, same-sex sexual behavior has the following harmful impacts such as HIV/AIDS, drug misuse, all of the following diseases are preventable: drunkenness, smoking, hepatitis, gonorrhea, syphilis, and other sexually transmitted illnesses. (Van Mol, MD, 2011).

2.1.2.1.5. Self-identity in Society

An identity is a significance that describes the comprehension, sentiments, and hopefulness that are ascribed to the self as a holder of a social position. According to Burke and Tully, “self-identity established a widely utilized identity development model that emphasized identity formation through exploration and commitment” (1977: 589). Erikson used the term “identity” to refer to what others have referred to as self-concept. On the other hand, identity might be thought as a technique of making meaning of some component or part of self-identity concept from Tajfel and Turner, for example, such as what to do, what to value, and how to act (2004: 589).

This theory is created to shed light on the nature and origins of self-awareness, as well as other people’s emotions and the roles they play. “We learn about ourselves through seeing how we fit into the fabric of social selves as there are individuals who identify him and carry an image of him in their minds” (James, 1890/1950: 294). A person's identity within a culture is prevalent in the humanities, cognitive science, psychology, and psychoanalysis. The psychological sciences, the

Layers of person schematization are used to handle the complexity of an individual's various self-experiences and social presentations (Horowitz, 1991).

2.2. Research Method

2.2.1. Data and Data Source

The primary data of this study is the novel entitled *The Line of Beauty* (2004) written by the winner of the 2004 Man Booker Prize, Alan Hollinghurst from the United Kingdom. This 400-page novel contains 3 chapters and is published by Picador Book in English. Primary research is defined as analysis that has involved the collecting of aboriginal data relevant to a given research endeavor (Gratton & Jones, 2010: 8). The secondary data of this study is all written text such as articles, previous studies, and books which are related to this study. Secondary research is defined as study that employs pre-existing sources of data, such as census or archive data (Gratton & Jones, 2010: 8).

2.2.2. Method of Collecting Data

This study uses library research. Library research is research that uses books, notes, and previous studies as the data. The library research includes primary sources as well as secondary sources. Research library is established to fulfill research needs and thus is equipped with authentic materials with quality content. According to George, library research implicates locating and identifying sources that furnish true information or personal (expert) opinion on a study topic: it is a vital component of all other research methods at some point. Information and data were

gathered from a variety of sources, including the official website, government reports, theses, and journals (2008: 50).

2.2.3. Method of Analyzing Data

This study, entitled *An Analysis of Homosexual Lifestyle of the Main Character in The Line of Beauty* by Alan Hollinghurst uses the textual and contextual method. Textual analysis is a methodology acquiring and analyzing data in academic study (McKee, 2001: 3). A contextual analysis is a study of a text (in any format, including multi-media), which aids in evaluating the text's textually, or the characteristics that define it as a text, as well as the literary work's historical and cultural setting in which it was written (Behrendt, 2008). The textual method is used to analyze the intrinsic aspect that, in this study, focuses on character and conflict, while contextual method is used to analyze the extrinsic aspect that focuses on the concept concerning the triggers, the constructions, and the impacts of homosexuality as well as self-identity and sociological identity.

CHAPTER III

NICK GUEST'S HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE

3.1. Intrinsic Aspects

3.1.1. Character

The character analysis of *The Line of Beauty* is divided into two categories, which are major and minor characters. In major character, there is Nick Guest. He is regarded as major character since he is present for the entirety of the narrative and significantly alters the course of the plot. In minor character, there are Leo Charles Wani Ouradi. They only sometimes show up, and their presence have little impact on the story's overall plot.

3.1.1.1. Major Characters

The writer will analyze major characters of the novel *The Line of Beauty*. There is Nick Guest which is categorized as major character.

3.1.1.1.1. Nick Guest

Nick Guest, the main character, is a handsome and attractive young man with curly blonde hair. Nick is twenty years old. He comes from Barwick, and he belongs to a middle class. His parents' name are Don Guest and Dot Guest, and his father works as an antiques seller. Nick is thrust into the world of luxury, power, and money when he lives in the Feddens house. He enjoys the parties and vacations of the wealthy, and he also participates in the abundance of alcohol and cocaine.

3.1.1.1.1. An Obedient Person

Nick is an obedient person, when Nick is invited by Toby to live with Toby's family, after studying at Oxford, Nick is willing to join Toby, because Toby is a rich man, different from Nick who comes from a middle-class family. Nick's submissive nature without him knows makes Nick devastated, where Nick has to accept that his homosexual facts are published by Toby's father, until Toby's father kicks out Nick, and Nick obeys, he immediately left the Feddens' house (Hollinghurst, 2004: 379). After being kicked out of the Fedden family, Nick is asked to live with Wani and work at Wani's company, to cover up their homosexuality, then Nick obeys to go with Wani. Besides that, Nick is obedient, when asked to take care of Catherine, his younger sister, Toby, without saying anything, Nick wants to obey to take care of and look after Catherine (Hollinghurst, 2004: 17).

3.1.1.1.2. A Helpful Person

Nick is a helpful person, when he moves to the Feddens' house, Nick helps the Feddens family a lot, where Nick is trusted to help take care Catherine Fedden, a depressed woman who likes to hurt herself, who is the daughter of the Feddens family. This can be proven in the quotation below.

“In these months after Oxford he was rarely there, and Nick had been passed on as a friend to his little sister and to their hospitable parents. He was a friend of the family; and there was something about him they trusted ...” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 17).

The quotation above explains that when Catherine's parents left, Nick is the one who takes care Catherine, until Catherine's parents return, and also when Nick finds

out that Catherine is hurting herself using sharp tools, Nick helps Catherine to calm her down. Nick chooses to lie and withhold this knowledge from Catherine's parents rather than telling the truth in order to avoid angering Gerald and Rachel, as requested by Catherine (Hollinghurst, 2004: 24). In addition, Nick helps Catherine to uncover Catherine's father's affair with his secretary. This can be proven by this quotation below.

“...There was a warning plink, the doors opened, and Penny came tearing out. 'Penny!' said Nick. Catherine was already in the lift, narrow-eyed, breathing audibly. Nick, feeling like a silly ass and then also feeling the loose smugness of having discovered something without knowing what it was, grinned. Penny had stopped and turned round, with a look both peevish and frightened” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 361).

The quotation explains that Nick and Catherine find out about Catherine's father's relationship with his secretary, named, Penny Kent, at a hotel. Thus, makes Catherine disappointed with her father's behavior which betrays her mother.

3.1.1.1.1.3. A Smart Person

Nick is a smart person; he has a good way of speaking and knows where to talk to parents, friends, strangers, and so on. Despite coming from a middle-class family, Nick Guest is an intelligent person. He has just got a first-class degree from Oxford University. Nick starts a PhD in literature at Oxford University, concentrating on Henry James' studies. After graduating from Oxford University, he goes on vacation, and he lodges into the big white house, which is Nothing Hill house of the Feddens' family, a very rich and political family, with a luxurious lifestyle (Hollinghurst, 2004: 15). The son of Feddens' family, named Toby Fedden, is his college classmate who invites Nick to live in the Feddens house.

3.1.1.2. Minor Characters

The writer will analyze the minor characters of the novel *The Line of Beauty*. There will be two minor characters, each of whom are Leo Charles and Wani Ouradi.

3.1.1.2.1. Leo Charles

Leo Charles is an attractive, simple, black man, who has interest in movies, music, politics. He is an intelligent like-minded guy from Willesden. He is handsome, and he is in his 20s. Leo comes from a family with a religious background.

3.1.1.2.1.1. A Liar Person

Leo is a liar, where he lies to his mother, who is a devout Christian. Leo lies because he has a same-sex partner, named Pete, until Pete dies of AIDS, then Leo lies to his mother about his same-sex relationship with Nick. Then Leo has to lie to Nick by end his relationship with Nick, which turns out to be Leo sick with AIDS. These shakes Nick up, and he tries to find Leo. After that Nick meet his sister Leo, whose name is Rosmary. Then Rosmary tell Nick that Leo has AIDS and is dying in the hospital (Hollinghurst, 2004: 271).

3.1.1.2.1.2. A Good Person

Leo is kind. He always forgives Nick's mistakes when Nick cannot keep his promise to meet him, and Nick admits his mistake and then invites Leo to meet again. This can be seen in the following quotation "Nick had begun his apologies. Nick said, 'I'd still really like to meet you, what about the weekend?'" (Hollinghurst,

2004: 22). The quotation explains that Leo forgives Nick and is willing to see Nick again.

3.1.1.2.1.3. A Smart Person

Despite coming from the middle class, Leo works in a local government office, and always uses his racing bike everywhere (Hollinghurst, 2004: 128).

3.1.1.2.2. Wani Ouradi

Wani is a handsome and beautiful man. Even though Wani is a man, he has nice and beautiful body curves.

3.1.1.2.2.1. A Liar Person

Wani is liar person, he lies to her finance, and society. People will know that he is homosexual if he is not lying. Wani Ouradi is engaged to a beautiful woman carefully selected by his family. However, Wani is Nick's boyfriend and Wani keeps his affair a secret. When Wani meets Nic at his engagement to the beautiful woman, he glances back to see if his fiancé is paying attention to him or not. This can be seen in the following quotation. "As he trotted down the stairs Nick saw Wani Ouradi coming up. Wani himself, glancing back to see if his girlfriend, his intended knew or not" (Hollinghurst, 2004: 68). Besides that, Wani lies to Nick they are the swimming pool at a hotel, Wani asks permission to go to the bathroom from Nick, but Nick following Wani and see Wani kissing a stranger even though he is already in a relationship with Nick the stranger's name is Ricky. This can be seen in the following quotation "... and when he looked back Ricky and Wani were

snogging, there were signs of consent, a moment's glitter of saliva before shockingly tender second kiss ... "(Hollinghurst, 2004: 173). The quotation above explains that Nick knows that Wani is kissing another man and Nick can only stay silent and the left.

3.1.1.2.2.2. A Good Person

Wani is very kind because he likes to give gifts to Nick. Wani always gives Nick expensive gifts and money. This can be seen in the following quotation. "He lay in Wani's canopy bed after sex. Wani gives Nick a check for five thousand pounds because he says that he is tired of paying for him all of the time, but he tells Nick not to tell anyone" (Hollinghurst, 2004: 74). This is equally profitable for Wani and Nick

3.1.1.2.2.3. A Smart Person

Wani Ouradi is a glamorous gay Lebanese millionaire. He graduated from Oxford He is the heir to a supermarket chain fortune named *Mira*. Besides that, Wani has a house on Abington Road, which houses the office of a magazine named *Ogee*. Wani's house has amazing beauty with extraordinary materials. It can be proven in the quotation below.

"On the pediments, colored glass, the Gothic bedroom has an Egyptian bathroom, the house had been featured in *The World of Interiors*, whose art director had moved the furniture around, hung a large abstract painting in the dining room" (Hollinghurst, 2004: 164).

The quotation explains that Wani Ouradi's house is very luxurious and made of very expensive materials with luxurious and expensive household contents.

3.1.1.2. Conflict

In this section, the writer examines the conflicts in Alan Hollinghurst's book *The Line of Beauty*. This book highlights two different types of conflict. For example, the first conflict is internal, whereas the second is external. Nick Guest is experiencing conflicts on the inside. However, the two major characters experience external conflicts. Nick Guest with Leo, Nick Guest with Wani Ouradi, Nick Guest with Rachel Fedden and between Nick Guest and Gerald Fedden.

3.1.1.2.1. Internal Conflicts

In this section, the writer analyzes the internal conflicts that occur in the novel *The Line of Beauty*. In the novel *The Line of Beauty*, the main character experiences a number of internal conflicts. Nick Guest as the main character experiences a process of conflict withing himself. Nick's internal conflict occurs when Nick decides to get tested for HIV. Nick is haunted by the positive result of the test, Nick grapples with his thoughts about what people who already know Nick is a gay are saying. It can be proven in the quotation below.

“It came over him that die test result would be positive. The words that were said every day to others would be fact, in that quiet consulting room whose desk and carpet and square modern armchair would share indissolubly in the moment” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 394).

The quotation above explains Nick waiting for the results of the HIV test, Nick cannot imagine what anyone would say to him if the result is positive.

Nick next internal conflict occurs when Nick finds out that Catherine has injured herself with sharp tools and fills all her rooms with tools such as surgical

instruments, Nick feels confused because he does know what he should do. This can be proven in the quotation below.

“Nick went along the landing and into her room, Nick peered around. Catherine had laid out half a dozen things on the tiled surround, like instruments before an operation: a heavy carving knife, a curved two-handled chopper” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 20-21).

Catherine forbids Nick to call anyone and threatens Nick, that worse things will happen to Catherine if Nick calls her family. Nick continues to wrestle with his mind to find a solution to his responsibility to look after Catherine. Nick hesitated whether he should call Catherine’s parents to tell what happens to Catherine, or follow Catherine’s words not to call or tell anyone (Hollinghurst, 2004: 21). Nick is afraid of taking action or not because he is afraid to take the wrong state. Nick adverse what to as Toby helps the urgent situation, but Toby is not the person Catherine needs, because Toby is kind but negligent in looking after his sister. After pondering, finally Nick finds a solution by calming Catherine through music. Nick takes her downstairs to the drawing room and she chooses on some music by going to the record cabinet, picking a disc out without looking, and turning it on. Nick watches her and recognizes how she lets the music take care of her. Nick sees Catherine immerses in enjoys the music, Nick gratefully and half interests in doubt, tries to call Catherine’s parents, but cannot because he remembers what Catherine has said (Hollinghurst, 2004: 21).

Another internal conflict of Nick is when Nick and Leo meet at the bar. Nick takes a drink of rum he has never drunk before, while Leo takes a drink of Goke. Nick is scared by Leo’s reaction is Nick seduce Leo. As can be seen in the following quotation. “Nick was worried by his obvious intention to seduce, or at least to show

his capacity for seduction. He took the drinks out with a light tremble” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 33). The quotation explains that Nick seduces Leo.

3.1.1.2.2. External Conflict

One of the external conflicts that occurs in the novel happens between Nick and Leo. Nick and Leo’s first conflicts begin when Nick cannot come to the meeting that they have arranged. Nick cannot come because he finds Catherine trying to hurt herself with sharp tools, so Nick has to deal with Catherine and cannot go to meet Leo. Nick apologizes over the phone to Leo because he feels guilty of not keeping his promise in their first date. When Nick asks to meet again next week at Gerald’s house, Leo flatly refused because he wants to meet before Saturday at the carnival venue. Nick agrees with Leo’s idea, and Nick apologizes again to Leo. Leo still has cool attitude and hung up immediately. This can be proven in the quotation below.

“Nick had begun his apologies. Nick said, ‘I’d still really like to meet you, what about the weekend?’. Leo said, ‘No, the weekend I cannot do, going to the carnival? perhaps on the Saturday, let’s get together before then.’ Nick said, ‘I am really sorry about tonight, I will make it up to you.’ Leo said, ‘You bet you will!’ and Leo hang up” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 22).

The quotation above explains that Nick promises to meet Leo at the place specifies by Leo.

After that, Leo and Nick have another conflict it happened when their intimated situation in the form of sitting and kissing on a park bench behind Gerald Fedden’s house is interacted by Gerald Fedden’s neighbor asking questions about Leo the interaction makes Leo sulked. This can be seen the following quotation.

“Leo took the bike and they walked along the path together in silence, he avoided

looking up at the Feddens, at his own window high up in the roof ...” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 44). The quotation explains that Leo is silent when Nick's neighbor finds out that Leo is not a resident of the Feddens house.

The next external conflict happens between Nick Guest and the owners of the Feddens' house, Gerald and Rachel. Nick does not like Gerald and Rachel returning home after going to France. It can be seen in the following quotation. “Gerald and Rachel were still in France, and Nick found himself almost resenting their return at the end of the months” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 15). Because he is afraid that Gerald and Rachel will know that the open takes his boyfriend, Leo to the Feddens' house. Nick also has a next external conflict with Rachel, the conflict begins when Rachel blames and hates Nick for not being able to understand his role in keeping Catherine likes makes of Rachel anger to Nick is when the press knows about Gerald affair from Catherine ex-boyfriend. This can be seen in the following quotation. “Nick felt the confuse he was not sure he found it. Perhaps she knew that he had known all along about Gerald and Penny, and her dryness was a form of bitter embarrassment” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 306). The quotation explains Nick Nick feel dizzy because he does not know where else to look for Catherine.

A major conflict occurs between also Nick and Gerald. Gerald tells the press that Nick and Wani are homosexual couple, to cover his affair in secretary. Gerald accuses Nick of being a parasite and destroys the honor of the Feddens family for his homosexual behavior. On these accusations Nick kicks out of the Feddens' house and then live with Wani. This can be proven in the quotation below.

“I came here as a friend of Toby's,” said Nick. “Well, I am just me, Gerald, but I am not some alien invader, we'd been in the same collage for three

years.' Said Nick. 'I have been giving it some thought. It is the sort of thing you read about; it is an old homo trick.' Gerald said. 'Well, you'll be devastated to hear that I'm moving out of the house today,' said Nick. Gerald, furiously pretending not to have heard. 'I want you out of the house today, Gerald said'" (Hollinghurst, 2004: 376-378).

The quotation above describes the conflict that occurs between Nick and Gerald when the press come to Fedden's house.

3.1.2. Extrinsic Aspects

In this part, the writer will examine the extrinsic aspects in Allan Hollinghurst's *The Line of Beauty*. The analysis contains a discussion about queer homosexuality theory that explains are Nick's homosexuality, triggers of homosexuality, constructions of homosexuality, impacts of homosexuality, and self-identity in Society.

3.1.2.1. Nick's Homosexual Lifestyle

Nick's homosexual lifestyle is the behaviors that Nick often does as a homosexual. In society, the normal sexual orientation is heterosexual, and being homosexual is taboo. Therefore, there are behaviors that Nick does to hide the fact that Nick is a homosexual. One of Nick's frequent behaviors as a homosexual is that he often lies to the people around him where he is going. Here, he is afraid that if he tells the truth that he has gone out with his boyfriend, he will be ostracized by the people around him. This can be seen in the following quotation below.

'I'd still really like to meet you.' There was a pause before Leo said, 'Absolutely.' Nick said, 'Well, what about the weekend?'. Leo said, 'No. The weekend I cannot do.' Nick said, 'Next week?' he said with a shrug. He

wanted to do it before Gerald and Rachel got back, he wanted to use the house” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 22).

The quotation above explains that Nick and Leo arrange a meeting, before Gerald and Rachel returns from France. Nick wants to use Gerald's house to date with Leo, so people do not know Nick is homosexual.

Nick Guest first dates with Leo. Nick’s relationship with Leo lasts a long time, and they often have sexual intercourse during their relationship. This can be proven in the quotation below.

“He pushed his mouth towards Leo’s, and they met, and hurried into a kiss. To Nick it felt simply like a helpless admission of need, and the shocking tiling was the proof of Leo’s need and they kissed for a minute more two minutes” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 41).

The quotation above describes Nick and Leo's intimate relationship. Nick does not get money and luxury from Leo because Leo is from the middle class. Their relationship has to end because Leo gets AIDS and dies. Then Nick gets in touch with Wani who is an old friend in Oxford in the past. Nick’s sexual intercourse for the first time with Wani Ouradi can be seen in the following quotation. “They had kissed the first time they did coke together, their first kiss, Nick stood and kissed Wani in the middle of the room two or three heavenly minutes that had been waiting to happen” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 225). Nick spends most of his time doing drug and having sex with Wani, where Wani always gives Nick expensive gifts and money. This can be seen in the following quotation. “He lay in Wani’s canopy bed after sex. Wani gives Nick a check for five thousand pounds because he says that he is tired of paying for him all of the time, but he tells Nick not to tell anyone” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 74). This shows that Wani is very rich compare to Nick.

3.1.2.2. Triggers of Homosexuality

It can be said that the cause of Nick's homosexuality is genetic, not environment. It is Nick himself who consciously wants to have or seek a same sex relationship. It can be seen when Nick lives in his friend's house, Toby Fedden. Nick likes Toby, and Nick sometimes imagines a relationship with Toby. However, Nick's homosexual passion must be suppressed because Toby is not homosexual. Nick respects Toby, therefore, to get rid of his loneliness without homosexual partner, he looks for 'The Lonely Heart'. It is an advertisement for someone who feels lonely and looks for a partner through newspaper ads. So, he meets Leo through this advertisement, who is a man from a middle-class economy, just like Nick. For a moment, their homosexual relationship runs well. After some times, their relationship has to end because Leo dies.

Since Leo's death, Nick needs to find another partner. Then Nick gets in touch with Wani Ouradi, an old friend in Oxford in the past. Nick then is attracted to Wani, and afterwards they have a sexual relationship. Nick and Wani's sexual relationship grows stronger when Nick is kicked out of Feddens' house. Then Nick lives with Wani and often enjoys the alcohol, which is a habit he gets from the Feddens' family. This can be seen in the following quotation. "Nick got drunk he did Gerald imitation, with his hilarious outbursts, his taste for beautiful things, Nick joined in, with a sense of treacherously bad manners" (Hollinghurst, 2004: 18). From the quotation, it can be concluded that Nick still drinks alcohol as a habit he gets from living in Feddens' house.

3.1.2.3 Constructions of Homosexuality

In this sub-chapter, the writer analyzes the construction of homosexuality in the novel *The Line of Beauty* by Allan Hollinghurst. In homosexual relationship, there are those who act as feminine and masculine. In the novel *The Line of Beauty*, the main character, Nick, plays the roles as a feminine, while Leo and Wani play the roles as a masculine. This can be seen in the following quotation when Nick plays the roles as feminine and Leo plays the roles as a masculine.

‘... His middle finger pushed into the deep divide, as smooth as a boy’s his fingertip even pressed a little way into the dry happy grunt, he moved away from Nick, who clung to him, then let him go with a sully laugh’ (Hollinghurst, 2004: 41).

The quotation above explains that Leo's penis enters Nick's anal hole.

Another proof that Nick play as a feminine is also found when he has sexual intercourse with Wani Ouradi. This can be seen in the following quotation. “Nick felt there was something almost romantic in their patience, and in the Wani’s delayed grab at his penis, and his own half embrace of the Wani’s waist” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 158). The quotation explains that Nick almost feel Wani's penis enter his rectum but is delayed.

3.1.2.4. Impacts of Homosexual Activity

In this sub-chapter, the writer analyzes impacts of homosexual activity in the novel *The Line of Beauty* by Allan Hollinghurst. In this study it is found that every action has good and bad impact including homosexuality. Homosexuality has bad impacts such as getting HIV/AIDS. Before meeting Nick, Leo is already homosexual and

has AIDS. Leo, Nick's first homosexual partner lies weakly in the hospital because of AIDS and dies shortly after that. This can be proven in the quotation below.

“He was in bed, in a sky-blue hospital gown, his face was hard to read, since AIDS had taken it and written its message of terror and exhaustion on it against which Leo seemed frailly to assert his own character in a doubtful half smile, and Leo's a death” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 325).

The quotation above shows that Leo is in a hospital where he is dying of AIDS and eventually dies.

AIDS not only takes Leo's life but also takes Wani's life. This can be seen in the following quotation. “Wani got sick and apologized, Nick took Wani home and knew Wani had AIDS” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 310). Leo and Wani are both affected by AIDS. Finally Nick also takes a test. It can be proven in the quotation below.

“The tall white house fronts had a muted gleam. It came over that die test result would be positive. The words that were said every day to others would be said him, in that quite consulting room whose desk and carpet and square modern arm chair would share indissolubly in the moment” (Hollinghurst, 2004: 394).

The quotation above explains that Nick is in the hospital to do an HIV test and imagine if the results are positive. Nick is afraid that the result of the HIV test is positive. Nick is afraid that he will suffer AIDS like Leo and Wani. For Nick, suffering AIDS means a death sentence because Leo and Wani are died due to AIDS. He regrets what happens to him and he wants to cry. However, there is nothing Nick can do to help himself if HIV/AIDS has been in his body. None of his friends will save him. Eventhough the result of the test is not known in the end of the novel, it is most likely believed that Nick is also infected by AIDS because it might Nick himself who infects Wani, whose virus is got from Leo.

3.1.2.5. Nick's Self-identity in Society

In this sub-chapter, the writer analyzes self-identity and social identity in Alan Hollinghurst's novel *The Line of Beauty*. The homosexual relationship between Nick and his partners is done in secret. It is the same as the extramarital relationship between Gerald Fedden and his secretary. Self-identity is important for everyone, both for upper class families and middle-class families because it will indicate social identity. Gerald from the upper-class family and Nick from the lower-class family want to construct acceptable identity. Nick for example tries to hide his homosexual relationship with Leo and Wani, while Gerald tries to hide his extramarital sexual relationship with his secretary. They do these to keep their identity as both citizens. That is why even though Rachel knows the truth about her husband cheating on her, she can only stay silent without saying anything to keep the reputation of her husband from the press because Gerald Fedden is a member of parliament (Hollinghurst, 2004: 365).

Nick and Wani hide their identity about their homosexual relationship from the people who work in Wani's company and also from the gender social society. Nick hopes the media does not know about their relationship. They can be in shock if the press finds out about their relationship because it will become a scandal since Wani is very rich person (Hollinghurst, 2004: 185).

In the past, Nick also tries to hide his homosexual relationship with Leo. When Nick and Leo meet at the bar, Leo shaves his beard so people does not recognize him (Hollinghurst, 2004: 34). However, Nick's effort to hide his homosexual relationship is failed because Gerald tells this to the press in order to

hide a gossip of Gerald's cheating with his secretary. Afterwards, Nick is kicked out from Fedden's house. This means that Nick's identity as a homosexual is considered unacceptable because being a homosexual is considered as a taboo by society.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The Line of Beauty is the only work of Alan Hollinghurst that explains the life of homosexuality in the era of Margaret Thatcher, in the 1980s. Homosexuality, with the rise of HIV/AIDS, is still considered a taboo in London in the 1980s. This novel specifically talks about homosexuality and HIV/AIDS. It tells the story of the life of Nick Guest, a handsome young man, from middle class who moves to a wealthy upper-class family. He is influenced by the life of the upper social class that is used to drinking, drugs, and promiscuity. The main character, Nick, does everything he can do to channel his gay nature. He carries out his homosexual desire with a middle-class man that he knows from special advertisement, he also does homosexual activities with an upper-class man. It can be said that the main character becomes gay (homosexual) because of the combination of inner drive and environment.

In homosexuality, there are masculine and feminine roles. Nick plays the roles as the feminine, while Leo and Wani, Nick's homosexual partners, play the roles as the masculine, when they are having sexual intercourse. The two characters who are involved in the homosexual relationships with Nick are infected with HIV/AIDS, but they are all try to hide their conditions. Does the three homosexual men have a similarity. Whether they are from middle class or upper class, they try to hide their unacceptable sexual behavior from the public. They think their social identities a very valuable so that they want to maintain their respect in society.

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