

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

America, which is renowned for its success in the movie industry, has contributed a variety of ideas to the media. In order to convey ideas, criticisms, and opinions to audiences through the message presented in the movie, America uses the most widely used form of audio-visual media namely the movie. In American movies, the struggle for LGBT rights is depicted in one way. The depictions of LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) perspectives that span historical periods have received more tolerant treatment in the 21st century. The representation of LGBTQ+ characters in a movie is a movement called New Queer Cinema. The term "New Queer Cinema" was first used by academic B. Ruby Rich in *Sight & Sound* magazine in 1992 to describe a movement in queer-themed independent movie-making in the early 1990s (Rich, June 25, 2017).

As part of the LGBTQ+ umbrella, transgender is a different part from gay/lesbian/bisexual in general. This is because transgender people experience discomfort with their own bodies, meanwhile, gay/lesbian/bisexual people do not. The term "transgender" refers to people whose gender identity, gender expression,

or behavior does not correspond to what is normally associated with the sex to which they were born (Yarhouse, 2015:20).

Transgender is divided into two terms, namely transgender women dan transgender men. A transgender woman was born male but identified as female. A transgender man was born with female sex but later came to identify as male (Yarhouse, 2015:20). Transgender people experience unpleasant challenges, such as facing gender dysphoria. The experience of having a psychological and emotional identity as either male or female and that your psychological and emotional identity does not correspond to your biological sex is known as gender dysphoria. This perceived incongruity may leave one feeling extremely uncomfortable over time (Yarhouse, 2015:19).

The *Cowboys* movie tells the story of an eleven-year-old transgender man experiencing the bitterness of gender dysphoria. Joe is an eleven-year-old transgender man who gets rejected by his mother. Even though he has confirmed (come out) to his parents that he is a transgender man, his mother did not accept him and insisted on forcing him to dress like a girl. However, his father can accept Joe as a transgender man. In addition to rejection from his mother, Joe often feels uncomfortable with the state of his body, which will eventually grow like a girl. Therefore, he makes a transition by dressing like a boy in general. His change makes him feel a little more comfortable with his own body. Due to his mother's rejection, Joe asks his father to take him away to the mountains of Montana with a white

horse. Meanwhile, Joe's mother feels very lost, and she asks the police for help to find her son.

Based on the explanation provided above, the writer is interested in analyzing the symptoms, the social causes, and the effects of gender dysphoria experienced by the transgender man in the *Cowboys* movie. The writer believes that the subject is worthwhile to discuss because it reflects what can happen in society. This also shows that transgender exists all around us as people who have the same rights as others.

## **1.2 Research Problem**

1. What are the symptoms of gender dysphoria experienced by Joe Johnson?
2. What are the social causes of gender dysphoria experienced by Joe Johnson?
3. How does gender dysphoria affect Joe Johnson's social life?

## **1.3 Scopes of the Study**

To prevent the discussion from going beyond the main topic, the writer limits the scope of study to intrinsic aspects and extrinsic aspects. The intrinsic aspects contain narrative and cinematic elements of the movie. The extrinsic aspects analyze the symptoms, the social causes, and the effects of gender dysphoria experienced by the transgender man in the *Cowboys* movie by applying the theory of gender dysphoria symptoms by the American Psychiatric Association and

George R. Brown, the theory of social causes of gender dysphoria by M. Paz Galupo et al, and the effects of gender dysphoria theory by Di Ceglie et al.

#### **1.4 Aims of the Study**

The purpose of this study is to:

1. To analyze the symptoms of gender dysphoria that happened to Joe Johnson.
2. To analyze the social causes of gender dysphoria experienced by Joe Johnson.
3. To analyze the effects of Joe Johnson's gender dysphoria on his social life

#### **1.5 Previous Studies**

The writer discovers several previous studies that are related to the writer's current study. The first previous study is an undergraduate thesis entitled *The Struggle and the Effects of being Transgender as Depicted in Julie Anne Peters' Luna* written by Alvita Abidati from the English Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Brawijaya University (2014). This thesis discusses the moral message as a transgender woman in the movie. Luna as the main character received negative treatment from society such as ridicule, oppression, transphobia and violence.

The second previous study is an undergraduate thesis entitled *Transgender in Tom Hooper's Movie The Danish Girl* written by Indah Sari from the English and Literature Department, Adab and Humanity Faculty, Alauddin State Islamic University Makassar (2016). This thesis discusses about transgender phenomenon

that felt by Einar Wegener caused by biological factor and self-perceive of gender identity.

The third previous study is also an undergraduate thesis entitled *The Main Character Transgender Life Experience In Jeffrey Eugenides' Middlesex* written by Agung Herliyanto from Faculty of Culture, Jember University (2011). This thesis analyze the transgender experience of the main character using psychological approach.

The last one is an undergraduate thesis written by Firlil Fatmawati from the English Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Brawijaya University (2019) entitled *Ray's Struggles to Establish Her Gender Identity as a Transgender in 3 Generations Movie*. The aim of this thesis is to analyze the gender identity of the main character named Ray.

The writer notes that transgender issues have been covered in a number of studies, but none of them have used the *Cowboys* movie as their object of study. In writing this thesis, the writer analyzes the symptoms, the social causes, and the effects of gender dysphoria experienced by the transgender man in the *Cowboys* movie by applying the theory of gender dysphoria symptoms by the American Psychiatric Association and George R. Brown, the theory of social causes of gender dysphoria by M. Paz Galupo et al, and the effects of gender dysphoria theory by Di Ceglie et al.

## **1.6 Method of the Study**

### **1.6.1 Method of Research**

In this research, the writer applies the library research approach. According to George in *The Elements of Library Research: What Every Students Needs to Know*, studying and interpreting material from textbooks, journals, articles, virtual resources, and papers is a way of acquiring data known as library research (2008:6). The primary data in this study is the movie by Anna Kerrigan's *Cowboys*. The secondary data originates from sources such as journals, books, and articles.

### **1.6.2 Method of Approach**

In analyzing this thesis, the writer uses two different analytical approaches. The writer uses an objective approach when analyzing the intrinsic aspects. This method can be used to explain the fundamental components of a story, such as its theme, character, setting, and cinematography. In *A Glossary of Literary Terms: Ninth Edition*, according to Abrams, objective criticism describes the literary work as a self-sufficient and autonomous object, or else as a world-in-itself, which is to be considered as its own end and to be analyzed and judged only by intrinsic criteria (1957: 63).

The second approach is the socio-psychology approach, which is applied to analyze the extrinsic aspect of the movie according to the theory of gender dysphoria symptoms by the American Psychiatric Association and George R.

Brown, the theory of social causes of gender dysphoria by M. Paz Galupo et al, and the effects of gender dysphoria theory by Di Ceglie et al.

According to Michener and DeLamater in *Social Psychology*, they state that social psychology is the study of the interface between these two sets of phenomena, the nature and causes of human social behavior. Both intraindividual and the social context influence and are influenced by individual behavior (1999:39).

## **1.7 Organization of the Study**

This paper is arranged in chapters and sub-chapters as follows.

### **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consists of five sub-chapters. They are the background of the study, research problems, scopes of the study, aims of the study, previous studies, method of the study, and the organization of the study.

### **CHAPTER II THEORY AND METHOD**

It explains the theoretical framework which supports the study of thesis. The theories deal with the definition and explanation of both intrinsic and extrinsic aspects. The intrinsic aspects consist of theme, character, setting, camera distance, camera angle, and sound. Meanwhile, the extrinsic aspects include the theories of the symptoms, the social

causes, and the effects of gender dysphoria from American Psychiatric Association, George R. Brown, M. Paz Galupo et al, and Di Ceglie et al. The writer uses socio-psychology approach as a research approach and library research as method of data collection

### **CHAPTER III ANALYSIS**

This chapter discusses the analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic about the main object of the research *Cowboys* movie. The explanation correlates both the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects.

### **CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION**

It concludes the analysis explained in the previous chapter.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**