

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

In this chapter, the writer explains the chosen intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of the short story to be analyzed. For the intrinsic aspects, the writer only focuses on character and characterization, and conflicts of the story. As for the extrinsic aspects, the writer focuses on Troiden's sexual identity confusion theory, and other queer theories including sexuality theory, and bisexuality theory.

2.1.1 Intrinsic Aspect

Intrinsic aspects in literature consist of character and characterization, theme, conflict, setting, plot, point of view, and symbol. However, this thesis focuses only on two intrinsic aspects of the short story which are character and characterization, and conflicts.

2.1.1.1 Character and Characterization

According to Cuddon, "characters" are people who appear in a story or play (2015: 116). Whereas Abrams stated that characters are people who are depicted in a dramatic or narrative work and whom the reader interprets as possessing specific moral, intellectual, and emotional attributes based on what they say, how they say it, and what they do (1999: 32). Meanwhile, "characters," according to Kennedy, are made-up people who appear in a certain story (1991: 47).

Characters may be divided into dynamic and static types, according to Holman. "Dynamic characters" are those who change as a result of the events and conflicts that occur in the novel. A dynamic character experiences events in a story that gradually depict the character's growth. (1980: 145). When referring to a character in a story that does not change much throughout the course of the narrative, Holman refers to it as "a static character". A character is considered static if they do not change significantly from the start until the end of the story (1980: 426).

Other categories of character are protagonist and antagonist. Holman stated that the protagonist is the central person in the play, both in terms of their significance and their capability to attract our emotions and focus, whether the reason is noble or dishonourable (1980: 346). Whereas the antagonist, as Holman also stated, is the character who opposes the protagonist in a story (1980: 25).

Characterization, according to Abrams, is a technique used by the author to create or reveal distinctive traits of characters in a story. Abrams stated that there are two main methods of characterization: "telling and showing". In telling, the characters are directly described by the author to readers. Meanwhile, in showing, the author shows what the characters are like in an indirect way, such as through how they talk and act (1999: 33-34).

2.1.1.2 Conflicts

Perrine defined conflict as a clash of urges, actions, or thoughts throughout the progress of a story. Conflict may arise within the character or between the character and certain negative elements in their environment (1988: 1408).

Conflict, according to Holman, is what gives intrigue and suspense to any literary work since it is the outcome of the interaction of two contrasting factors in the plot (1980: 105).

According to Meyer, conflicts may be classified into two types: internal conflicts and external conflicts. Internal conflicts arise internally within the characters; the characters must usually deal with some moral or psychological dilemma within themselves. Unlike internal conflicts, external conflicts set the character against another person, society, or environment (1976: 45).

2.1.2 Extrinsic Aspects

In this thesis, the writer explores the psychological perspective regarding the protagonist's sexuality crisis in the short story. Therefore, Troiden's sexual identity confusion theory and other queer theories listed below are used to analyze this thesis's topic.

2.1.2.1 Queer

According to Jagose, the challenge of queer theory is to generate new ways of thinking, not only concerning sexual identities like straight and homosexual but also regarding gender (2006: 2). In the same line of thinking, Giesecking proclaimed that "queer" is a term that is frequently used as an umbrella term by and for people who identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual, intersex, and/or transgender. Giesecking also said that queer theories are proposed by scholars and activists to fight homophobia and transphobia (2008: 738).

2.1.2.2 Sexual Identity

"Sexual identity," also known as "sexuality" or "sexual orientation," is the term used to describe a person's emotional and sexual attraction to a specific gender (man and/or woman) (Little, 2016: 369). Tolman and Diamond believed that commonly there are two opposing factions in the debate on how sexual identity is constructed: essentialists and constructionists. Essentialists view sexual orientation as a fundamentally biological phenomenon. On the contrary, constructionists think that sexuality is constructed socially rather than naturally or biologically (2014: 4). However, to this day, according to Isenhour, the fluidity of sexuality makes it impossible even for scientists to pinpoint an absolute factor in their investigations of the complexity of sexual identity (2019: 1).

2.1.2.3 Bisexuality

Bisexuality, according to the Oxford Concise English Dictionary, is defined as having a sexual attraction to both genders (man and woman). Storr stated that one may be bisexual through feelings, fantasies, and attractions. One can also be bisexual whether they are single, in a committed relationship with someone of either sex or involved in many partnerships (1999: 105).

In the same line of thinking, *The Movement Advancement Project*, *BiNet USA*, and *Bisexual Resource Center* also stated that bisexuals do not always need to get sexually involved with both genders at the same time. Their bisexuality is not determined by the number of relationships they have had with people of either gender or the intensity of their feelings. Bisexuals are also just like everyone else; they have a variety of relationship types. They can be in a different-sex

relationship, same-sex relationship, or even single (2014).

From the statement above, it is possible to argue that if one only has intercourse with the same sex partner once in a while, but they do it regularly with the opposite sex partner, they are still considered bisexual.

2.1.2.4 Sexual Identity Confusion

Sexual identity confusion is the second stage of Troiden's homosexual identity development stages. Troiden explained there are four stages of homosexuality development. The first stage is sensitization, the second stage is sexual identity confusion, the third stage is sexual identity assumption, and the fourth stage is commitment. Troiden defined sensitization as a homosexual's early realization that they are not like their same-sex peers. Sexual identity confusion is a homosexual's confusion regarding their sexual attraction to people of the same and/or opposite sex. Sexual identity assumption is when a homosexual self-defines themselves as some certain sexual identity they think they fit into. Commitment is when a homosexual starts accepting homosexuality as a way of life (1988: 112).

This thesis only focuses on the second stage of Troiden's homosexual identity development stages, which is sexual identity confusion. Troiden claimed that during the sexual identity confusion stage, homosexual individuals usually become aware of their homosexuality during puberty:

Lesbians and gay males typically begin to personalize homosexuality during adolescence. They begin to reflect upon the idea that their feelings or behaviors could be regarded as homosexual. The thought that they are

potentially homosexual is dissonant with previously held self-images and creates identity confusion, inner turmoil, and anxiety (1988: 107).

From the passage above it can be understood that during the realization, homosexual individuals' old image of themselves—when they used to think they were straight—often clash with the awareness of their homosexuality, causing identity confusion and anxiety.

Troiden claimed that another cause of identity confusion is found in the area of sexual relationships. A substantial majority of lesbians and gay men have encountered both heterosexual and homosexual desire and activity by the time they reach their adolescent years. Identity confusion is also a result of social prejudice towards homosexuality. Teenagers who identify as lesbian or homosexual may be reluctant to talk about their developing sexual interests or behaviors with friends or families due to stigma, which raises shame, a sense of need for privacy, and social withdrawal (1988: 107).

In line with identity confusion, most people are familiar with the terms Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT); however, the acronym has frequently been updated with the letter Q within it (LGBTQ). The letter Q stands for queer and/or questioning people. Questioning refers to those who are in the stage of identifying their sexual identity and/or gender identity (*American Psychiatric Association*, 2019: 2). Following the same line of thought, Morrisey claimed that a person who is still unsure of his sexuality enjoys doing some sexual exploration. People who are questioning their sexuality are working to identify their sexual interest to other individuals and trying to understand their feeling or

sensations. These people are often hesitant to categorize themselves as any categories of sexual orientation, preferring to accept the "fluidity" of their feelings and just go with the flow until they determine which category of sexual identity they belong to (2019: 1). Based on the previous explanation, it means most individuals who are still questioning their sexuality tend to try having sex with whomever they think they are attracted to find out which category of sexuality they fit into.

2.1.2.4.1 Responses to Sexual Identity Confusion

Within the same discussion, Troiden mentioned the responses of people with sexual identity confusion. Troiden argued that homosexuals typically respond to identity confusion by exhibiting some particular responses or reactions (1988: 108). According to Troiden, there are five responses to identity confusion: denial, repair, avoidance, redefinition, and acceptance. Each will be discussed in the following subsections:

2.1.2.4.1.1 Denial

"Denial" is when someone disavows their homosexual feelings or actions (Troiden, 1988: 108). It is the action of rejecting an event or a portion of an experience from awareness because it contradicts the self-concept. "Denial" is also a form of subconscious mechanism that protects an individual from distress or concern.

2.1.2.4.1.2 Repair

Another one of Troiden's responses to sexual identity confusion is Repair.

Troiden claimed that repair is when a homosexual seeks counselling or a “cure” for their homosexuality. It entails making deliberate attempts to eradicate their homosexual feelings and behaviours (1988: 108).

2.1.2.4.1.3 Avoidance

Inhibiting or avoiding homosexual actions and interests is one of the other responses to sexual identity confusion. When a homosexual experiences a sense of threat and anxiety from their homosexual thoughts, they are likely to make every attempt to avoid those homosexual thoughts and refrain from acting on them (Troiden, 1988: 108).

2.1.2.4.1.4 Redefinition

Troiden explained redefinition as a method of decreasing “identity confusion” that includes reconstructing homosexual actions, emotions, or situations forward more conventional lines. For instance, when a homosexual uses the phrase "I would only do this with you" as a special case tactic to make their homosexual behaviour sound more justifiable (1988: 108).

2.1.2.4.1.5 Acceptance

Another strategy or response to identity confusion is acceptance. Through this response, homosexual individuals start acknowledging that their actions, feelings, and fantasies may be considered homosexual (Troiden, 1988: 109). Acceptance is when homosexual individuals can start accepting who they are and making peace with themselves.

2.2 Research Method

Before discussing or analyzing the thesis, the writer must first work on the research method. The research method of this thesis will be divided into three subsections: data and data source, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

2.2.1 Data and Data Source

Primary data are the initial or original data gathered for a certain study objective, whereas secondary data are data derived from primary data but obtained for another purpose and utilized by researchers to answer new research questions (Hox and Boeije, 2005: 593). The primary datum of this thesis is the short story entitled “Brokeback Mountain” from the collection of short stories with the title *Close Range: Wyoming Stories* (1999) written by Annie Proulx, whereas the secondary data come from books, articles, and journals related to the chosen theories of the study.

2.2.2 Method of Collecting Data

In collecting the data for this thesis, the writer uses the library research method. The library research method involves identifying and locating sources containing personal factual’s information or opinion from the expert (George, 2008: 6). To understand the content of the data, the writer needs to examine them first by using the close reading method. The close reading method is a method to uncover meaning from writings by closely observing how language is used in texts (Snow & O’Connor, 2016: 1).

2.2.3 Method of Analyzing Data

To analyze the gathered data, the writer uses the qualitative method. The

qualitative method is a method of investigating and comprehending the value that individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human issue (Cresswell, 2014: 78). In qualitative research, the data of individuals' views, experiences, and feelings are considered subjective (Hancock, 1998: 2). In analyzing the intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements of the short story, the writer uses the contextual method. The contextual method, According to Beard, is a method to examine the plurality contexts of the text (2001: 8). The intrinsic elements are character and characterization, and conflicts, whereas the extrinsic elements consist of the borrowing theories, namely, Troiden's sexual identity confusion theory, Jagose's queer theory, etc. The approach used in this thesis is the psychological approach by studying the protagonist's queer behaviour. When using the psychological approach in a literary work, readers may comprehend characters by studying their behaviour, because, like real life, literature also reflects human experiences (Benyei, 2016: 68-69).