

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The prejudice and intolerance of American society toward its queer people during 1960-1980 were quite different than nowadays. There was no space for queer people to talk about or express their sexuality back then, forcing the majority of them to hide their identity rather than fight for justice and equality. In this thesis, the writer discusses the short story entitled “Brokeback Mountain” written by Annie Proulx in 1997. “Brokeback Mountain” tells the story of two queer cowboys who fell in love and later developed a romantic bond together. The story beautifully portrayed the real struggles of queer people back in the 60s-80s trying to thrive in a heteronormative society.

The focus of this thesis is on the sexual identity crisis of the protagonist in Annie Proulx’s “Brokeback Mountain”, Ennis Del Mar. Ennis is a young cowboy who takes a job as a shepherd on Brokeback Mountain in Wyoming in 1963. Ennis is already engaged to Alma Beers before meeting Jack Twist on Brokeback Mountain, who later becomes his homosexual partner. Ennis’s character is considered dynamic as it develops throughout the story. His character development is mainly about his self-discovery and personal growth. In the middle of his character’s growth, Ennis has to face various conflicts within himself and the society he lives in.

Ennis’s sexuality crisis predominantly stems from his unacknowledged sexual attraction to both genders (bisexuality). The portrayals of Ennis’s sexuality

crisis can be perceived through his ruminations about his sexuality and his indecisiveness in choosing between his family with Alma, and Jack. Because of his sexuality crisis, Ennis exhibits some responses/effects on himself. These responses include denial, repair, avoidance, redefinition, and acceptance. Ennis's denial is portrayed when he denies or rejects the fact that he is queer to Jack, Alma, and even himself. Ennis's repair is demonstrated through his efforts to live a normal life by marrying a girl and starting a family. Ennis's avoidance behaviour is displayed when he tries to avoid meeting or living together with Jack. Ennis's redefinition is shown when he tries to make excuses for his homosexual behaviour to make it sound more justifiable. Ennis's acceptance is depicted through his gestures/actions that implicitly imply that he has accepted or embraced his sexuality, including his love for Jack.

