

## **CHAPTER II**

### **THEORY AND METHOD**

#### **2.1 Intrinsic Aspects**

##### **2.1.1 Character and Characterization**

The character became one of the necessary aspects of literature as it plays an outstanding role in the story. Taylor stated that a character is a fictitious being as a result of the thoughts of an author who only lives in literary form. In addition, the author also design the fantasy of the character's life (1981:62). The authors have the freedom to design characters in a literary work that cover all aspects of life to make these characters more alive.

Abrams and Harpham stated that characterization is the author's way of defining certain characters in a narrative through two methods, "showing" and "telling." In the "showing" or "dramatic method," the writer only presents the characters by speaking and acting, after which it is entirely up to the reader to conclude the motives behind what the characters say and do. The author shows this through speech, external actions, thoughts, feelings, and the character's inner response to an event. Meanwhile, in the telling method, the author intervenes authoritatively to describe, and often to evaluate, the motives and character qualities of the characters (2012:47). Thus, characterization can be classified into moral, intellectual, and emotional forms.

##### **2.1.2 Conflict**

In general, conflict is part of the plot as one of the intrinsic aspects of literary works. Johnson and Arp claimed that conflict is an incompatibility of actions, ideas, desires, or wills that appear in the story. The conflict can be physical, mental, emotional tension, or moral form (2018:98). In literature, internal conflict and external conflict are two types of conflict. Johnson and Arp stated that internal conflict occurs when a character goes against himself/herself as disagreement happens between him/her desires, goals, or choices. Meanwhile, external conflict occurs when a character is against another character or a group of characters, against external forces or against the environment such as physical nature, society, or destiny (2018:98). Meyer and Miller mentions that inner or internal conflicts often accompany external conflict of the character (2020:142). Internal conflict and external conflict are two common categories of conflict in literary works.

## **2.2 Extrinsic Aspects**

### **2.2.1 Theory of Homosexuality**

The American Psychological Association (APA) stated that “homosexuality is a sexual attraction or activity between members of the same sex”. Current practice distinguishes homosexuality as a term for same-sex sexual orientation or action as gay and lesbian (2015:502). It can be seen that the term homosexual refers to the same gender, both male and female.

The existence of the LGBT community in the midst of a heterosexual society helps people to have the courage to admit their sexual preferences in public. Currently, there is a term "coming out" when a homosexual chooses to

show their sexual identity in the wider community. According to the American Psychological Association, the term "coming out" refers to several aspects of homosexual experiences, it starts with self-recognition of same-sex attraction, then revealing it to others. Some homosexuals also share this attraction in a wider audience by identifying with the LGBT community (2008:3). Coming out becomes an important step for homosexuals to start a new life. Thus, it encourages them to get a decent and prosperous life in order to get better mental health instead of having to hide it constantly and not being able to enjoy their life. However, some homosexuals give different responses to the coming out trend. First, some of them choose to keep their sexuality private. Second, some of them choose to tell some people or particular groups. Third, some of them decide to go with the "coming out" trend (American Psychological Association, 2008:3). There are many risks that must be borne by each homosexual when they choose to do coming out as they need to deal with the negative experiences through stereotypes, bias, discrimination, or even physical and verbal violence. These experiences are associated with negative things that will result in high risks such as suicidal thoughts.

### **2.2.2 Theory of the Causes of Homosexuality**

Even though in modern times and research on homosexuality continues to be carried out, researchers do not know for sure the causes of homosexuality. Before 1973, many researchers focused on the early childhood years. According to the American Psychological Association, they cannot conclude that sexual orientation is determined by a particular factor or factors although many studies

show a complex combination of genetic, hormonal, developmental, social, and cultural influences on homosexuality. While many think that the causes of homosexuality stem from nature and nurture roles (2008:2). It is known that researchers still do not know what causes homosexuality.

### **2.2.3 Theory of Homosexual Identity Formation**

Vivienne Cass created a model that treated LGBTQ as normal people in a heterosexist society and applied it to the homosexual community. In this model, there are six developmental stages of homosexual identity formation (1984:145). Hence this theory helps people to understand the transition from heterosexuals to homosexuals.

#### **2.2.3.1 Homosexual Identity Confusion**

The first stage begins when people start to feel confused and doubt their sexual identity through their thoughts, feelings, and interests. At this stage, people will seek the truth of homosexuality, whether they want it or not. Therefore, homosexuals need different cognitive and behavioral strategies to deal with the differences and/or decreased self-esteem that has been created within them (Cass, 1984:147). When people choose to let go of their confusion, they quickly stop at this stage, but positive reactions will guide homosexual development to the next stage.

#### **2.2.3.2 Homosexual Identity Comparison**

At this stage, someone has considered himself a homosexual probable. There will be a different feeling as they feel alienated when heterosexual people

do not accept the possibility of people being gay and isolate them from heterosexual circles. Thus, to reach a point where they might think or accept that they may be homosexual requires different cognitive and behavioral strategies. When identity confiscation does occur, homosexual people may consider having contact with other homosexuals to reduce the alienation felt at this stage (Cass, 1984:151). Therefore, the relationship between homosexuals will help each individual to get answers to the truth of their sexuality.

#### **2.2.3.3 Homosexual Identity Tolerance**

At this stage, the person admits to being gay and seeks out other gays to combat feelings of alienation. Homosexual image begins to develop through association with other homosexuals to meet social, sexual, and emotional needs. Additionally, few people are aware of whether or not they desire a homosexual identity. People at this stage will use two identities. First, homosexuals will use heterosexual images when in public. Second, they will use homosexual images in the homosexual community (Cass, 1984:151). People choose to have two sexualities because they are still not fully convinced of the possibility that he is gay and to avoid the bad possibilities that will occur if a heterosexual finds out that they are gay.

#### **2.2.3.4 Homosexual Identity Acceptance**

At this stage, a person will continue and increase contact with fellow homosexuals and eventually accept their gay identity. Social group norms lead some people to hide their sexuality and identify as heterosexual. However, some reveal their identity to particular heterosexuals, and others may be more open

about their identity to the public (Cass, 1984:151-152). That is a strategy of homosexual to avoid the negative response.

#### **2.2.3.5 Homosexual Identity Pride**

At this stage, a homosexual acquires a sense of pride in his identity. In addition, they feel angry by the social stigma that leads to disclosure and deliberate confrontation with heterosexuals. That is an effect of influence within the gay subculture to limit contact with heterosexuals. People who are part of homosexual no longer hide their sexual identity (Cass, 1984:152). The pride that homosexuals have for their sexuality encourages them to overcome the negative response they will get when they are honest about their sexuality.

#### **2.2.3.6 Homosexual Identity Synthesis**

Apart from the conflicts that arise in stage five, the presence of good contact with heterosexuals helps the homosexual to create a realization of the rigidity and inaccuracy of dividing the world into good homosexuals and bad heterosexuals. In a developing society, homosexual identity is no longer hidden and is not a problem. Thus, it creates a feeling of peace and stability in the community (Cass, 1984:152-153). In this stage, a balance is created in society when homosexuals can be accepted and treated the same as the others.

#### **2.2.4 Theory of Homosexuality's Behaviors**

According to the American Psychological Association, when homosexuals are involved in a relationship, they express their sexual orientation to others, especially their partner through sexual behaviors such as "holding hands or

kissing”. Meanwhile, nonsexual behaviors include nonsexual physical affection between partners who share the same goals, values, mutual support, and ongoing commitment. Thus, sexual orientation defines a group of people who tend to find satisfaction in romantic relationships. Furthermore, satisfaction becomes an important aspect of individual identity for many people (2008: 1). Homosexuals will show these two behaviors when they feel comfortable and satisfied enough with their relationship.

### **2.2.5 Theory of Homosexuality’s Effects**

Each individual has a different experience when their homosexuality develops, such as positive and negative effects. In society, there are gaps in the understanding of homosexuality, and lack of information brings up harmful stereotypes, stigmas, or discrimination toward them.

The positive effects being homosexuals, such as: “(1) belonging to a community by creating families of choice, (2) having strong connections with others, (3) insight into and empathy for self and others, and (4) freedom from societal definitions of roles” (Riggle, 2008:212-214). So these four effects are just a small sample of what people receive from others when they accept their homosexuality and do not hide it anymore.

The negative impacts will be felt on the homosexual person and its environment. Prejudice and discrimination against LGBT are reflected in everyday societal stereotypes such as restrictions on job opportunities, parenting, and public recognition of relationships. Homosexuals face negative consequences

as they have to overcome stigma, discrimination, and abuse (physical and mental) by the public and those closest to them (family, and friends) (American Psychological Association, 2008:2). Homosexuals live a difficult life because they do not have the same freedom as heterosexuals. Thus, it affects the lives of homosexuals will face the prejudices and discrimination that already exist in society. After that, their mental health condition may worsen significantly. Although many homosexuals learn to cope with the social stigma against them, the pattern of prejudice have serious effects on their health and well-being.

### **2.3 Research Method**

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative research. Denzin and Lincoln stated that “qualitative research is a field of inquiry on its own right. It crosscuts disciplines, fields, and subject matter” (2018:41). Meanwhile, literature and contextual research methods are used to answer the research problems.

#### **2.3.1 Data and Data Source**

This research data is divided into two sources; they are primary and secondary data. Based on Hox and Boeije, the primary data is the initial information collected for a particular research purpose. Meanwhile, secondary data is submitted for some goals and reused for another research question (2005:593). The primary data is the novel entitled “*The Dangerous Art of Blending In*” written by Angelo Surmelis (2018). The data will mostly be taken from the dialog and the narration of the main character and his interaction with the other supporting characters. In addition, some secondary data will be taken from



articles, books or electronic books, and internet sources are taken to support all the data needed and improve the knowledge.

### **2.3.2 Method of Collecting Data**

This research uses library research method. As George has mentioned, “library research is a method that involves identifying and locating sources that provide factual information as well as personal/expert opinions on research issues” (2008:6). There are two sources uses in library research, they are; primary and secondary sources.

The data will be collected by several steps. First, the primary data will be solely taken from the conversation among the characters in the novel by close reading, highlighting and note taking to collect the quotations and descriptions. The data are in the form of words, phrases, sentences, statements, dialogue and monologues. Then, the data will be uses to find the difficulties on the main character, the characteristics, the causes, the process of homosexual identity development, ad the impacts of the main character’s homosexuality. The next step is gathering the secondary data from books or electronic books on literature theories, undergraduate thesis with the same topic.

### **2.3.3 Method of Analyzing Data**

As for the approach method to analyze the literary work, the writer uses the contextual method to interpret the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of the novel. Beard stated that “context refers to what occurs in the text” (2001:6). The intrinsic aspects that the writer analyzes are the characters and characterization, and

conflicts. Meanwhile, for the extrinsic aspects, the writer will analyze the causes, the process, characteristics of homosexuality's behavior and the effects of homosexuality in the main character's life.