

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary works are the result of the unification of the author's creativity and imagination poured into various forms of writing. It consists of three types, namely poetry, prose, and drama. The writer of this thesis uses drama as the object of research. Christopher R. Reaske stated that drama is a work of literature or composition that conveys a story and human activity through the presentation of numerous activities (1966:40). The writer chooses a British drama over other dramas because a British drama has a complex and coherent story to discuss. A British drama is a collection of plays from the British Isles that has been strongly influenced by Church and Greek history (Sage, 1921:1).

Cloud 9 is a British drama that tells a story about gender and sexual politics in the Victorian era written by Caryl Churchill in 1983. The gender roles in the play are complex because of the opposing genders of the cast and characters. In addition, the playwright also spices up the story with political issues involving sex and affairs. There are many characters with various sexualities in the drama, from heterosexual, bisexual, transexual, and homosexual. Of the many characters along with their sexual orientation, Caryl Churchill describes Edward as a character who faces a lot of problems regarding his gay identity from childhood until adulthood. In Act I, Edward deals with his parents' toxic masculinity, while in Act II, Edward

develops his gay identity. Edward and his gay identity make him have a different personality in society.

Gay is a part of LGBTQ+ and a label for a man who attracts another man in homosexuality (Jagose, 1996:72). Gay becomes a sexual orientation that refers to same-sex sex between man and man or homosexual. Richard A. Isay stated that homosexual men are men who have "a predominant erotic attraction" toward other men to fulfill their sexual fantasies (2009:2). In Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9*, Edward's character has been portrayed as a unique character by having a gay identity. As a result, the writer wants to analyze the causes, development stages, and impacts of Edward's gay identity.

1.2 Research Problems

This paper discusses research questions as follows:

1. What are the causes of Edward's gay identity in Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9*?
2. How are the development stages of Edward's gay identity in Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9*?
3. What are the impacts of Edward's gay identity in Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions, the writer has three objectives as follows:

1. To show the causes of Edward becoming gay in *Cloud 9*.
2. To analyze the development of Edward's gay identity in *Cloud 9*.
3. To analyze the impacts of Edward's sexual identity on his life in *Cloud 9*.

1.4. Previous Studies

The writer finds eight research studies that use Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9* as the objects of research. The writer classifies those research studies into two categories based on similar analyzes, which are gender issues and *Cloud 9*'s performances. Based on these following studies, there is no single theory and method that is the same as the writer's thesis, especially discussing about Edward's gay identity.

The first category is gender issues. There are five theses that talk about gender issues including "Caryl Churchill and Gender Roles: *Owners, Cloud Nine, and Top Girls*" by Serat Firat (2005), "Unstable Subjects: Gender and Agency in Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9*" by Laura Leigh Whitaker (2007), "Reflection of Gender and Political Issues in *Top Girls* and *Cloud Nine* by Caryl Churchill" by Petra Smazilova (2008), "Gender and Sexuality in Three British Plays: *Cloud Nine* by Caryl Churchill, *My Beautiful Launderette* by Hanif Kureishi, and *The Invention of Love* by Tom Stoppard" by Gökhan Albayrak (2009), and "Gender Politics and Feminism in Caryl Churchill's *Cloud Nine*" by Neslihan Yilmaz (2012). These studies mainly focus on gender issues in some of Caryl Churchill's plays which are partly compared to other plays.

The next category is *Cloud 9*'s performance. There are three theses that talk about how to perform *Cloud 9* including "Cover: (Re) Dressing and Comfortable Subversions in Caryl Churchill's *Cloud Nine*" by James M. Harding (1998), "Envisioning Identity: Theatrical and Political Innovations in Caryl Churchill's Plays" by Jina Yi (2004), "Cloud 9: Bringing the abstract to light" by Thomas N.

Gillette (2019), and “There is Somebody There: Directing *Cloud 9*” by Seth M. Honeyman (2019). These studies analyze the way Caryl Churchill describes the characters and the way she performs *Cloud 9*.

1.5 Scope of the Study

In previous studies, the writers mostly discussed gender issues and drama performances. To make a different analysis, the writer only focuses on the gay identity problems experienced by Edward in the drama. As a result, the writer focuses this study on the gay main character and his sexuality by using homosexuality development theories.

1.6 Organization of the Writing

This thesis consists of four chapters:

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer divides chapter I into six sub-chapters. The sub-chapters consist of the background of the study, research problems, objectives of the study, previous studies, the scope of the study, and writing organization.

CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter, the writer mentions the theoretical framework and research method used in chapter III. The theoretical framework consists of intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements that use homosexuality development theories, while

the research method consists of data and data source, method of data collection, and method of data analysis.

CHAPTER III DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer analyzes the research problems using the theories and methods that are explained in chapter II.

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the writer summarizes all previous chapters and makes conclusions based on the analysis and results.