

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

According to the analysis above, it can be concluded that Simon, the main character in *Love, Simon* (2018), is included in the round character because his personality changes. Then, Simon was identified as a kind, caring personality, but he felt anxious and awkward when they first met him. Simon was also found to be selfish and cruel when it came to keeping his sexual orientation a secret.

The extrinsic element analyzed is the formation of Simon's homosexual identity. Simon's character's journey in forming his homosexual identity is in line with Werren's theory. It starts with Simon asking questions about his sexual identity, continues with covering up his sexual identity, and then feels different from other people until he accepts and chooses his sexual identity as a homosexual.

In forming this identity, Simon experienced six stages of formation: identity confusion, comparison, tolerance, acceptance, pride, and synthesis. Simon went through all the stages, starting from his confusion about his sexual orientation until he was able to let go of all the secrets about his sexual orientation.

In the first stage, identity confusion, Simon experiences confusion regarding his sexual orientation. Simon felt and finally knew that he was gay starting when he was 13 years old. Simon always dreamed of Daniel Radcliffe. Then he liked the music group Panic! at the Disco because the

group members were handsome. And the final sign is that when a woman expresses her liking for Simon, Simon feels strange and uncomfortable. From this confusion, Simon realized that he was gay. However, he chose to keep his sexual orientation a secret.

In the second stage, identity comparison, Simon is at this stage when he starts comparing gay (homosexual) with straight (heterosexual). Simon questions why only gay people come out to their families and why it doesn't happen to either of them. In his daily life, he continues to keep his sexual identity a secret and continues to display a heterosexual image.

In identity tolerance's third stage, Simon begins contact with another homosexual, namely Blue, to reduce the feeling of alienation in society. The interaction between Simon and Blue is growing, even though it's only via email. Continuous interaction creates positive and negative impacts. The positive effect of Simon and Blue's relationship is that there is an emotional attachment between Simon and Blue, even though both of them are still hiding their identities. Meanwhile, the negative impact that emerges is Martin's character, who uses Simon's sexual identity for his benefit. From this scene, it can be concluded that Simon has passed the third stage, namely identity tolerance.

In the fourth stage, identity acceptance, Simon begins to admit to Abby that he is gay. Simon starts to feel comfortable when Abby discusses what type of men Simon likes. Compared to the three previous stages, this stage is included in the cozy stage. Apart from that, at this stage, Simon tries

to get to know Blue more deeply; Simon's actions represent the actions of homosexual individuals who want to have contact with wider homosexuals.

In the fifth stage, identity pride, Simon feels he has pride and loyalty to elevate the status of homosexuals. Apart from that, Simon thinks that he belongs to and is part of the homosexual community. In this stage, Simon not only accepts his sexual identity but chooses it. Amid Simon's sense of pride, Simon must be confronted with heterosexual values that view homosexuals as bad. This conflict aroused anger in Simon until, finally, he no longer covered up his sexual identity and admitted to many people that he was gay. The stage where he can declare his sexual identity to many people is the peak of the identity pride stage.

The sixth stage, identity Synthesis, is Simon's final and peak stage in forming his sexual identity. After he confessed his sexual identity, Simon realized that many heterosexual people accepted his homosexual identity. Simon began to trust heterosexuals because of his many contacts with heterosexuals, which gave rise to support from heterosexuals or the people around him. At this stage, homosexuals also realize that they have similarities with heterosexuals and differences with homosexuals. In Simon, Simon feels that he does not conform to the way homosexuals dress and has things in common with heterosexuals, namely friends, family, and everyday life.

By experiencing the six stages in the formation of a homosexual identity, Simon experiences a change in his perspective on his fear of the truth of his sexual identity. In the early stages, Simon still felt afraid and blamed

external factors for his fear that grew within him until he was finally able to realize that his fear came from within himself. From this change, it can be said that Simon experienced an impact in changing his way of thinking about revealing his sexual identity to others without fear of being considered strange, bad or marginalized. The impact of Simon's change in perspective on revealing his sexual identity can also be seen after Simon was able to tell Blue to reveal who he really was. With the emergence of this scene, it can be seen that Simon has a changed perspective from fear to courage to express and dare to be different from others. With this change, Simon feels freer and gets more love and support from the people around him.

The film *Love, Simon* (2018) is a depiction of how a teenager has to face the fact that he is gay. Throughout Simon's life, he accepted that he was gay, but he could not express it. At first, Simon didn't know why Simon didn't want to confess. Even though Simon lives in a predominantly liberal family and society in the United States, there is still fear and worry about other people's opinions if Simon admits his sexual orientation so that he can form his sexual identity without needing to keep it a secret any longer.