

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Recently the news about LGBT is widely discussed. Moreover in Indonesia, LGBT people are legally labeled as mentally handicapped and are not protected under the law. Indonesia allows its provincial governments to establish certain laws based on Islamic regulation such as criminal sanctions for homosexuality. There are many laws and regional ordinances that discriminate against LGBT people, such as the Pornography Law. There is also a bylaw in Palembang that criminalizes the choice to be transgender. Palembang also introduces jail and fine for homosexual sex. Another example in Aceh, anyone caught having gay sex will be punished with 100 lashes. The religious authorities and pressure-groups, especially Islam organization opposites against the recognition of LGBT rights in Indonesia (*The Jakarta Post*, 2015).

LGBT stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. This research focuses on analyzing transgender phenomenon. Transgender sometimes is shortened to Trans or TG, is simply understood as behavior to express gender identity that is different from gender at birth. *Waria* is an Indonesian term for transgender people, a portmanteau of the Indonesian word for woman (*wanita*) and man (*pria*). Transgender experiences an unsuitable between their gender identity and their assigned sex. *Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation* states that transgender is a term for people whose gender identity or gender expression differs from what is typically associated with the sex are assigned at birth (*GLAAD*, 2010: 14).

Transgender people are often reputed in a scornful manner. The worst, transgender people often face greater discrimination in public than any other LGBT. Ienes Angela a member of *Forum Komunikasi Waria*, an organization for transgender individuals in *The Jakarta Post* mentions that transgender people are commonly avoided publicly and also experience greater economic harm or disadvantage due to their lifestyle choice. Transgender people are often turned down at job interviews because of their physical appearance. They are automatically

detected only by their physical appearance or the way they dressed. It causes many of transgender people turn to stereotypical jobs as stylist in beauty salon, street musicians or even sex workers (*The Jakarta Post*, 2009).

National Center for Transgender Equality, an organization dedicated to encouraging and advancing the equality of transgender people, states that some transgender people lose their families, their home, and their support. Transgender children may be subject to abuse at home, school, or in their communities. It sometimes causes anxiety disorders, depression, and other psychological illness. Transgender can be caused by some factors. It can be depended on the cultural factors. Some speculate that inconstant or imbalance in hormones or the use of certain medications during pregnancy may cause intersex or transgender conditions. Others believe that psychological factors are the reason for the existence of transgender people (*NCTE*, 2009: 1). According to Butler, transgender are not created by medical factors but rather created new discourses through self-determination (Butler and Williams, 2015: 3).

Literature is everything that is written. Rees (1973: 9) defines literature as writing which expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings or ideas about life and the world. Literature tries to portray human life and present social problems that happen in a society. Literature is the mirror of society. Literature can be in the form of non-fiction such as autobiography and biography, essay, journal, diary, travel literature, and many more. Literature also can be in the form of fiction such as drama, poetry, and prose. Prose is the literary or written form of the language ordinary speech. Kinds of prose include short stories, letters, articles, journal, essay and novel. Novel is the latest arrival of the literary genre.

Bound is the novel which deals with transgenderism in Indonesia. This novel is originally published under the title *Pasung Jiwa*. It is translated into English by Nurhayat Indriyanto Mohamed and Makna Sinatria under the title *Bound* in July 2014. This novel consists of 273 pages. *Bound* is a novel by Okky Madasari, one of Indonesian famous novel writer. She graduates from Gajah Mada University's International Relations Department in 2005 with Bachelor Degree in Political Science. In 2012 she takes sociology for her Master's Degree from the University of

Indonesia and graduates in July 2014. Through *BBC Indonesia* Okky Madasari states that her novel consistently portraying social conflicts and political condition of the contemporary Indonesia in her novel. She voices human rights, freedom and are always against any form of repression. It is reflected in her four novels. Her first novel is *Entrok*, which is translated into English under the title *The Years of Voiceless* and published in 2013. Her second novel is *86*. This novel is shortlisted as top five in the *Khatulistiwa Literary Awards* in 2011. Her third novel is *Maryam*. It is also translated into English under the title *The Outcast*. It wins the *Khatulistiwa Literary Awards* in 2012. Her latest novel is *Pasung Jiwa* which released in May 2013 (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/indonesia/>)

Bound novel tells about transgenderism phenomenon happened in the main character of the novel named Sasana. Sasana who is actually a man is interested to be a girl and he wishes to live and be recognized as woman. It shows when Sasana has a little sister named Melati, she grows bigger and feminine. Sasana loves watching her get bathed. Melati is always his source of comfort. Sasana spends a lot of his time playing with her. He knows every inch of Melati's body. He is interested in every little thing about Melati and thinks that everything about Melati is beautiful. His anxiety of Melati's body is also showed when he draws the picture of Melati in art class. For Sasana, every part of her is a thing of beauty, a work of art, something to admire and envy. Further, his anxiety of woman's body is also showed when he watches a *dangdut* show. He dances, writhes, twirls his hip and butt follows the *dangdut* rhythm and imitates the dance of a woman *dangdut* singer (Madasari, 2014: 15-18).

After finishing his middle school, he is placed into a high school for boys only. He starts to regret of being a boy. He gets beaten up by a group of student, named Dark Gang. He states that if he isn't a boy, he wouldn't end up in that school. Sasana leaves his education at the University. He gets acquaintances with Cak Jek and both of them start their carrier. They perform on one small stage to another, for weddings, circumcisions, all kinds of celebrations. More and more people know about Sasana and Cak Jek. Cak Jek states that they have to be professional. Cak Jek recommends Sasana to dress up like a girl. Cak Jek buys him narrow, red high-

heeled shoes, a miniskirt, sexy tops in all colors. They are all so beautiful. These are things that he wants since he is young but could never have. Sasana starts to dress up like a girl (Madasari, 2014: 46-49).

Based on the brief explanation above the researcher concludes that transgender people experiences the transformation of identity. The transformation is more emphasized on their action and performance to society. For example a man experience male to female transgender, he talks, acts, and dresses as a common woman. Through this thing transgender people show their gender identity and see how society responds them. To examine this point, researcher uses Judith Butler's theory of performativity acts. The researcher applies Butler's theory because transgender is performative.

According to Butler, gender is a performance with clearly punitive consequence, gender is not a stable identity, and it is an identity which is instituted through a stylization of body and a stylized repetition of acts. Based on her phenomenology theory of act Butler suggests that gender identity is a performative accomplishment which is compelled by social sanction and taboo (Butler, 1988: 520). To examine deeper about transgender as a way of life, the researcher uses queer theory a guidance. Queer theory can be the study of transsexual and transgender identification (Spargo, 1999: 9). This theory is influenced by the work of Judith Butler. Queer theory often examines the intersection of capitalism, gender, heterosexism and the state. Queer theory constantly seeks to break down norms and question the status quo (<http://www.critical-theory.com/>).

There are some reasons why the researcher is interested in analyzing this novel. Firstly, the researcher considers that analyzing this novel through the Queer Theory as a challenge that is interested to do. Secondly, *Bound* novel has not been analyzed using Queer Theory. Thirdly, *Bound* novel has an interesting issue about the journey or long processes of a man who wants to be what he wants to be though he has to break down the norm value of the society. Fourthly, this novel is delineation of the realities of social life in the society in that era which deals with transgenderism issue, so the researcher is interested to know how is the influence of transgender in the society in that era. Last, the result of this analysis is expected to be

useful for the next researchers. Based on the background above the researcher is interested in conducting the research entitled: **TRANSGENDERISM: A QUEER THEORETICAL STUDY IN OKKY MADASARI'S *BOUND* NOVEL (2014).**

B. Literature Review

The research on *Bound* or *Pasung Jiwa* was conducted by other researchers. To prove the originality of this study, the researcher presented some previous researchers. Here were the previous researchers: First, the research was conducted by Arina Agus Pramudita in 2014 under the title *Kritik Sosial Dalam Novel Pasung Jiwa Karya Okky Madasari*. This research aimed at describing the plot, setting, character and characterization and also describing the social criticism reflected in that novel (<http://bapendik.unsoed.ac.id/>).

Second, the research was done by Elviana Yuniar Kuswanti in 2014 under the title *Konflik Batin Tokoh Utama Dalam Novel Pasung Jiwa Karya Okky Madasari: Tinjauan Psikologi Sastra Dan Implementasinya Sebagai Bahan Ajar Sastra di SMA*. It aimed at describing socio-historical background, describing structural aspect of the novel and also describing the implementation of psychological conflict reflected on Okky's novel as the learning material in Senior High School (<http://eprints.ums.ac.id/31546/>).

Third, the research was conducted by Novi Hidayanti in 2015 under the title *The English Translation of Indonesian Adjective Clause in Okky Madasari's Pasung Jiwa*. This research aimed at discussing the translation of Indonesian adjective clauses into English (<http://digilib.uin-suka.ac.id/15575/>).

Fourth, the research was conducted by Muhammad Rizky Nasution under the title *A Critical Discourse Analysis on Transgender Identity in Okky Madasari's Pasung Jiwa Novel*. This research tried to analyze how discourses of transgender identities were represented in literary novel. This research sought to find the different representation of transgender identity in literary novel and in the public (<http://thesis.umy.ac.id/>).

Fifth, the research was done by Nur Wahyu Hidayah under the title *Problem Kejiwaan Tokoh Utama Dalam Novel Pasung Jiwa Karya Okky Madasari*. This

research aimed at describing the characteristic of the main character, the psychiatrycal problem, the causes of psychiatrycal problem, and the solution of the problem of the main character in Okky Madasari's novel (<http://eprints.uny.ac.id/27981/>).

Based on the descriptions above, the researcher concludes that this present study is totally different with those previous researchers because the researcher here conducts a study on Okky Madasari's *Bound* on queer theory perspective. The researcher focuses on the reflection of transgenderism phenomenon of *Bound* novel. The researcher assumes that there is no researcher who has analyzed transgenderism phenomenon of the character in *Bound* novel by using queer theory. So this research is absolutely different from the previous researches. The similarity of those researchers is the use of *Bound* novel (2014) as the data source.

C. Problem Statement

The researcher formulates the problem statement in this study as:

1. How is Sasana's process of being a transgender?
2. What are the obstacles encountered in his process of being a transgender?
3. What kind of transgenderism is reflected in *Bound* novel?

D. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study is the phenomenon of transgenderism in Okky Madasari's *Bound novel*.

E. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the studies are:

1. Analyzing Sasana's process of being a transgender reflected in *Bound* novel.
2. Analyzing the obstacles encountered in his process of being a transgender.
3. Analyzing kind of transgenderism reflected in *Bound* novel.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefit of the study is divided into two, those are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The researcher wishes this study can give additional information on literature dealing with Okky Madasari's *Bound* novel. The researcher also wishes this study can enrich the references of queer theory in a novel, which can be used by those who are interested in analyzing this literary work.

2. Practical Benefits

The researcher hopes the study to give the deeper understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience especially for the researcher. The researcher also hopes it can be used as reference by others university student who are interested in literary study on Okky Madasari's *Bound* novel particularly based on queer theory.

G. Research Method

The research method of this study is explained into five parts, namely (a) object of the study, (b) type of the data and data source, (c) type of the study, (d) technique of the data collection and (e) technique of the data analysis.

1. Type of the Study

The type of the study is descriptive-qualitative research. It is a type of research which does not use any calculation or enumeration. Qualitative method is a research procedure that obtains descriptive data in written or spoken form from the people and their behavior which is being observed. So the data produced are in the form of word.

Descriptive research involves in describing and interpreting events, condition, or situation of the present. By using descriptive-qualitative research, the researcher is interested in describing all over the structural elements of the novel and also describing the transgender phenomenon reflected in *Bound* novel using queer theory.

2. Object of the Study

The researcher takes the Okky Madasari's *Bound* as the object of the study.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

a. Type of the Data

Type of the data in this study is the text of the novel which consists of words, phrases and sentences.

b. Data Source

The researcher uses the primary data sources which are taken from the text of the novel such as characters, theme, setting, plot, and figurative language which are relevant to the object of analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The method used for collecting data is library research by collecting and recording both of the primary and the secondary data. Some steps of collecting data are applied in this study are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly and carefully in order to determining the major character that would be analyzed.
- b. Analyzing Sasana's process of being a transgender especially what is Sasana doing in forming his identity as a transgender.
- c. Identifying the obstacles encountered by the main character in his process of being a transgender, so this study focused on the main character and the relation with the other characters.
- d. Analyzing kind of transgenderism reflected in *Bound* novel.
- e. Summarizing the result of the previous step.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The data are analyzed by using descriptive analysis, where the data are collected, described, and analyzed. The steps of analyzing the data are as follows: first, analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Second, analyzing the data based on Queer theory to show how transgender phenomenon is reflected in the novel.

H. Research Paper Organization

The paper is arranged in five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which offers the background of the study, review of related study, problem statement, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. In chapter II, the researcher presents the underlying theory. Moreover, in chapter III the reader may find the structural analysis of the novel. On the other hand, chapter IV consists of the analysis of phenomenon of transgenderism in Okky Madasari's *Bound*. Finally, the researcher gives a short conclusion, pedagogical implication and suggestion in chapter V.