CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

There are some ways to express ideas, especially in a literary work. There is a literary work that brings us to the world of dreams and takes us away from reality. It has to be constructed with a literary work that needs our interpretation. Literature is a personal expression of feeling including experience, idea, motivation, confidence in the concrete description by using language.

Gay is used generally to describe a man who is sexually attracted to other men and shows the community that developed among people who have the same sexual orientation. Caroll (2005: 559-634) stated that sexual orientation is an attraction to a person on a particular gender are emotionally, physically, sexually and love. Caroll then added that the theories related to sexual orientation can be divided into two basic types: the essential and constructionist. On the doctrine of essentialism stresses that homosexuals are bringing different from heterosexuals, the result of biological factors and the developmental process. Theory of essential first implies that homosexuality is an abnormality in the development, which contributes that it was a gay disease. While the familiar constructionist instead emphasized that homosexuality is a social role that has evolved differently in different cultures and different times and also for it to be said that homosexuality in his carriage, no different from heterosexuality.

It is often used to refer to gay men who have a tendency to the same. The definition of gay is a man who has a sexual orientation towards the fellow man (Duffy& Atwater, 2005: 11). Naturally, a man will only love to woman. But a man who is attracted to other man in this case gay is.
Michael dkk (Kendal, 1998), identified the three criteria in determining a person was gay, namely as follow: sexual attraction towards people who have gender equality with him, sexual involvement with one or more people who have the same gender with her, identify themselves as gay or lesbian.

Homosexuality is a counter discourse against heterosexual hegemony. There is no relation oppositional in fact, homosexual relationship are not gender. According to Monique Wittig (Butler, 1990), in relation to their lesbian is not women, because women are simply the term woke up with their colleagues inoppositional there are male, such relation exists only in heterosexual relationship contingency the constitution reveals homosexual culture and expose the lies the assumption that hiding behind a heterosexual system.

Queer is necessarily indeterminate, taking on different—and sometimes contradictory—meanings in different articulations. Sometimes queer is synonymous with lesbian and gay, for which it becomes a convenient shorthand. At other times, it refers to a generational or even fashion-led distinction between old-style lesbians and gays and new-style sexual outlaws. Yet again, it can signify a coalition of non-normative sexual identities—most often conceptually rather than materially realized—which might include lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. In other deployments, queer denotes not an identity as such but the taking of a critical distance from the identity-based categories of modern sexuality—in particular a distance from the identity politics central to traditional understandings of the lesbian and gay communities: "instead of theorizing queer in terms of its opposition to identity politics, it is more accurate to represent it as ceaselessly interrogating both the preconditions of identity and its effects" (Jagose, 131–132). This last sense is taken up by queer studies, which uses the term to draw attention to various incoherencies in the supposedly stable and causal relations between sex, gender, and sexual desire.
Tiny Cooper is Will's best friend. Will describes Tiny this way: "Tiny Cooper is not the world's gayest person, and is not the world's largest person, but I believe he may be the world's largest person who is really gay, and also the world's largest Will Grayson. Will Grayson by John Green and David Levithan is a book written for young adults. The premise and execution of the novel is quite unusual as every other chapter tells the story of Will Grayson. There are two Will Grayson (Green & Levithan, 2010)

The first chapter is written by John Green and from the point of view of Will Grayson, a teenage high school student from Naperville, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Green's character, Will Grayson, has the same name as the second characters Will Grayson, which is written by David Levithan. In order to keep the characters separate, the odd numbered chapters are written by Green in the persona of Will Grayson; the even numbered chapters are written by Levithan in the persona of Will Grayson. Green's characters, Will Grayson, is always noted through using capital letters while Levithan's Will Grayson is written in lower case, a la ee Cummings. The writing used throughout Will Grayson's story is all in lower case, including the names of the other characters. Will Grayson often refers to Will Grayson as o.w.g. (the other Will Grayson) to further distinguish the characters. (Green & Levithan, 2010)

The first (original) Will Grayson is a student at Evanston High School, located on the outskirts of Chicago. Will loves Chicago, although his hometown, Naperville, leaves something to be desired. Will, however, loves Chicago proper. There is something about the smell that Will likes plus there always seems to be something to do in the city which is certainly not true in Naperville. The other Will Grayson (often referred to as o.w.g.) also lives in the suburbs of Chicago, in a neighbor eerily similar to Will Grayson's neigbor. (Green &Levithan, 2010)
The stories of the boys are somewhat routine until they happen to meet. In the main turning point in the story, Will and Will both go to the same porn store in Chicago to meet Isaac, a would-be love interest that does not exist. (Green & Levithan, 2010)

The main differences between the two Will Grayson are that the original Will Grayson is a somewhat confused teen that decides the only way to get through life is to be as removed as possible so that one won't get hurt. In fact, Will has two rules for living - Does not care too much and Shut up. Will believes that these rules serve him well and keep him out of the public eye. Fortunately, or unfortunately, Will's best friend Tiny Cooper never obeys the rules. Gayest person who is really, really large” (chap. 1, p. 3). (Green & Levithan, 2010)

The boys suffer through typical teen angst. Tiny is constantly in love and completely self-involved. Will is struggling with his sexuality, which finally becomes clear when he falls for Jane, a quirky girl who challenges Will. (Green & Levithan, 2010)

The other Will Grayson is angry about everything, at all times. Will is not entirely sure why he is angry. Things change when Will Grayson meets Will Grayson in Chicago. When Will Grayson meets Tiny Cooper, his whole life changes. Will Grayson falls in love. (Green & Levithan, 2010)

Both Will Grayson struggle with their relationships as well as self-acceptance. The culmination of the story settles these issues as both Will Grayson discover the truth about themselves at the premiere of Tiny's musical "hold me closer". It is at that point that Will Grayson realizes that their lives will never be the same. (Green & Levithan, 2010)

John Green is a recent popular name in the American young adult fiction. John Michael Green was born on August 24, 1977, to Mike and Sydney Green in Indianapolis. He received his early education from Lake Highland Preparatory
School and Indian Springs School. His experience of school was similar to other social outcasts who get bullied by arrogant people. He earned double graduation degrees in English and Religious Studies from Kenyon College. He worked as a student chaplain after graduation in a children’s hospital. His initial aim was to become an Episcopal priest. However, the time he spent among children with terminal-illness stimulated him to become a writer. Afterwards, he worked as a publishing assistant for Booklist, a book review journal. Green wrote numerous reviews on literary fictions mostly concerning conjoined twins or religion of Islam. While working as a critic he also began writing his debut *looking for Alaska*. Subsequently, Green penned a second novel in 2006 titled, *An Abundance of Katherine.* It was another successful publication which was able to garner runner-up position for the Print Award and Los Angeles Times Book Prize’s finalist stand. His next novel published in 2008, *Paper Town,* was also received with the same enthusiasm as its predecessors. There was a promise of a film adaptation of the book which he accepted. The years to come brought Green achievement of his lifetime in the form of *The Fault in Our Stars*. *The Fault in Our Stars* has now been adapted for big-screen, releasing in June 2014. John Green’s works in collaboration with other writers include *Let it Snow: Three Holiday Romance* (2008) and *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* (2010).

David Levithan was born on September 7, 1972 in Short Hills, NJ. He was graduated from Brown University in 1994 where he double majored in English and political science. Since he published his first book, *Boy Meets Boy,* in 2003, David Levithan has been making a positive contribution to the genre of LBGTQ YA novels. *Boy Meets Boy* a ‘dippy happy gay teen book’ as Levithan likes to describe it, features an openly gay main character named Paul who faces his sophomore year of high school and all of the drama that goes with it. Other books that Levithan has contributed to the LGBTQ genre of young adult literature include *The Full Spectrum, Wide Awake, Naomi and Ely’s No Kiss List* and *Will*
Grayson, Will Grayson (2010). In his latest book in the LBGTQ genre, Will Grayson, Will Grayson (2010) Levithan creates a gay character who is by no means perfect. Levithan explains he did this because a perfect character would simply be boring to read about. By creating an imperfect character, Levithan faces the “danger” of presenting the LBGTQ community negatively. Levithan was asked how he, as an author, deals with the criticism that he may be feeding into a stereotype of gay men. He responds by saying, “I can honestly say I’ve never thought for a second about whether the character reflects poorly on any group. All belief in who he or she is (Advocate contributors 2010)”. The fact that Levithan strives to represent the LBGTQ community in such a genuine manner makes his works highly eligible for use in the classroom.

The writer wants to analyze the novel entitled Will Grayson, Will Grayson by John Green and David Levithan. Will Grayson, Will Grayson is a novel published in April 2010 by Dutton Juvenile. The book’s narrative is divided evenly between two boys named Will Grayson, with Green having written all the chapters for one and Levithan having written the chapters for the other, presented in an alternating chapter fashion. The novel debuted on The New York Times children’s best-seller list after its release and remained there for three weeks. It was the first LGBT-themed young adult novel to make it to that list.

In designing the plot for the book, the two authors decided to split it evenly in half. John Green wrote all the odd-numbered chapters (capitalized Will Grayson) while David Levithan wrote all even–numbered chapter (lower case Will Grayson). This also held true for the main characters’ names, with Levithan choosing the given name and Green the surname. The only plot they decided on together was the fact that the two characters would meet at some point in the novel and that their meeting would have a tremendous effect on their lives. After this decision, they separately wrote the first three chapters for their half and then
shared them with each other. After sharing, they then “knew immediately it was going to work”, as stated by Levithan.

There are four reasons why the writer chose this novel. The first is because the stories in this novel are romance, humor, hilarious, poignant, and deep insightful. The novel tells us about when Jane Turner convinces Will to abandon his rules after quite some time and was able to help Will Happiness. After they met as more than just acquaintances, they hang out more and more and began to fall for each other and after complications, they got together.

The second reason is the Gay in the novel is interesting, because there is practically nothing on the market for young adults in the LGBT genre which I think is awful. In the novel Will Grayson #2 version David Levithan and Tiny Cooper is Gay. Tiny Cooper, described as "the world's largest person who is gay" and "the world's gayest person who is really, really large", is not the type to go around unnoticed. Tiny is also throughout the novel trying to create an autobiographical musical, which further draws attention to himself and everyone around him. Will Grayson#2 is more relatable to teenagers, particularly LGBT teenagers.

The third reason is conflict in the novel is simple, the novel tells us about when the character of Jane so simple and yet such a brilliant girl to be involved in a book; she wasn’t one who wore a ton of makeup or short skirts. She was great.

The last reason is the novel Will Grayson, Will Grayson is the new novel. The novel was inspiration from John Green and David Levithan which tell about gay, friendship, and love.

Based on the background above, the researcher proposed to conduct a research entitled “Gay in Will Grayson, Will Grayson Novel by John Green and David Levithan (2010): Queer Theory.”

B. Literature Review
The research was done by Fadhillah Khusnul Khotimah in 2016 under the title *Transgenderism A Queer Theoretical Study In Okky Mandasari’s Bound Novel 2014*. This research aimed at analyzed transgenderism phenomenon of the character in *Bound* novel by using queer theory. (http://eprints.ums.ac.id/44239/).

Based on the descriptive above, the researcher concludes that this present study is totally different with the previous researcher because the researcher here conducts gay in *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* novel by John Green and David Levithan on queer perspective. The researcher focusses on the reflection of how gay of *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* novel using queer theory.

**C. Problem Statement**

Based on the previous background of the study, the researcher aimed at analyzing the problem “How is Gay in *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* Novel by John Green and David Levithan (2010): Queer Theory?*

**D. Limitation of the Study**


**E. Objectives of the Study**

Conducting the research, the researcher formulates the objectives of the study, as follows:

1. To describe *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* novel based on structural elements of novel.
F. **Benefit of the Study**

The researcher expected a lot that the research which investigates the issue gay in toward character of Will Grayson by David Levithan in *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* novel brings many benefits. The benefits of this study will be differentiated into two benefits:

a. **Theoretical Benefits**

The result of this study is expected to be able to give information and contribution of knowledge and science in the academic reference. It can be also as a reference for other researchers who want to conduct further research and particularly studies on *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* novel.

b. **Practical Benefits**

The study is expected to reach knowledge and experience for the writer in many things and for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or for other Universities where they have the same interest in literary study on the literature from Queer Theory.

G. **Research Method**

1. **Type of the Study**

In this research, the researcher uses a qualitative research. It is a library research while data sources need literary data. This kind of research has purpose to analyze literature using Queer Theory. There are some steps to conduct the research: (1) determining the type of the study (2) determining the object of the study (3) determining data and data source (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. **Object of the Study**

The object of the study is gay in *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* novel by John Green and David Levithan (2010). It is analyzed by Queer theory.

3. **Type of the Data and the Data Source**
There are two data source which are needed to conduct this research. They are primary data source and secondary data source.

a. **Primary Data Sources**
   

b. **Secondary Data**
   
   The sources of secondary data are taken from other sources related the study, such as: website, dictionary, and some books which support the research.

4. **Technique of the Data Collection**
   
   The technique of collecting data are reading novel and note taking, the steps are as follows:
   
   a. Reading the original novel *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* several times.
   
   b. Determining the characters of novel.
   
   c. Taking notes of important things for both of primary and secondary data source.
   
   d. Classifying data by determining the relevant data.

5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**
   
   The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It relates with structural elements of Gay in *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* novel by John Green and David Levithan (2010).

H. **Paper Organization**
   
   This research paper organization of Gay in *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* novel by John Green and David Levithan (2010) is as follows: chapter 1 is introductions, which consist of the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the
study, theoretical approach, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter II is concerned with the underlying theory, which elaborates the notion of Queer theory, structure of personality, structural elements of the theoretical application. Chapter III is comprises of the structural analysis of the novel, which includes the narrative elements, technical elements, and discussion. Chapter IV is describes the queer analysis. Chapter V is elaborates conclusion and suggestion.