

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is the expression of human's life described in text. It contains senses that can be felt by human such as happiness, sadness, passion, love, etc. Literature tends to be beautiful and it can bring the reader to the world of imagination created by the authors. When the authors write their senses on the paper then the readers read it, they may be in line with the sense of the author. In literature the soul of the author should live in every words on the paper written, then the readers can feel that their soul is really close with the authors' with the result that their message in their literature can be delivered.

According to Bressler (1986: 9-10), formulating a definition of literature is not simple. For centuries, writers, literary historians, and others have debate about but failed to agree on a definition for this term. Some assume that literature is simply anything that is written. Although any definition of literature is debatable, most would agree that an examination of a text's total artistic situation would help to decide what constitutes literature. This total picture of the work involves such elements as the work itself, the artist, the universe or world the work supposedly represents, and the audience or readers.

One that belongs to literature is novel. Novel is fictional prose that is written narratively. Generally, novel tells about the life of main character and the important events that change the life of main character so that it is ended happily or sadly. According to Wikipedia, novel is a long narrative, normally in prose, which describes fictional character and events, usually in the form of a sequential story. The writer of novel is usually called a novelist or author. There are many authors in this world that have written good novels like J. K. Rowling with Harry Potter, and Stephenie Meyer with Twilight Saga, beside that there are others that some

of them have created best selling novels. One of them that interests the researcher is Alex Sánchez.

Alex Sánchez (born 1957) is a Mexican-American author of award-winning novels for teens and adults. His first novel, *Rainbow Boys* (2001), was selected by the American Library Association (ALA), as a Best Book for Young Adults. Subsequent books have won additional awards, including the Lambda Literary Award. Although Sanchez's novels are widely accepted in thousands of school and public libraries in America, they have faced a handful of challenges and efforts to ban them. In Webster, New York, removal of *Rainbow Boys* from the 2006 summer reading list was met by a counter-protest from students, parents, librarians, and community members resulting in the book being placed on the 2007 summer reading list. One of Alex Sánchez's novel that is interesting for the researcher is *The God Box* (2007).

The original title of Alex Sanchez's novel is *The God Box*, the story of the novel is about Paul. Paul has dated Angie since middle school, and they're good together. They have a lot of same interests, like singing in their church choir and being active in Bible club. But when Manuel transfers to their school, Paul has to rethink his life. Manuel is the first openly gay teen, anyone in their small town has ever met, and yet he says he's also a committed Christian. Talking to Manuel makes Paul reconsider thoughts he has kept hidden, and listening to Manuel's interpretation of Biblical passages on homosexuality causes Paul to reevaluate everything he believed. Manuel's outspokenness triggers dramatic consequences at school, culminating in a terrifying situation that leads Paul to take a stand. In *The God Box* novel the main character feels doubt about his religion that forbids homosexuality because he is a homosexual that really wants to be obedient on his religion of Christian but he cannot deny his homosexuality, so there are many doubts appear for his religion's rules about homosexuality.

Doubt is the feeling of uncertain to something. Anything that people claim is right isn't always easily accepted by other people with other belief and experience, because the truth in some beliefs is different with others, and sometimes people who have no experience of something make argument that is opposite with the people who experience with the argument, because of that, some people don't want to take anything for granted, they need to see the truth by experiencing it first so that they don't have any doubt. According to René Descartes (1641: 1), before we can describe the nature of reality (as is done in metaphysics) or say what it means for something to be or exist (which is the focus of ontology), we must first consider what we mean when we say we know what reality, being, or existence is. He suggests that it is pointless to claim that something is real or exists unless we first know how such a claim could be known as a justified true belief. But to say that our beliefs are justified, we have to be able to base them ultimately on a belief that is itself indubitable. Such a belief could then provide a firm foundation on which all subsequent beliefs are grounded and could thus be known as true. This way of thinking about knowledge is called foundationalism..

Meanwhile religion is orders that offer people the way of life which help them deciding the destination of the afterlife, It teaches people how to pray to God, and socialize with other people, There are so many religions in the world, they have their own way of praying, and rules, that makes different culture in one religion to other religions. Unfortunately, there are some people who generalize their religion rules to other religion so that it makes conflict. According to Gillat Levy and Rony Razin, In any equilibrium, religious members have similar beliefs. In any cohesive religion, all members of the religion believe that on average they are more likely to receive a negative shock (be .punished.) when they defect rather than cooperate. Any non-cohesive religion consists of these types as well;

however, types who believe otherwise also become religious, in order to defect and take advantage of its members (2006: 3)

Sexual Orientation is the preference of human interest of sexual and romantic to other human, it can be different sex (heterosexual), same sex (homosexual), or both (bisexual). According to Delamater and Hyde sexual orientation is an ahistorical, universal, context-independent underlying trait of the individual (DeLamater & Hyde, 1998,)

The feeling of doubts in the main character about his sex orientation and religion can be analyzed with psychoanalytic approach. The object of psychoanalytic literary criticism, at its very simplest, can be the psychoanalysis of the author or of a particularly interesting character in a given work.. Critics may view the fictional characters as a psychological case study, attempting to identify such Freudian concepts as Oedipus complex, *id*, *ego* and *superego* and so on, and demonstrate how they influenced the thoughts and behaviors of fictional characters.

Like all forms of literary criticism, psychoanalytic criticism can yield useful clues to the sometime baffling symbols, actions, and settings in a literary work; however, like all forms of literary criticism, it has its limits.

The researcher personally thinks that the issue and the novel are unique but controversial, unique because it analyzes something that belongs to LGBT issue in very different point of view and controversial because LGBT issue is still taboo to be discussed in some countries especially the researcher`s country, Indonesia. Beside that, the novel is not so old, it was published in 2007, the culture is not so different with now, so that the readers can imagine every moment of the story well.

Based on the background above, the researcher proposed to conduct a research entitled **“Doubt Between Religion and Sexual Orientation reflected in *The God Box* by Alex Sanchez (2007): Psychoanalytic Approach”**

B. Problem Statement

Based on the the background of the study, the researcher would like to analyze the problem:

1. how is the main character`s personality analyzed using psychoanalytic approach ?
2. how is doubt between religion and sex orientation reflected in *The God Box* by Alex Sanchez (2007) ?

C. Limitation of The Study

The researcher focuses on the research in analyzing doubt between religion and sex orientation toward character Paul at Alex Sanchez`s *The God Box*(2007) on psychoanalytic approach.

D. Objectives of The Study

Conducting the research, the writer formulates the objective of the study:

1. To analyze the main character`s personality in *The God Box* by Alex Sanchez (2007) on psychoanalytic approach.
2. To analyze doubt between religion and sex orientation reflected in *The God Box* by Alex Sanchez (2007).

E. Benefit of The Study

The researcher expects a lot in what the researcher investigates, the issue "Doubt Between Religion and Sex Orientation Reflected in *The God Box* by Alex Sanchez (2007)" provides many benefits. The benefits on these are divided into two benefits:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this study is expected to be beneficial because it gives information and contribution of knowledge to the academic refference. Beside that it will be beneficial for the researcher who would like to conduct further research for this novel *The God Box* by Alex Sanchez.

2. Practical Benefit

The result of the research is expected to be beneficial for the students, the teacher, the lecturer and the people who are interested

in the novel *The God Box*, and to enrich the knowledge of psychoanalytic theory in literature.

F. Paper Organization

This research paper organization of Doubt Between Religion And Sexual Orientation Reflected in *Alex Sanchez's The God Box* (2007) is divided into five chapter. The first chapter is introduction, which consists of the background of the study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization. The second chapter concerns with literature review that consists of the underlying theory, which elaborates the notion of psychoanalytic theory, structure of personality and previous study. The third chapter is research method, type of data and data source, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis. The fourth chapter describes the Psychoanalytic analysis and doubt between religion and sexual orientation. The last elaborates Conclusion, Suggestion, and Pedagogical Implication.