

**“HERMAPHRODITE REFLECTED IN JENNIFER EUGENIDES’S *MIDDLESEX*
(2002): A QUEER APPROACH”**



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HERMAPHRODITE REFLECTED IN JENNIFER EUGENIDES'S *MIDDLESEX* (2002): A QUEER APPROACH

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendiskripsikan tentang Helen Calliope (Cal) Stephanides seorang hermaphrodite yang mempunyai dua jenis identifikasi seksual, dalam pencarian jati dirinya sebagai seorang hermaphrodite dalam novel *Middlesex* karya Jennifer Eugenides. Tujuan Penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisa novel *Middlesex* berdasarkan teori queer. Penulis menggunakan dua sumber data sebagai rujukan, yaitu sumber data primer, dan sumber data sekunder. Sumber data primer diperoleh dari novel *Middlesex*, sedangkan data sekunder diperoleh dari buku ataupun jurnal yang berkaitan tentang hermaphrodite dan queer.

Kata kunci : Hermaphrodite, Queer Theory, Cal, Incest

ABSTRACT

This research is purposes to describe about Calliope (Cal) Helen Stephanides, an Hermaphrodites who have twice sexuality organs identification based on searching her-self of live as hermaphrodite in *Middlesex's* Novel author by Jennifer Eugenides . The purposing of this research are to analyze *Middlesex* novel based on a Queer Theory. The writer using two data resources as reference there are primer data resourcs, and secondary data resource. Data primer resource is get from *Middlesex* novel, then secondary data resource is get from book or journal that including about hermaphrodite and queer theory

Keyword: Hermaphrodite, Queer Theory, Cal, Incest

1. INTRODUCTION

Biologic and psychological case is interesting object to explore in the world. This theme is use by the author of literary work to build their story. The one of conflict which based psychological and biologic is author Jeffrey Eugenides in his novel *Middlesex*. It was published on 2002 and this novel storied about hermaphrodite. on 2002 and this novel storied about hermaphrodite .This novel stories about someone who get hermaphrodite, someone who knows Cal's life as girl in children, but when she is teen, she is feel different than common woman. She can't experienced menstruation, her boobs is flat, her voices is more heavily, and soft hair appear in top of her mouth, then she begin interested with her girl-friend than her boy-friend. It happens because the sins from her previously. Begin from her grandpa

and grandma, Desdemona and Lefty, they are actually is a sister and her siblings. They lived in Greece before invasion by Turkish and become orphan. Before they're mom died, she give a last will to her daughter to search a wife for his young brother. But, Lefty wasn't married with other person except his sister, Desdemona. The mostly, Desdemona deny it, but because her have a promises with her mother who passed away, so she agree with it then. They migration to American and lived with their cousin, Sourmelina. She also know that her brother and sister do incest marriage, but she kept this secret. A whole time, Desdemona and Sourmelina get a birth. Desdemona worried about the effect of incest, but her children, Milton and Zoe is normal. The problem begins after Milton interested with Sourmelina daughters, Tessie. After that, Milton marriage his cousin, Tessie and then they're became a parents from Calliope Helen Stephanie or called Cal.

In this novel *Middlesex*, I was used a queer approach. Hermaphrodite or common called unisex is the condition when a animal or human has a two sexual reproduction. Hermaphrodite According Michael A. Herman "There are two sexes in *C. elegans*, hermaphrodite and male. While there are many sex-specific differences between males and hermaphrodites that affect most tissues, the basic body plan and many of its structures are identical. But, in this literature According Rodger and Grober (2007:29), Hermaphrodite is the condition that involves discrepancies between external genitalia and internal reproductive organs also referred Disorders of sexual development (DSDs).. However, most structures required for mating or reproduction is sexually dimorphic and is generated by sex-specific cell lineages The author from *Middlesex* is Jeffrey Eugenides, he was born in Detroit, USA. His father is Greek descent and his mother is English and Irish ancestry. He attended Grose Pointe's private University Liggett School and took his undergraduate degree at Brown University, graduating in 1983 after taking a year off to travel across Europe and to volunteer with Mother Teresa in India. In his decision to study in Brown, Eugenides later remarked "I choose Brown largely in order to study with John Hawks He later earned the M.A in creative Writing from Stanford University. Eugenides knew he wanted to be a writer from a relatively age. Eugenides was raise

in Detroit, Michigan, and cites the influences of the city and his highschool experiences on his writing. He has said that he had a “perverse love” of his birthplace. He also haunted by the decline of Detroit in 1986, he received the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science Nicholl Fellowship for his story “Here Comes Winston”, “Full of the Holy Spirit”. While in New York, he made friend with numerous similarly struggling writers, including Jonathan Franzen. In 2002, he wrote a novel, *Middlesex* then won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in addition to being finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the International Dublin Literary Award. Following the life and self-discovery of Calliope Helen Stephanides, or later Calan intersex person raised a girl, but hormonally a boy. *Middlesex* also broadly deals with the Greek-American immigrant experience in the United States, the rise and fall of Detroit, and explores the experience of an intersex. From 1999 to 2004, Eugenides lived in Berlin, Germany, where he moving after being awarded a grant from the German Academic Exchange Service to write in Berlin for a year. Eugenides had lived in Princeton, New Jersey, since the fall of 2007, when Eugenides joined the faculty of Princeton University’s Program in Creative Writing. Eugenides is now based, with his wife and child, in Princeton, New Jersey, where he is Professor Creative Writing in the Peter B. Lewis Center for the arts of teaching creative writing.

The reason novel *Middlesex* the first thing, it can increase information about hermaphrodite in the minority class, because the information that can we get in many thing about it can take by us to refer as usually in the case. Afterward, general people should know about the unique phenomenon whether it is seldom happen in their life. Or maybe they never meet the person with that condition. And we must rewarded the research that do by the author(Jeffrey Eugenides) because based the research is very detail and also can make the readers feel flashback in the past event that full of memory and imagine us watched use television. Furthermore, this novel also appear that about cultural in tradition about all aware by the people in that areal, for example the cultural that showing in this story is when Cal check up, in this story should the person got checking in all up without mess. But, the culture aware that and Cal affective the “twin things” in her body like a luckily thing.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the researcher uses a qualitative research. It is a library research while data sources need literary data. This kind of the research using Queer Theory to analyze data, Queer theory was originally associated with the radical gay politics of Act Up, Outrage, and other groups which embraced “queer” as an identity label that pointed to a separatist, non-assimilations politics. As it has come to be understood in cultural theory, however, queer theory challenges either/or, essentialist notions of homosexuality and heterosexuality within the mainstream discourse (the “binary sexual regime,” to use historian George Chauncey's phrase), and instead posits an understanding of sexuality that emphasizes shifting boundaries, ambivalences, and cultural constructions that change depending on historical and cultural context. The theory of queer theory was introduced by Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Judith Butler, Adrienne Rich and Diana Fuss in 1990 who they are is a activist of ban of gender.

The concepts of 'sex' and 'gender' are both of vital importance in medicine and health sciences. However, the meaning of these concepts has seldom been discussed in the medical literature. The aim of this study was to explore what the concepts of 'sex' and 'gender' meant for gender researchers based in a medical faculty. The definition of “Sex” and “Gender” maybe look similar, but there are is has a different , from the meaning of Sex are "Sex as more than biology", with the subcategories 'sex' is not simply biological, 'sex' as classification, and 'sex' as fluid and changeable; ", for example that sex is identification that he/she as a male or female based on the sexuality organ. Then the definition of Gender are “Gender as a multiplicity of power-related constructions", with the subcategories: 'gender' as constructions, 'gender' power dimensions, and 'gender' as doing femininities and masculinities; for example as a man they have a role in the society must be masculine, strong, the the woman should be feminism.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Within a family saga, the family unit should be analyzed organically, as if it is a character in its own right. The family provides each member with an identity and a

set of expectations and roles that may not exist outside of the parameters of the family and which set the tone for intra-family interactions. The Berglunds of Freedom, with two children and a pair of heterosexual parents, fit the definition of the “nuclear family a unit that includes one working father, a stay-at-home mom, and two to three children under the same roof. The Berglunds are an isolated family unit, with Walter and Patty’s childhood family members (siblings, cousins, parents, grandparents) having limited impact on the rearing of their children. This lends the family structure additional significance because it is the only family model that the young Berglund children know. There is a clear separation in Freedom between the protagonists’ childhood families and their adult families, as if the first must be mentioned in order to understand Walter and Patty’s backgrounds but should not be conflated with their “real” family—the one they create together as adults. Their parents are not to be included in the organic, protagonistic family unit that Freedom follows, but instead as related, precursive organisms. After the one family event that they attend as a married couple, Like any dynamic character, this family evolves over time.

The structure of *Middlesex* presents the reader with Cal the narrator trying to communicate with the reader the story of his life and experiences: “I don’t care if I write a great book anymore, but just one which, whatever its flaws, will leave a record of my impossible life” (Eugenides, 302). It is the story of the masculine protagonist and narrator Cal and the feminine protagonist Callie and how Cal the narrator’s story and persona come into being through these “other” selves. Cal the narrator is seeking a complete and coherent identity from the seemingly fragmented and incoherent experiences of both Callie and Cal. However, it is not only the structure of the narrative that is important but the very nature of narrative itself that demonstrates the possibility and reality of Cal’s “impossible life”

In his narrative, Cal seeks to justify who he is through his experience. Though living as a heterosexually identified masculine intersexual, Cal the narrator insists that Callie the homosexually identified female remains within him: “I feel a direct line extending from that girl with her knees steeped beneath the hotel blankets to this person writing now in an Aeron chair. Hers was the duty to live out a mythical life in

the actual world, mine to tell about it now” (Eugenides,424). The story is Callie’s story as much as it is Cal the protagonist’s and Cal the narrator’s. The narrator insists that Callie is still a part of him, and Cal describes how this feminine self is influencing the structure of the story when he claims, “All I know is this: despite my androgenized brain, there’s an innate feminine circularity in the story I have to tell”. The narrative that Cal is writing is an expression of Cal’s identity as a whole of disparate parts, and the story is necessary for him to define his “impossible” experience.

Thus, in the narrative, Cal examines and interprets the details of Callie and Cal’s bodily experiences in order to discover the truth regarding his identity. According to Cal, he was diagnosed as a “male pseudohermaphrodite” by Dr. Peter Luce, who was considered to be “the world’s leading authority on human hermaphroditism. A male pseudohermaphrodite is genetically male but appearing otherwise, with 5-alpha-reductase deficiency syndrome. However, it is not only Cal’s ambiguous gender and sexual identity that has defined his experience. Callie’s feminine life and Cal’s masculine live. As Cal points out, “Unlike other so-called male pseudohermaphrodites who have been written about in the press, I never felt out of place being a girl. I still don’t feel entirely at home among men. Desire made me cross over to the other side, desire and the facticity of my body.

Based of the analysis above we can to find about the cause of hermaphrodite that happen in the Cal- self, the cause of Hermaphrodite of Stephanie because there are many incest marriages that fill in the Stephanie blood. The first marriages relation family’s Stephanides are Eleutherios "Lefty" Stephanides with Desdemona Stephanides, which they are brother and sister. That’s the first things of incest marriage of Stephanides’s family. After that Desdemona were born two children. They are Zoe Stephanides and Milton Stephanides.

After that, Milton have a feeling to Tessie Zimo who also as his cousin, because Tessie Zimo are daughter of Sourmalina Zimo and Jimmy Zimo, whoever they are uncle and aunt ‘s Milton Stephanides, Afterr That Milton and Tessi was marriage and

she was born Calliope and Chapter Eleven, whoever if they are gonna become marriage incest and make Stephanides as Hermaphrodite.

Succeeding the Great Fire of Smyrna, Lefty and Desdemona must start life once more. At 14 years old, Callie experiences a second birth to come to be Cal. To become a male, Callie peregrinates across the United States and becomes a midwife of her new life by teaching herself to forget what she has learned as a female. Likewise, Cal's grandparents undergo a transformation, becoming husband and wife instead of brother and sister. Middlesex digs into the concept of identity, including how it is formed and how it is administered. The immigrant dilemma is a metaphor and synecdoche for Calliope's hermaphroditic condition; Callie's paternal grandparents become Americanized through the unification of the elements of heredity, cultural metamorphoses, and probability. Callie's maternal grandfather, Jimmy Zizmo, undergoes a rebirth when he transforms from a bootlegger into Farrad Mohammad, a Muslim minister (Eugenides, 2002).

As the Stephanides family seeks the American Dream, we discover the hardships faced with time. Beginning with Lefty and Desdemona, Cal's grandparents, fleeing from their homeland to Ellis Island and the United States, the novel later depicts the family living in a suburban vista at Grosse Pointe, Michigan. After they immigrate to the United States, Lefty and Desdemona find themselves in a blissful America on the brink of economic collapse. They dream about a flawless America where effort and morals will lead to prosperity. Middlesex portrays the misfortunes of attaining an identity, especially while dealing with the revelation that the American Dream is a misconception that has already disappeared.

Incest and intersex is another theme in Middlesex. Eugenides examines the passionate feelings that siblings living in close quarters experience for each other. Milton and Tessie, second cousins, are conceived during the same night, hinting to the incest of Desdemona and Lefty. Desdemona and Lefty's incestuous relationship is a transgression of a powerful taboo, indicating that someone will suffer for their wrongs. In a way, Cal's intersex situation symbolizes this Greek hubris. In another incestuous relationship, Milton makes love to Tessie using a clarinet... Their

incestuous connection enables them to contribute mutated genes to their child Cal. Cal's mother impedes with fate by attempting to make her second child a daughter. Cal believes this interference was a factor in his being a hermaphrodite.

The plot of this novel is set of flashback, this it can call that the first story is story about life of grandmother and grandfather of Cal there is a scene For the next six nights, under various meteorological conditions, my grandparents trusted in the lifeboat. Desdemona's guilt flared up during the day, when she sat on deck wondering if she and Lefty were to blame for everything, but by nighttime she felt lonely and wanted to escape the cabin and so stole back to the lifeboat and her new husband. Their honeymoon proceeded in reverse. Instead of getting to know each other, becoming familiar with likes and dislikes, ticklish spots, pet peeves, Desdemona and Lefty tried to defamiliarize themselves with each other. In the spirit of their shipboard con game, they continued to spin out false histories for themselves, inventing brothers and sisters with plausible names, cousins with moral shortcomings, in-laws with facial tics. They took turns reciting Homeric genealogies, full of falsifications and borrowings from real life, and sometimes they fought over this or that favorite real uncle or aunt, and had to bargain like casting directors.

The conflict revealed when Cal is gone get accident, when she bring to the hospital the doctor who handle her found out that she has two sexual reproduction, that dismiss by the doctor who help born of Cal. With the doctor Luce recommendation she have suggest the two ways to normality of her condition, there are, hormone injections or cosmetic surgery, the hormone treatments will initiate breast development and enhance her female secondary sex characteristics. The surgery will make Callie look exactly like the girl she feels herself to be. In fact, she will be that girl. Her outside and inside will conform. She will look like a normal girl. Nobody will be able to tell a thing. And then Callie can go on and enjoy her life. But, when Cal hear it, she is so frustrated, she escaped from the hospital such in the scene "I know you're only trying to do what's best for me, but I don't think anyone knows for sure what's best. I love you and don't want to be a problem, so I've decided to go away. I know you'll say I'm not a problem, but I know I am. If you want to know

why I'm doing this, you should ask Dr. Luce, who is a big liar! I am not a girl. I'm a boy. That's what I found out today. So I'm going where no one knows me. Everyone in Grosse Pointe will talk when they find out."

4. CONCLUSION

The result of this explores of this research is we know what the cause of hermaphrodite and also we can to take any method . that is approve we can't to get any marriage incest and also what we can to do off it's all. Cal's "struggle for unification" is intertwined with his struggle to narrate his experience, and his anxiety towards language is expressed when he says, "I've never had the right words to describe my life, and now that I've entered my story, I need them more than ever". Though Cal claims that language is inadequate in regards to describing his life, it is the way that Cal expresses his story through language, including how he structures it that reveals his narrative as a search to not only explain his identity but to discover it as well. Cal's problematic relationship to language is influenced by his intersexual body and derives from society's deceptive notion of what Michel Foucault refers to as every person's "true sex" Whether there are people who can't to different between gender and sex they think that gender and sex is same. Besides, if people saying that gender and sex is same, the can to complex multiple choice between any cirmulutance if they say that sex and gender is unite is correct, but if they say that they are different is, not, because tsex has domain alone, then gener have domain oalone

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