

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background Study

The development of globalization can give rise to new cultures that enter every country, such as the rampant free lifestyle nowadays with the measurement seen from the gender identity in society (Arfanda & Anwar, 2015). This phenomenon is related to the occurrence of transsexuality in some societies. In general, this condition is called gender dysphoria, as people who experience themselves being in the wrong body (Benjamin, 1967). Gender dysphoria is classified into several types, which are transsexuals and transvestites. Transvestite is a condition where individuals who look or dress as the opposite of their actual sex (cross dressers), for example a man feels more pleasure when dresses up as a woman. On the other hand, Transsexuals are those who change themselves in order to have a body of the opposite sex, in which the more extreme condition is to change their sex (Benjamin, 1967). This situation can occur in various environments such as marriage or family.

This phenomenon is well developed in the society, where there are issues related to transgender and transsexuality. That is why Tom Hooper, as the director of the film *The Danish Girl*, dared to raise the issue of a transsexuality's heart turmoil in the family environment or marriage in his movie, due to the large number of people who lack of courage or having difficulties in stating their differences in society. The community is afraid of bullying and unable to accept the circumstances, especially if the transsexuality phenomenon occurs in marriage.

Inspired by the phenomenon which is explained above, this 2015 movie was directed by Tom Hooper as an American filmmaker, although he was born on 5 October 1972 in London, Britain but, he has pursued a career in America. In addition to directing *The Danish Girl* movie, Tom Hooper is also known as a director in the films *The King's Speech* (2010) and *Les Misérables* (2012).

One of Tom Hooper's most famous movie is *The Danish Girl*. The movie tells a story about a couple who lives in Denmark. The main character is a painter who has a love story in their marriage before Einar's personality changes. The story takes place in 1920, of a couple in Denmark, Copenhagen. This is the story of a painter who lives in a small town in the territory of Denmark. The couple works as an artist named Gerda

Wegener and Einar Wegener. Gerda is a painter who is good at drawing anything, while Einar Wegener is an artist known for drawing landscapes. One time, Gerda needs a model to paint, but the model is unavailable, then Gerda asks Einar to become a female model, using stockings and a dress that are normally used by women and asks Einar to pose like a woman as an inspiration.

Einar reveal his identity which was contrary to his real identity as a man. Einar feels like a woman in his body, who later adopts a female name, Lili Elbe. This is a new problem that arises. For Einar and Gerda, Einar feels that her femininity is only temporary, but slowly Einar abandons his true image by choosing to becomes Lili. This situation became more apparent when Gerda and Einar went go on a business trip to Paris, because Gerda wants to show the results of his paintings of Lili that catches the attention of painting traders. This event continues when Gerda asks Einar to disguise herself as a woman as a party partner. At the party, Gerda introduces Einar as Lili who pretends to be Einar's cousin. Lili meets a man there named Henrik who is a homosexual. Then at a lili shop, Gerda find out that Henrik does something inappropriate.

Even then, when Gerda lack of inspiration, Gerda witnesses Einar disguising as a flower again, which makes her feel sad and disappointed. Therefore, she asks Einar to have an appointment with a psychologist. When they visit doctors, they conclude that Einar has mental problems. Finally, Einar and Gerda move to Paris because Gerda's painting is displayed in a painting gallery there. Gerda also meets her childhood friend named Hans. Gerda asks for help to find a doctor related to a person's personality change. Slowly Gerda begin to accept that Einar has turned into a woman and helps her husband to undergo the sex reassignment surgery recommended by Dr. Kurt Warnkeros who is in Germany. Einar is the first person to perform this dangerous operation, until in the end the operation fails because Einar runs out of blood which causes in him dying in Gerda's arms.

This movie is one of the successful movies of Tom Hooper, because the storyline is simple, easy to comprehend and very touching. This 118-minute movie was directed by Tom Hopper and produced by teams such as Gail Mutrux, Anne Horrison, and the manuscript was written by Luxinda Coxon. This movie also received a good response in the success of this film. judging by the response from industry, market and audience.

The response from the market is that movie one of the best movies of the year 2015. From the various facts about this movie, it turns out that making this movie costs a lot of money. The script was made by Luxicon, directed by Tom Hopper, only supposed to cost US \$ 15 million or up to US \$ 210 million. Because of the great success, the movie managed to earn around 58 million dollars. In addition, the response from industry is that on its limited opening weekend, the film grossed \$ 187,318 the following day, and reached 26th place at the box office. However, on its widely circulated opening weekend, the film doubled its \$ 526,374 gain from its previous opening, bringing itself up to number 21 at the box office (Imdb, n.d.).

This movie also received a decent response from various circles of society. This is proven by The Danish character who won the most famous award in the United States, namely Oscar. Actress named Alicia Vikander won an Oscar award as the best supporting actress, and the main character Einar Wegener or his real name Eddie Redmayne managed to get the trophy as the best actor (Rotten Tomatoes, n.d.).

This film did not only receive a positive response but also received a negative response from the public. It is because, there is a scene that does not match the original story as for example, the wrong year of marriage in the dialogue spoken by Gerda, who according to Gerda is 6 years married but the original story is 20 years of marriage (Rotten Tomatoes, n.d.).

The phenomenon that occurs in *The Danish Girl* film is transsexuality that occurs in marriage which is one of the problems in the film *The Danish Girl*. Therefore, the researcher wants to see the message conveyed by the director and writer in this film.

The appeal of this movie lies at 2 points. The first reason why the researcher is interested in this film is because of the extremely good skill of the actor. The actor who plays Einar Wegener in "*The Danish Girl*" is Eddie Redmayne. He looks natural in the film, and one of the most interesting things for the researcher is when Einar transforms into Lili Elbe who shows body languages, such as raising the chin and walking in women's shoes. The growth of Einar who has not transformed into Lili is also interesting. In the first 15 minutes, the film shows that Einar is still himself, then 10 minutes later, Einar starts to show Lili's side when Lili wears a girl's dress. Einar has gradually transformed into Lili, and the peak is when Einar is in Paris and meets a childhood male friend there. Lili dominates Einar's body with women's movements and clothes that are used when meeting that childhood male friend. When Eddie Redmayne transforms into Lili, he really portrays her very well, from the way of walking and hand

waving when he meets other people, especially at a party of Gerda's friends where Einar transforms into Lili by becoming feminine. Thus, people around Einar do not realize that he is Gerda's husband.

The second reason is that throughout the film, the audience can see a nice presentation of the visuals of the actors. Furthermore, the nice presentation can be seen from the costume design, plot, performances and script that are shown in the film. Plot: Einar Wegener (Eddie Redmayne) and his wife Gerda Wegener (Alicia Vikander) are both painters trying to find their way in the world, but when Einar figures out who he really is, he then goes through difficult and life changing choices. This film is a biography set in Copenhagen, Denmark in the 1920s and takes place over a few months with husband and wife Einar and Gerda Wegener. Performances: The performances in this film are exceptional and might even be Oscar-worthy. During the film, the researchers do not even see them stutter a bit, and it looks like they understand their roles very well. Eddie Redmayne's performances shine the brightest. Script: The script made by Lucinda Coxon is very good, especially love the middle part of the movie when all the characters try to find a way out of their problem, and when for the first time they seem to be facing an obstacle between them. Costume design: The costume design really sets the tone for the film. The costumes were made as if they were from the 1920s. It is as if it happened in the 1920s because of the costume design.

This movie attracts the researcher to analyze it. The topic that the researcher chooses in this movie is transsexual in a marriage environment using a sociological perspective in explaining the topic above. The title of this research emerged, namely **Transsexuality and Its Implications for Marriage in Tom Hooper's *The Danish Girl*: A Sociological Perspective.**

B. Problem Statement

1. What are the characteristics of transsexuality in *The Danish Girl* by Tom Hooper?
2. How is implications of transsexuality to marriage in *The Danish Girl* movie by Tom Hooper?
3. Why does Tom Hooper, as the director, supports transsexuality in *The Danish Girl* movie?

C. Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the characteristics of transsexuality in *The Danish Girl* by Tom Hooper
2. To analyse implication of transsexuality to marriage in *The Danish Girl* movie by Tom Hooper.
3. To reveal that Tom Hooper, as the director, support transsexuality in *The Danish Girl* movie.

D. Benefit of the Study

For the theoretical, this research is expected to provide various implications for readers, especially in sociology development so that it can become a study for scientific writing which aims to explore the phenomenon of transsexuality by using a sociological approach through the film *The Danish Girl* (2015).

For practical, this research is expected to convey information messages for readers in general who want to get inspiration to make literary research, especially the discussion about transsexuality.