

**TRANSSEXUALITY AND ITS IMPLICATION TO MARRIAGE IN TOM
HOOPER'S *THE DANISH GIRL*: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**



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Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini yaitu untuk mengetahui bahwa transsexuality mampu masuk ke dalam lingkup pernikahan . Metode yang digunakan pada penelitian yaitu kualitatif. Dalam pengumpulan data, peneliti menggunakan analisis dokumen yang terdiri dari menemukan, menentukan, memahami dan menggabungkan data. Penelitian ini mendapatkan tiga hasil, yaitu yang pertama transsexuality memunculkan ciri tertentu pada pernikahan seperti ketidaknyaman dengan jenis kelamin yang dimiliki, keinginan untuk merubah jenis kelamin. Kedua, implikasi transsexual terhadap pernikahan yang mempunyai 4 tahap implikasi terdiri dari emotional, konflik, negosiasi dan menemukan keseimbangan, Tom Hooper mengangkat isu transsexual pada film dikarenakan adanya pesan yang disampaikan melalui karyanya berupa film tentang pandangan masyarakat umum terhadap transsexual. Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini memperlihatkan ciri transsexual yang berada pada pernikahan serta implikasi yang diperoleh melalui film *The Danish Girl*.

Kata kunci: Transsexuality, Implikasi, Film *The Danish Girl*, Sociological Perspective.

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to find out that transsexuality is able to fit into the scope of marriage. the method used in the research is qualitative. In data collection, researchers use document analysis consisting of finding, determining, understanding and combining data. This study obtained three results, namely the first characteristic of transsexuality such as being uncomfortable with their gender, the desire to change their appearance according to the desired gender. Second, the implications of transsexual marriage that has 4 stages of implication consists of emotional, conflict, negotiation and finding a way out, Tom Hooper raised the issue of transsexual in the film because of the message conveyed through his work in the form of a film about the general public's view of transsexuals. The conclusion of this study shows the characteristics of transsexuals in marriage and the implications obtained through the film *The Danish Girl*.

Keywords: Transsexuality, Implication, *The Danish Girl* Movie, Sociological Perspective.

1. INTRODUCTION

The development of globalization, can give rise to new cultures that entered 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. Transsexuals are those who change themselves in order to have a body or of the opposite sex, in which the more extreme condition is to change their sex (Benjamin, 1967). 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 are lack of courage or having difficulties in stating their differences in society.

Tom Hooper's film achieved great success among other Tom films. The duration of the film *The Danish Girl* 118 minutes. This movie also received a good response in the success of this film, especially in the community. 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.).

In analyzing this research, the researcher obtained references from previous studies that used the same object, namely *The Danish Girl* film, previous research consisted of Elisa (2016), Akbar & Sanhari (2017), Lamare & M (2020), Siregar (2017). Second about gender identity by Fachri (2017), Dessensia(2017), Rohmawati (2017), Sari (2016), Anggraeni & Widayanti (2019), (Keumala et al., 2019). From the research mentioned above, previous researchers discussed gender identity and transgender as reflected in the film *The Danish Girl*. The researcher uses Laurensen and Swingewood Sociology of Literature approach, which relates to society which in *The Danish Girl* (2015) film concerns problems that occur in the community. From the approach used,

the researcher shows the principles of Laursen and Swingewood, namely: Literary work as a mirror to the age, Literary work deals with the social situation of the author, Literary work is a specific historical moment.

2. METHOD

This type of research is literary research. This research aims to look at the relationship of literary works and society. Literature is used as a source in search of data. Then, Researchers get various types of data about the work of literature through, The primary data source in this study was a film called *The Danish Girl* directed by Tom Hooper and the script was created by Lucinda Coxon. Then, secondary data in the form of perspective sociology approach, film review, commentary, previous research and other sources of relevance.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The Characteristics of Transsexuality in *The Danish Girl* by Tom Hooper

- A. Characteristic reflected in the film *The Danish Girl*: being uncomfortable with their gender, the desire to change the appearance according to the desired gender, up to the presence of a desire for hormonal therapy or surgery according to a different gender or desired, a strong stance that she has the same feelings and reactions as her gender identity, Strong desire to show of a different gender identity. These characteristics are reflected in changes in behavior that appear to be transsexual. This is especially true for the main characters, namely when changing their appearance to doing their genitals.

- B. Characteristics that don't appear in *The Danish Girl* movie: Discrepancies between gender identity and gender, a strong desire to get rid of early gender characters because they don't feel congruent with gender identity, a strong desire to be treated as her gender identity, Gender desire becomes the opposite

gender identity. These characteristics are not reflected because the main character does not take actions that characterize transsexuals.

3.2 To Marriage Implication of Transsexuality

A. Spouse or wife

1. Shock

Gerda shows Einar the emotional side of changing her life because of the change in her life to a woman or another name from Einar, Lili. Gerda doesn't want to see Lili return to Einar's body anymore, Gerda tells Einar to stop what she thinks is absurd. The dialogue is supported by Gerda's expression that looks sad with glassy eyes when explaining to Einar.

2. Conflict

Gerda's wish to meet her husband however, Einar who has become Lili does not want to show Einar's side and remains Lili to make Gerda depressed, this can be seen from the facial expressions and cries that soften some of the makeup on her face.

Einar who is getting bolder to show Lili's figure makes Gerda emotionally hooked and has a debate with Einar which Einar wants to borrow Gerda's dress but Gerda does not allow it. It took Gerda by surprise because Einar didn't listen to what she was saying.

3. Negotiation

Depth conversation between Gerda and Einar, in which Gerda tries to discuss with Einar, as a wife she gives support to Einar. Although Gerda says that she feels guilty when making Einar a female model to be painted. But, Einar denies Gerda's words that she has helped Lili to live. Later, Gerda invites

Einar to try once again to consult a doctor. Facts that indicate negotiations when they speak with a comfortable feeling and support each other.

Lili and Gerda meet a doctor and tell the doctor the facts that happened to the doctor until the moment most realize that Gerda also believes if in fact Einar is a woman.

4. Finding Balance

Gerda accompanying Lili in the treatment room while Lili is in the process of undergoing surgery or changing her genitals to a female. Gerda sincerely hugs lilies who are feeling scared and worried about the surgery she is about to run.

Gerda told Einar not to worry and trust that everything will be fine. sentence that shows his love for Einar supports what he will do to achieve his freedom to become a transsexual.

Before continuing the process of the second operation Lili and Gerda take a walk in the hospital hallway while having a conversation, which makes Lili feel grateful to Gerda for making her beautiful like a woman, Lili also believes that Gerda has something strong in her that can make others feel the power.

The last surgical process that Lili had to undergo to become a complete woman, but when the surgery process was completed Lili suffered bleeding that made her weak with her body. This statement is supported by the dialogue below.

The doctor explained that Lili was struggling to lower her fever as a result of the surgery. Until Lili was conscious and able to talk, She invited Gerda to go to a park in the hospital below.

Lilies and Gerda are in a deep conversation situation in the park. This is the last scene of lilies or Einar because in this scene lilies go for ever next to

Gerda. In the end, the marriage between Einar and Gerda ended in the death of Einar.

B. Close Friends

1. Shock

when Gerda brings Einar to a party with a female-like appearance, then Gerda introduces Einar as lilies who are cousins of Einar. With a little surprise and astonishment Ulla called the name Lili with astonished expression. This is one of the stages where Ulla is surprised by Einar's similar appearance like a real woman.

2. Conflict.

Lili/Einar goes to Henrik's house which is his childhood friend first. Then Henrik tells Einar to enter his house, in the house Henrik told Einar/Lili to tell Gerda about their relationship as homosexual. Soon Henrik kisses Einar and when Henrik mentions Einar's name, it surprises him because Einar thinks that Henrik does not recognize him as Einar but as lili.one word that makes a conflict because Lili feels lied to by Henrik who pretends not to know him as Einar.

3. Negotiation

a. Ulla

The conversation describes Ulla as a friend who suggested to Gerda to bring Einar to meet with someone who is expert in dealing with problems experienced by Einar, Ulla explained to Gerda that there is a doctor who often come to Paris and he once had the same patient as what Einar. On the advice Ulla helped write a letter to Dr. Kurt that will provide the best solution for Einar. Dialog it can be used as a data that there was a negotiation between Gerda and Ulla for the good of Einar.

b. Hans

Hans suggested to Einar to check himself to the doctor because Einar felt different from him, The thing that can be stated that Hans is one of Einar's friends who he knows through Gerda. The dialogue also mentions that Hans is a friend Einar who supports and helps Einar decision in addressing the problem he is facing. Therefore, Hans suggested to Einar to meet with someone who can help him I understand the problems that exist in him.

4. Finding balance

Hans comes to Lili's treatment room with Gerda after Lili realizes from the first surgical process that Einar is doing, Hans asks her about her condition by referring to Einar's name as Lili. This is one form of support given to Einar who is a close friend, Hans was also pleased to see Einar smiling when he mentioned Lili's name. After the departure of Lili or Einar then Hans and Gerda headed to a hill where there is a very beautiful scenery like the painting that was made by Einar in the past. That place Gerda and Hans see the beauty of nature with a smile, before long there is a wind that blows quite strong which makes the shall he used to be carried away by the wind. Shall it is a shall that has been given by Einar but when they go to a place that is quite strong which makes shall he be carried away by the wind. Shall it's a shall that has been given by Einar but, when they go to a place that is the exact same as the painting Einar, Shall is like indicating that wanting to go to the owner is Einar and Gerda also let the shall fly with the wind. From the explanation conveyed, it can be seen that when Einar has gone, proof of loyalty as a friend and wife is still in them and do not forget it just like that.

3. 3 The Reason Tom Hooper Support Transsexual in *The Danish Girl*

Tom Hooper is a director who has produced interesting films and raised issues that exist in the community, one example of his film *The Danish Girl* released in 2015

adapted from a true story. The film tries to be a small note that can be understood more deeply before commenting and accusing transgender people. In an interview Tom answered the reasons for making transgender themes in his film.

"I think there's a huge pool of talented transgender actors out there, I hope transgender people have equal access to good opportunities in the future, so that it can be the beginning of a revolution that can improve access for transgender actors and transgender filmmakers." (Rotten Tomatoes, 2015)

From the answer above Tom hopes his film can bridge transgender people with the outside world, where there are still many people who see the talent of transgender people, even though their abilities are no less great than those in general.

4. CLOSING

Based on the Sociological approach, the perspective is clear for researchers to state that transsexual characteristics and implications appear in *The Danish Girl* film in the character of Einar. *The Danish Girl* film raises implications such as shock, conflict, negotiation and finding balance. While the characteristics that appear such as gender discomfort, changes in appearance, the desire to perform surgery, the desire to be the opposite gender identity, the desire to be recognized and all of that appears in *The Danish Girl* film. First, the characteristic transsexual consists of eight characteristics, namely Discrepancies between gender identity, A strong desire to get rid of early gender characters, Strong desire for different gender identity characteristics, A strong desire to be her gender identity, A strong desire to be treated as her gender identity, A strong stance that she has the same feelings and reactions as her gender identity, being uncomfortable with their gender, The desire to change the appearance according to the desired gender, up to the presence of a desire for hormonal therapy or surgery. That characteristic is reflected in the character and behavior when a man displays a female figure in film. However, there are 3 characteristics that are not reflected in the same feelings, treated and discrepancies with gender identity. Secondly, the transsexual implications that occur in marriage in *The Danish Girl*. There are four stages, namely

emotional, conflict, negotiation and Finding Balance. These four stages are reflected in the film *The Danish Girl*. Emotional arises when Gerda learns that Einar has turned into transgender, there is a conflict when Gerda wants to see the figure of her husband Einar and beg Einar but she remains a figure Lili Negotiations are at a stage when Gerda tells Einar to try to go to the doctor to find a way out and finally find balance when Gerda fully supports Einar to become transsexual. Third, the reason Tom Hooper supports transsexuals in his films. Tom ventured to raise this issue because he wanted to convey to the audience in addressing the psychological disabilities that exist in the family environment or to couples, and the community no longer considers the taboo of transsexuals in the community. This study aims to complete the previous research by using the same object that is *The Danish Girl*. This study also gets references from various other studies through the same object by raising different issues and approaches in previous research such as the study entitled Transgender in Tom Hooper *The Danish Girl* by Sari (2016). Both studies are strongly related to the current state of the global community on LGBT or transgender issues among the public. Researchers hope Lecturers can use the film *The Danish Girl* as material in teaching to students who take literature courses. By analyzing the theory suitable for the story in the film *The Danish Girl*. Also, This research can be a reference for students who take a corner of literature, using objects from the film *The Danish Girl* as well as sociological approaches that can be understood more deeply.

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