

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Gay is a sensitive issue that is discussed in the society. Many individuals think that homosexual is an abnormal orientation and individuals give their negative assumptions about homosexual. There are many stereotypes and discrimination over homosexual people. Many individuals still consistently depicted homosexuals as a deviation or abnormality. However, not many individuals react similarly. There have been many suppositions or contentions about homosexual in many points of view of society.

Gay culture in the society became a phenomenon. Many people assume negatively to gay culture, due of that many gay people who attempt to conceal and covertly their identities. But there are also some gay people who struggle to fight for their identity and counter about negative opinions. Many individual still think that this issue doesn't only to fight their sexual orientation, but this also became a moments to maintain their self-realization, self-confidence and self-love. This means that finding the trueself and finding self-identity is important.

Gay life potrayed in American films is entirely sensible to be examined in the study since the gay community is a part of social complexity. Many useful and captivating things can be investigated in gay movie. Gay is one of the intriguing issues for writers. Since the phenomenon of homosexuality especially gay is still became a socially sensitive issue among the individuals. There are still a few people who do investigate that raises the issue of gays in the study.

In *Love, Simon* movie, Greg Belanti as a film director explains that the representation of story in the movie is crucial. At first when he read the script he said that this movie is very related to his experience and he added several representation from his experience of being gay in his life. He said that he is the only person that can do this movie. In this case, he wants to give a representation about LGBT to the other individuals. The purpose of the representation in the movie is to tell many people the

story of the movie from the different perspective. In this case, Berlanti wants every people can understand and can give a respect to LGBT community or individual.

In *Love, Simon* movie, Berlanti said that he wants to defend and support the LGBT group. Since he openly revealed his sexual orientations as a homosexual. He has an important role in the movie and media entertainment industry. His position give a big impact to the development of LGBT in media industry. He was conceived on May 24, 1972, in New York. He is an American writer, film director and producer. He is likewise known for his work on the TV series and movie. He directed *Love, Simon* movie; a romantic, comedy-drama movie that became the first teenage gay romance in the major hollywood studio. He won many nomined awards such as WGA, DGA and Golden Globe as a writer, director and producer.

Love, Simon is a movie in 2018, directed by Greg Berlanti, the script written by Isaac Apteker and Elizabeth Berger, based on the novel entitled “*Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*” the novel written by Becky Albertalli. The movie represents of gay perspective in highschool life. The movie was nominated at GLAAD Media Awards and others.

Love, Simon movie tells highschools students named Simon Spier. He is a boy who has a normal life. He has a warm-hearted family and also he has 3 best friends. But despite that, he is gay (homosexual) and he hides it from his friends, his family, and everyone in his schools. Until one day he meets an anonymous person on his school website. The anonymous person has an initial name “Blue”. Blue tells in the website schools that he is gay. This is the reason why he was triggered to tells his secret to Blue that he is a homosexuals too. So, he tried to send an email to Blue. He was fallen in love with Blue and he wants to discover the identity of Blue. But, one day one of his friends named Martin knows the email conversation of Blue and Simon. He wants to reveal Simon’s secret to everyone in the schools if Simon doesn’t want to help him. Therefore, Martin revealed Simon’s secret into a school blog. Now, everyone in the schools knows that Simon was gay.

Love, Simon movie has the theme of romantic comedy of a gay tennager. The differences from the other romantic movie is the gay character is the lead character. Not many movie who raises a gay character as a lead character, also this movie is about teenager life in this modern life. This movie took many responses from the viewer. There are several negative and positive responses in this movie. But, generally the public response was good, positive, and receive this movie openly.

Love, Simon movie got many responses from the viewer. The critics praised this movie because the cast of the movie has a good acting, this movie make the audience feel warm-hearted, sweet and tender and this movie was best of the revolutionary normalcy movie. In California theater, during screening time; a teenager boy came to the director film to say that he is very thanked for make this movie with his smile left in his face.

Love, Simon movie got many critic and comment from the IMDb viewer. According to the IMDb articles, this movie get 7,6 rate that is based from 101,902 total reviews. There are 573 reviews who give a comments and critic about this movie. The review's rate score are betwen 1 to 10 score. In this part the writer divided into two sub category assessment. First is from many bad and negative comments are based from score 1 to 5 obtained scores of 72 people. The negative critics are about the plot is predictable, the story is cliché and boring, this movie only for the straight people (normal) to know how the homosexual fight for their right to sexual orientation. Second is from few negative critics are based from score 6 to 10 obtained scores of 441 people. The positive critic are first about the cuteness of the teenager romantic story. Second, the movie is relatable to the teenager life. Third, the actor and the actress was works really good. Fourth, the movie conveyed a good story and it appropriate to the goals of the movie. Fifth, anti-discriminations and anti-stereotypes. Sixth, this movie is the great adaptation from the original ones.

Love, Simon got huge response from market and industry. The movie won 10 awards and 23 nominations include GLAAD Media Awards, GAFCA, GALECA, Golden Trailers Awards and others. The budget of the movie was 10-17 million dollars and give a profits in the box office that is grossed around 66 million dollars. This is the 15th highest record of teen romance film since 1980. The movie was the first success gay teenager romcom in the major hollywood as a modern classic movies, also the gay character are played as the protagonist (lead character). The sequel version of this movie also made entitled "Love,Victor" (2020).

The appeals of the movie located in the theme of the movie, the moral messages, and the characterization. First, theme of the movie are raising an topic about gay (homosexuals) the issue of the topic is interesting to be analyze and to be studied in this research because many people (straight) still assume that homosexual is abnormal. Many people in the society is homophobic; is a situation where the straight people hate

and afraid to the homosexuals people. There are many negative reaction over the homosexual, for example the discrimination, stereotypes, bullying and etc.

Second, the moral messages of this movie is very touching to the viewers heart. This movie tell about how gay character struggling reveal his sexual orientation; his truly self identity but not only about a queernes, the crucial messages was conveyed in this movie. The messages are everyone deserves to be love, everyone deserves to be happy and everyone should be theirself.

Last but not least, the characterization and the casting of the actor is very good. Especially for Nick Robinson who was played as the gay lead character (Simon) even though he is a straight people. His acting to be a gay character is amazing, It feel like he is truly became that character.

Related to the topic, the researcher attracted to used *Love, Simon* movie, directed by Greg Berlanti. To examine the problem above, the writer decided to arrange the title of the research entitled, **“IN DEFENSE OF THE RIGHTS TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN THE GREG BERLANTI’S *LOVE, SIMON* (2018) MOVIE: A QUEER THEORY”**

B. Problem Statement

The major problem of the study is how gay is reflected in the *Love, Simon* movie. The problem of the study is dissected further into the following research questions.

1. What are the indicators of defense of homosexuality depicted in the *Love, Simon* movie?
2. How is the defense of homosexuality depicted in the *Love, Simon* movie?
3. Why did Greg Berlanti defend the sexual orientation rights in the *Love, Simon* movie?

C. Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study are as follows

1. To identify the indicators of defense of homosexuality depicted in the *Love, Simon* movie
2. To describe how the defense of homosexuality is depicted in *Love, Simon* movie
3. To find out why Greg Berlanti defend the sexual orientation rights in the *Love, Simon*

D. Significances of the Study

1. Theoretical Significance

The study contributes to the body knowledge, especially literary study on homosexuality that depicted in the movie.

2. Practical significance

The study enriches the present writer’s understanding of homosexuality that depicted in the movie.