

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Categorized gender as men and women and heterosexual is the only gender and preference acknowledge in a normal society. In normal society view, non-heterosexual people are considered as immoral, abnormal, and dangerous for their society. Moving forward to the future, non-heterosexual individuals pass their time with raising their voice and fight for the unfair right for their independence. They also believed that the normal genders and sexuality mere only a social construction; like how Hans Bertens (2008) says: “there is no traditionally heterosexual status as a ‘natural society’ and there is no stable relationship between biological sexuality and sexual desire” (p.184). In society there is no stable relationship between biological sexuality and sexual needs that require men to act men role and women act women role. The role in most categories have been established between men and women genders. The liminal space is the area between two genders actions and culture that cannot fit into only one side of society. Due to individual’s internal sense as male, female, or an identity between or outside the categories, they cannot embrace or sense their true identity in social life. In order to describe individual’s sense of their natural or un-natural gender the term *gender identity* has been used to describe them. (Wilchins, 2002).

Gender identity change is the thing that every people in the world cannot accept about it. Gender identity is closely related to gender role concept that defined as the outward manifestation that gender identity is reflect the personality. Gender identity change can be happened in the society that flexible about it and not all country is flexible about the gender identity change. After some time, homophobic ferocity and bad treatment pursuing homosexual persons happen on a standard basis. In majority European of countries, the right and equality of transsexual is suffered from violence, disturbance and difficulties gaining securities in society. One of the societies that allow gender identity change for some level of flexibility is U.S. This is meant that in U.S. both men and female can assume the opposite role of their gender identity without any thought about it. Individual that happens to identify their role that different from their biological sex called as transgender. Transgender people that attempt to change their bodies under medic such as surgery and hormonal therapy called transsexual. The awareness of familiarity with LGBT increasing when media, like movie, introduces LBGT including literary works.

The Danish Girl movie is a transgender movie that directed by Tom Hooper a British movie and television director who was born on October 5, 1972. For directing *The King's Speech*, Hooper won an Academy Award. In 2010 Hooper film was nominated for 12 Oscars, more than any other film that year and also won the Best Picture, Best Actors (Colin Firth), and Best Original Screenplay Oscars. In the award, Hooper was again a Directors

Guild of America Award nominee for directing Working Title Film' *Les Misérables*. Through the process, Hooper has come into some way to make his way into this big and make another great work such as *The Danish Girl*.

As known in public, *The Danish Girl* movie is an adaptation movie from the novel that have similar title '*The Danish Girl*' that written by David Ebershoff in 2000. The novel is about the life of transgender pioneer which struggles to seek his true identity. The novel is a historical novel in because it is the first novels that write first transsexual undergo a sex change set in early 1990s. The novel is accurately depicting Einar Wegener's story and emphasizes the love story between Einar and Gerda as its main theme.

The Danish Girl movie deserves the credit for being honest and bring out the emotional power of the story and served the complicated story in a succinct presentation. However, there are few changes that happen in the story that seem designed to increasing the impact of story that could be emotionally manipulative and wishes all historical movies is as accurate as this movie. *The Danish Girl* is the story of Danish artist namely Einar Wegener that played by Eddie Redmayne who realized that despite being born a man, his true gender identity is a woman and the woman identity is called Lili. Although Redmayne will quite obviously deserve the praise of the role as Lili, the outstanding performance is truly come from Alicia Vikander who plays Gerda Wegener. Bring out an impressive emotional play, both Redmayne and Vikander are play out this story as rich and relatable story. As Hooper characteristic, he draws more focus on the

characters feeling in significant moment and brings his camera in very close for tight focus on the character expressions that allow everything beyond their necks to go out focus.

Transgender themes and characters were achieved their greatest media visibility yet and appear on few media platform such as on TV with the show name is *Transparent* and BBC2's *Boy Meets Girl*, also in cinema with the movie title *Tangerine* and in an Australian drama *52 Tuesdays*. The appearance of transgender is also happened in the real world with the appearance of Caitlyn Jenner in 2015. By all the most mainstream-friendly phenomena, *The Danish Girl* is manifest on its appearance in cinema. Glossy affair of Lili's process of becoming a female is a complexity and challenge to Einar and Gerda relationship that buried under a glaze of design and act. Despite of Lili's eventual historic that went to medical operation that performed by Dr. Warnekros, we only achieve the sense that the protagonist is going to a process that dangerous. This movie is purposed to capture the picture of the struggle of self-realization by Einar Wegener much as Hooper did in *The King's Speech*. However, there were different dramatic weight and calculated styles for invoking feeling rather than stirs the feeling. In the tailoring of the story the requirements of prestige costume drama, decorous, bloodless film removes the operating table from Lili Elbe's story and puts the coffee table in its place.

The Danish Girl is an interesting movie. The story plot is interesting and engaged every people attention who wants to see a transsexual change

in transsexual point of view. *The Danish Girl* comprised of two central and tremendously difficult performances from Eddie Redmayne and Alicia Vikander. Eddie Redmayne is diving head the character mentally and physically to bring out the soul-bearing role. The issue about gender identity is interesting because people is usually judged people that happen to change their gender identity and judged by the majority who is differing based on sexual orientations and gender identities. People by the gender identity change that being judged and persecuted is happen to feel shame is thrust upon them. This is portrait well in *The Danish Girl* movie by Tom Hooper and this movie is want to bring out that it is fine to look out for your true identity.

The movie is comprised of two difficult and central performances from Eddie Redmayne and Alicia Vikander. Every nervous quiver and every accelerated breath of anxiety the actor dives head first into the story mentally and physically soul-bearing role. The researcher uses Roland Barthes's theory to analyze signs of Einar Wegener gender identity change through words, signs, images, object, and movement occurred in the movie that analyzed by parsing data based on the connotation, denotation and myths in *The Danish Girl* movie scene. The reason why the researcher is interested to analyze Einar's gender identity change is because the researcher wants to interpreting the signs of Einar Wegener gender identity change process through the subject, images, movement, and object that depicted Einar Wegener gender identity change.

1.2 Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study, the researcher formulates three questions to be analyzed in the research:

1. What signs presented Einar gender identity change process?
2. How is Einar gender identity change process depicted in the movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research question above, the objective of this research is formulated as follows:

1. To identify the signs that presented Einar process of gender identity change.
2. To describe Einar gender identity change depicted in the movie.

1.4 Significance of the Study

1. Theoretical Significance

The researcher of this research hopes to give contributes to literary study and providing more additional source of semiotic analysis especially using Roland Barthes's theory of semiotic to improve our knowledge and understanding of semiotics.

2. Practical Significance

This study is enriching the present writer's understanding the signs of Einar gender identity change depicted in *The Danish Girl* movie for the similar research as the other reference and could give more reference for the development of semiotics theory especially Barthes's semiotics theory.