

THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT ON INDIVIDUAL SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN ANDRÉ ACIMAN'S *CALL ME BY YOUR NAME*

Nezwa Shukhufi Maula; M. Thoyibi

Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, FKIP, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta

Abstrak

Penelitian ini difokuskan pada pengaruh lingkungan sosial terhadap orientasi seksual dalam novel *Call Me by Your Name* karya Andre Aciman. Untuk mencegah penyelidikan yang luas, beberapa spekulasi dan gagasan mendasar tentang pengaruh lingkungan sosial terhadap orientasi seksual individu digunakan dan diaplikasikan dengan menggunakan teori behaviorisme dan teori hermeneutika. Hasil dari tiga pertanyaan penelitian yang ada dalam penelitian ini adalah, pertama, pengaruh lingkungan sosial terhadap orientasi seksual dibagi menjadi dua jenis lingkungan sosial, lingkungan keluarga dan lingkungan masyarakat. Kemudian yang kedua adalah penggambaran pengaruh lingkungan sosial terhadap orientasi seksual yang digambarkan melalui tokoh, latar, peristiwa, dan gaya bahasa. Yang terakhir adalah alasan mengapa Andre Aciman sebagai novelis mengangkat pengaruh lingkungan sosial terhadap orientasi seksual dalam novelnya sebagai respon terhadap apa yang ia anggap sebagai hambatan adat dalam literatur homoseksual dan untuk memberikan sebuah kisah cinta sesama jenis dengan narasi romantis yang mendasar untuk menunjukkan bahwa sebuah kisah cinta yang menyimpang dari pakem tidak harus diiringi dengan elemen-elemen yang tidak menyenangkan.

Kata Kunci: lingkungan sosial, orientasi seksual, teori behaviorisme, teori hermeneutika.

Abstract

This research is focused on the influence of social environment on sexual orientation in Andre Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name*. To forestall wide investigation, a few fundamental speculations and ideas about the influence of social environment on individual sexual orientation are utilized and applied by using behaviorism theory and hermeneutics theory. The results of the three existing research questions in this study are, first, the influence of social environment on sexual orientation is divided into two types of social environment, family environment and society environment. Then the second is the depiction of the influence of the social environment on sexual orientation which is described through characters, settings, events, and styles. The last is the reasons why Andre Aciman as the novelist addresses the influence of social environment on sexual orientation in the novel in response to what he considers as customary obstacles in homosexual literature and to provide a same-sex love story with a basic romantic narrative to show that a love story that deviates from the standard does not have to be accompanied by unpleasant elements.

Keywords: social environment, sexual orientation, behaviorism theory, hermeneutics theory.

1. INTRODUCTION

In human life as social beings, it is inseparable from interaction activities with the social environment. The social environment is an environment that is very attached to human life

where daily activities are carried out. According to Muhroji, et al (2008: 72) the environment is something that is beyond the limits of a person's genetic capabilities and potential. This opinion is supported by Saragih, et al (2013: 2) that the social environment is all people/humans who influence individuals either directly or indirectly. The influence of this social environment has a very broad and large impact on human behavior including an individual's sexual orientation, as explained by APA that a number of studies that have been conducted indicate the possibility that biological factors, psychological development, and the influence of the social environment can influence a person's sexual orientation.

Sexual orientation, which is connected to sexuality, is concerned with who a person is sexually attracted to and wants to be in a romantic or sexual relationship with. According to Bailey (2016), Men, women, or both may be of interest depending on their sexual orientation. When it comes to sexual orientation, there are not only when men who fall in love with women, which we call heterosexual, as happens with most humans in general. But also in the other side, there are three most common sexual orientations that exist in this world: A homosexual or gay man is one who is attracted to and in love with another man, a lesbian woman is one who is attracted to and in love with another woman, and a bisexual person is one who is attracted to both sexes, male and female.

Although the words "gay," "lesbian," and "bisexual" are still often used today, it should be highlighted that sexual orientation can occur on a continuum rather than necessarily within clearly defined categories. Some persons who identify as bisexual actually only feel comfortable with certain people in their social environment, as happened and felt by Elio, one of the main characters in Andre Aciman's novel *Call Me By Your Name* which will be discussed in this research. Elio Perlman in *Call Me by Your Name* is a cautious 17-year-old American-Italian Jewish boy, who met with Oliver, a 24-year-old Columbia professor who stays with Elio and Elio's family for six weeks to search for Elio's father's assistance in revising his work. Their meeting and story set in Italy in the summer of 1980 can truly be defined as the cause and beginning of the significant changes that took place in Elio's life.

Elio experienced a strong sensation of love as a result of his attraction to Oliver that emerged from the start of their encounter, as well as the sense of comfort he felt and the habit of meeting also spending time together. The summary of the story above really shows how much influence the social environment has on a person's sexual orientation. As happened above, before Oliver's arrival, Elio was a normal teenage boy who had a close relationship with a woman named Marzia.

But after Oliver's arrival, everything changed drastically, the sense of comfort and attraction that Elio felt during his time with Oliver made Elio realize his bisexuality. Elio's sexual orientation seems to get a big influence from the social environment around him, especially those related to the people closest to him. This shows that there are influences from the social environment that contribute to influencing an individual's sexual orientation. There are three research questions in this study: what is the influence of social environment on sexual orientation in *Call Me by Your Name*?, how is the influence of social environment on sexual orientation described in *Call Me by Your Name*?, why is the influence of social environment on sexual orientation addressed in *Call Me by Your Name*?. To forestall wide investigation, a few fundamental speculations and ideas about the influence of social environment on individual sexual orientation are utilized and applied by using behaviorism theory and hermeneutics theory.

2. METHOD

In this research, the suitable type of study in finding and understanding the significance of nonliteral language was a distinct literary study with qualitative research which was applied on the grounds of this research. Literary studies and literary research were primarily concerned with the study of language. This sort of research does not manipulate the environment in any way. As the researcher goes along, the research plan takes shape gradually. Thus, the main goals of literary study are meaning building and reconstruction as well as interpretation and construction, as stated by Bateson (1972, pp. 101-102) that the reader is intended to draw attention to "interpretation" as the crucial step in the literary study process because the message contained in "the central activity" involved in literary study presupposes "interpretation" and requires.

Two different theories were used to answer the three research problems, behaviorism theory and hermeneutics theory. Behaviorism, which is also known as behavioral psychology, is a theory that says that all behaviors are learned through a process called conditioning when people interact with their environment. Therefore, behavior is merely a response to stimuli in the environment. According to behaviorist theory, human sexuality is not driven by a "force" as it is in lower animals, but rather a complicated issue dependent on various variables, some of which may be environmental.

In the theory of behaviorism, this research applies Ivan Pavlov's classical conditioning that can be applied to the issue of sexuality, in which natural cues are substituted with neutral stimuli to produce a certain behavior. As a result, because various cues are connected with different sexual behaviors in a community, individuals in a society adopt these beliefs (get conditioned) and replace these stimuli with their natural tendencies. This is also what happened to Elio from the novel *Call Me By Your Name* which is the main object of this research, there are two social environments that influence Elio's sexual orientation, they are the family environment which comes from the open-mindedness, tolerance, and support of Elio's father and mother, also the community environment which comes from Elio father's guests who visit and stay at his house.

Hermeneutics theory that will also be used in this research as an approach to interpretation to understand and interpret the literal meaning. According to Gadamer's hermeneutics, the interpreter searches for, constructs, and reassembles the meaning based on the context in which the interpretation was made; the meaning of the text will never be uniform. As a result, the meaning of the texts changes constantly depending on how, when, and who is reading them. The interpreter is the subject, and the interpretative objective is the object. The object's meaning is defined by the subject's relationship to it. This theory will be used to be able to interpret the meaning in written stories including the conversations in the novel *Call Me by Your Name* which will be able to help find answers to the problems in this research.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Result

This chapter is divided into three sections depending on the three research questions in this study. The first part will show the influencing factors of social environment on sexual orientation. Then the second part describes the depiction of the influence of social environment on sexual orientation. And the last part reveals the reasons for addressing the influence of social environment on sexual orientation in Andre Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name*.

An academically intelligent, inquisitive, and arrogant 17 years old American-Italian Jewish adolescent named Elio Perlman and a visiting 24 years old American Jewish scholar named Oliver in 1980s Italy are the focus of André Aciman's coming-of-age novel from 2007, *Call Me by Your Name*. Their summertime romance and the ensuing 20 years are detailed in the book. Elio was just seventeen years old when the story between him and Oliver begins in the summer of 1983.

Every summer, Elio's parents hosted a Ph.D. student for six weeks who helped with academic papers and revised book manuscripts. Oliver is one of those students and he stays at Elio's house for six weeks. When Oliver arrived, Elio felt attracted to him but didn't fully understand why, Elio gave him a delightful tour of the city and observed the way he presented himself. Oliver's puffy shirt that opens to his chest and the way he walks casually, boldly impresses Elio. Eventually, Elio recognizes he is sexually attracted to and in love with Oliver, but he is unable to act on his feelings. Instead, he attempts to keep his feelings hidden, hoping Oliver would do something to recognize the electricity that exists between them. At the same time, Elio just refuses to express himself whenever Oliver offers him the opportunity.

Elio's preoccupation with Oliver continues throughout the summer, until Oliver starts partying with the locals which allows Oliver to get to know and get close to a girl of the same age as Elio named Chiara. Because of this, Elio and Oliver's relationship becomes strained, they have short conversations and disguise their feelings through small talk. Elio, therefore, reciprocated by spending time with Marzia, a girl from his village who was very clearly interested in Elio. Eventually, when he can't stand it anymore, Elio reveals his feelings to Oliver. And Oliver also finally admits his feelings and also reveals to Elio that he has known Elio's feelings for a long time, even though Elio tries hard to hide them, since then they have had sexual intercourse and always enjoy their time together. Elio and Oliver's relationship intensified in the last weeks of his stay in Italy.

From the brief summary of the storyline of the novel *Call Me by Your Name* above, it can be seen that Elio is Bisexual, given the existence of Marzia between Elio and Oliver's story. Elio identifies as bisexual, which is defined as having a sexual orientation that allows for attraction to both genders, women, and men, or having a love interest in more than one gender, as said Daniel A. Knight, M.D in 2008 that a bisexual person enjoys both sexes at once. The evidence is the following excerpt from the novel *Call Me by Your Name*.

“Barely half an hour ago I was asking Oliver to fuck me and now here I was about to make love to Marzia, and yet neither had anything to do with the other except through Elio, who happened to be one and the same person.” (Aciman, 2007, p. 190, pdf)

From the statement above, Elio clearly displays his bisexuality in the novel when he even makes love to Marzia after inviting Oliver to have sex. As a bisexual who may consciously desire two people of different genders at the same time, Elio is said to be able to love two genders at once. Elio's bisexuality must have factors that influence his sexual orientation, these factors mainly come from the people around Elio or can be called Elio's social environment. This proves that there are influencing factors of social environment on Elio's sexual orientation, in addition, there must also be a depiction of the influence of social environment on Elio's sexual orientation described in the novel *Call Me by Your Name*, and there are also reasons why the influence of social environment on Elio's sexual orientation is addressed in the novel.

3.1.1 The Influencing Factors of Social Environment on Sexual Orientation

The influencing factors of social environment on sexual orientation that occur in Elio come from two different types of social environments, the family environment and the society environment. According to Dilorio (2004), friends and family have the greatest influence on adolescents' sexual orientation and behavior.

3.1.1.1 Family environment

The family environment is the first social environment faced by everyone in the world including Elio, therefore in this context, the environment consisting of Elio's father and mother is the first social environment that influences Elio's sexual orientation. Elio's family is depicted in *Call Me by Your Name* as a very harmonious family, the family always eats together and never quarrels, both parents also have an open mind, high tolerance, and the support they always show to their only child. Elio's family is cultured and educated, given the fact that his parents host young scholars every summer, because Elio's father works as an archaeology professor and his mother as a translator, it can be assumed that this is a family dedicated to intellectual pursuits.

3.1.1.1.1 Open-mindedness

Elio's almost perfect family situation has a huge influence on Elio's bisexuality. The influence factor coming from Elio's family environment can be seen in the openmindedness of his father and mother who encouraged Elio to open up to his parents about his identity as bisexual, which clearly shows how the family environment influenced Elio to become bisexual. The condition of open-mindedness in Elio's family environment makes Elio does not experience any challenges with his family members regarding his bisexuality, as shown in the piece of the novel *Call Me by Your Name* below.

“I will have been a terrible father if, one day, you’d want to speak to me and felt that the door was shut or not sufficiently open.” I wanted to ask him how he knew. But then how could he not have known? How could anyone not have known? “Does Mother know?” I asked. I was going to say suspect but corrected myself. “I don’t think she does.” His voice meant, but even if she did, I am sure her attitude would be no different than mine.” (Aciman, 2007, p. 291, pdf)

The sentence above shows the open-mindedness of Elio's parents. Elio's father knows everything, he knows the real thing that happened to his son, he just wants his son to be honest and open to reveal his true identity without fear of rejection from him or his mother. Elio's father implicitly assures Elio that Elio's mother will definitely do the same as he does, which is to accept and support Elio in any decision he makes, one of which is to become bisexual. Elio's father really wants his son to always be able to show his true identity without any cover-up, he also shows that the door of support and acceptance is never closed.

3.1.1.1.2 Tolerance of value differences

Tolerance is the second special thing that Elio's father and mother have, as heterosexual parents who have a bisexual child, they can still accept their son's relationship well for their son's decision. Tolerance can be in the form of giving positive affirmations, including Elio's parents, especially Elio's father who shows his tolerance for his son's relationship in the form of words of praise that can please his son.

“What you two had had everything and nothing to do with intelligence. He was good, and you were both lucky to have found each other because you too are good”. (Aciman, 2007, p. 289, pdf)

From the sentence above, it can be concluded that Elio's father who already knows his son's relationship with his guest scholar gives a form of tolerance by praising the good relationship between the two, he even says that they are both very lucky to find each other and establish a relationship. The praise was directed by Elio's father to Elio and Oliver as a form of tolerance and acceptance that he gave. This has a huge impact on Elio's confidence as a bisexual child born to heterosexual parents, as stated by Rohner, Khaleque, & Cournoyer, Parental Acceptance-Rejection theorists, claim that LGBT child all around the world requires a certain type of positive response acceptance-from their parents. (2005, p. 300).

3.1.1.1.3 Support for each other's choices

Elio's mom and dad are the parents who nurture Elio in the best way a parent could wish for. When Elio is like a teenage boy starting a sexual adventure, his father responds assertively and non-judgmentally. Elio's father is always gentle and does not hesitate to cradle Elio with affection while offering the support of a safe space if Elio is willing to open up.

The advantages of strong parental acceptance are especially beneficial to LGBT youngsters. According to Grov, Bimbi, NanN, Parsons (2006), and Ryan (2003), LGBT children reveal their sexual identity to their parents at an earlier age, increasing their time at home and exposing them to their parent's reactions to their sexual identity. As a result, parental reaction in the form of support is something that is highly expected by LGBT children including bisexual children like Elio.

“Look,” he interrupted. “You had a beautiful friendship. Maybe more than a friendship. And I envy you. In my place, most parents would hope the whole thing goes away, or pray that their sons land on their feet soon enough. But I am not such a parent.” (Aciman, 2007, p. 290, pdf)

The support from Elio's parents, especially Elio's father, who can be seen in the statement above demonstrating that he was never against anything that transpired and became the decision taken by his son, Elio, is another factor that shows that family is the key impact in Elio's bisexuality. According to Ryan, Russell, Huebner, Diaz, and Sanchez (2010), having parents that embrace their child's LGBT identity might be a protective factor that promotes well-being.

Elio's father understood and was aware that the bond formed between Elio and Oliver was more than just a friendship; nevertheless, unlike other parents at that time, he never rejected this truth and instead decided to accept it for the sake of his son's pleasure. As a family with a heterosexual family background, Elio's father still supports his son towards his bisexuality, this assistance also entails influencing Elio's development to bisexuality. As Saewyc stated in 2004 that determining one's sexual orientation is one of the developmental responsibilities in adolescence. One of Elio's motivating factors for being able to discover his sexual orientation was his father's indirect genuine support and blessing.

3.1.1.2 Society environment

On the other hand, Elio's sexual orientation is also significantly influenced by his environment outside of his family, or what may be called the society environment. Since Elio's father was a professor of archaeology, every summer, Elio's parents invited a young academic to revise the manuscript before publication and stay with them for six weeks in their Italian summer house.

3.1.1.2.1 The arrival of visiting scholars

Oliver is a twenty-four-year-old Columbia University professor who travels to the Italian village as a visiting scholar of Elio's father to spend six weeks with Elio's family in order to complete a book project.

“All these started the summer Oliver came into our house”. (Aciman, 2007, p. 15)

The sentence above explains that the story, which is an influencing factor of the society environment begins after Oliver's arrival, it really gives something different that greatly affects Elio's life.

“And yet, about two weeks after his arrival, all I wanted every night was for him to leave his room, not via its front door, but through the French windows on our balcony.” (Aciman, 2007, p. 37, pdf)

Ever since Oliver's arrival, Elio felt a different feeling of interest that he felt, he always wanted to see and be with Oliver. As Pines states in her book *Falling in Love*, romantic love is one of the most powerful emotions ever felt, and people will feel more at ease with the people they are interested in (Pines, 2005:25). The frequent encounters and interactions between the two of them led Elio to realize that their six weeks together had caused him to fall in love and experience sexual attraction to Oliver. As stated by Baumle (2010) that the influence of ethnicity along the border has contributed to Americans and Mexicans cohabitating and turning homosexual (gay and lesbian). This demonstrates how a person's sexual orientation can be impacted by their practice of living with someone for an extended period of time. This is what happened to Elio, because of his affiliation and familiarity with Oliver, as well as his comfort and admiration for Oliver, Elio became bisexual as a result of this atmosphere.

3.1.2 Depiction of the Influence of Social Environment on Sexual Orientation

The depiction of the influence of the two social environments on Elio's bisexuality is divided into four parts, the characters, the setting, the events, and the style.

3.1.2.1 Through characters

The characters in the novel *Call Me by Your Name* are described through the sexual orientation in the story. There are two types of sexual orientation depicted, heterosexual or people with normal sexual orientation in general where men fall in love with women and vice versa, then bisexuals, or people who can fall in love with two genders, men and women. Both sexual orientations are portrayed through the two social environments that influence Elio. In this case, heterosexuality is depicted through Elio's family environment which is none other than Elio's father and mother, where both of Elio's parents are depicted as having a heterosexual background. The depiction of Elio's parents as heterosexual and Elio as bisexual can be seen in the following excerpts of the novel.

“Then let me say one more thing. It will clear the air. I may have come close, but I never had what you had. Something always held me back or stood in the way. How you live your life is your business. But remember, our hearts and our bodies are given to us only once”. (Aciman, 2007, p. 290, pdf)

From the sentence fragment above, it can be concluded that Elio's father tells Elio about a feeling of love that he had experienced in his previous life, but with different things. The difference thing here is sexual orientation, Elio's father explained that he had experienced the same thing as his son, feeling confused about feelings of love directed at someone, but Elio's father never felt confused about feelings directed at the same sex, as Elio felt. As Elio's father, Mr. Perlman knows his son's feelings for Oliver, and he also knows the confusion that his son is feeling in his heart.

Basically, the confusion that Elio feels is a result of his thinking about the circumstances in his family environment, Elio thinks that it is impossible for him to be attracted to both sexes because he was raised by a heterosexual family. But on the other hand, as Foucault (1976) states that a person's curiosity is more than discovering the secret side of his desires and creating a new form of relationship that he has never known before. Foucault's opinion relates to what happened to Elio that he is still looking for his identity as a bisexual who comes from a heterosexual family, Elio's father also convinces his son about his son's feelings for Oliver, so that his son can realize that this is very possible because what is felt in the human heart is the business of each individual.

3.1.2.2 Through setting

The influence of the social environment on sexual orientation in the novel *Call Me by Your Name* is depicted through the place that serves as the background setting for the story. Every story between Elio and Oliver is depicted in several spots in Elio's house, therefore there are many places in Elio's house that can make Elio remember his story with Oliver. Oliver stayed at Elio's house for only six weeks, then after the time was over Oliver returned to Columbia to continue his life, after Oliver's departure, Elio could only remember their beautiful story through places in every corner of his house that he had passed with Oliver, as described in the following novel content.

“I wanted to tell him that the pool, the garden, the house, the tennis court, the role of paradise, the whole place, would always be his ghost spot”. (Aciman, 2007, p. 319, pdf)

The sentence above explains that several places in Elio's house such as the swimming pool, garden, tennis court, and the whole house are proof of how many stories Elio has gone through with Oliver while in his house. The depiction of the place is evidence of the influence brought by Oliver as a community environment that affects Elio's bisexuality. The place is used by Elio as a background setting that becomes a ghost spot for Oliver, which means that even though Oliver no longer lives in his house, the place is evidence of the depiction of his story with Oliver that he will never forget.

3.1.2.3 Through events

The depiction of the influence of the family environment on Elio's bisexuality is also described through the important events that occur in the novel, one of them is an event related to sexual activities that occur between Elio and Oliver, as in one of the following contents of the novel.

“Because he brought his lips to my mouth, a warm, conciliatory, I’ll-meet-you- halfway-but-no-further kiss till he realized how famished mine was. I wished I knew how to calibrate my kiss the way he did”. (Aciman, 2007, p. 107, pdf)

The snippet of events that occurred in the novel above illustrates how Oliver kissed Elio, they kissed slowly starting with Oliver bringing his lips closer to Elio's, then they kissed each other deeper and deeper, so their kiss seemed to be what they had been waiting for. As stated by Busby, Veronica, & E that kissing can be interpreted as a feeling of affection in interacting and strengthening an interaction because kissing can convey intimacy between partners in a romantic interaction, that is why the kiss between Elio and Oliver is an event that describes the intimate interaction they both feel. According to Najamuddin (2019), kissing is observed in cultures that view kissing as one's desire as a couple to express affection and share body movements. The kiss that occurred between Elio and Oliver became an event that expressed feelings of love between each other, which also influenced both of them to realize their feelings for each other, especially Elio who became aware of his bisexuality. Elio and Oliver focus on their erotic intimacy as a portrayal of the love they feel for each other. Starting from the attraction that Elio feels towards Oliver, continuing into feelings of love then shown through various events that are passed together makes evidence of the depiction of the influence of the social environment on sexual orientation.

3.1.2.4 Through style

The last is the depiction of the influence of the social environment on sexual orientation through style. What is meant by style in this case is the style of describing the symbols

of sexuality in the novel *Call Me by Your Name* which are depicted through peaches. Peaches are defined as innocence, wisdom, and love, as said by Variano (2015) that in the Renaissance, peaches, melons, and pumpkins were symbols of homosexuality or same-sex relationships. When associated with the novel *Call Me by Your Name*, peaches are described as a symbol of same-sex relationships that occur between Elio and Oliver.

“His peaches were more apricots than peaches, except larger, juicier. I had already tried the animal kingdom. Now I was moving to the kingdom of plants. Next would come minerals. The idea almost made me chuckle. The fruit was leaking all over my cock. If Oliver walked in on me now, I’d let him suck me as he had this morning. (Aciman, 2007, p. 192, pdf)

The peach scene in the novel above is one of the most intense parts of the story where Elio releases his sexual desire and climaxes through a peach. In the novel, Aciman as the author of the novel, chooses the peach as the object of Elio's sexuality rather than Oliver to satisfy his sexual desire, because in same-sex relationships, the peach is a symbol of sexuality, by tearing the peach, Elio tries to stick his genitals into the peach which is shaped like an ass. Elio's sexual desire is clearly depicted through the peach scene in the novel, his desire to have sex with Oliver is inhibited because he has not expressed his feelings for Oliver. Therefore, to fulfill his desire, Elio takes a peach from the garden, brings it, and plays with it as if he is having sexual activities with Oliver, the depiction proves the influence that affects Elio's sexual orientation.

3.1.3 Reasons for Addressing the Influence of Social Environment on Sexual Orientation

Every novel has a specific background or purpose that the author had in mind when they wrote it. The story that appears in a novel comes from some aspect of life, whether it be their own experience, the experience of others, their imagination, or even a blend of their reality and their imagination. As a result, each story has a unique quality that sets it apart from the others. American author André Aciman published his coming-of-age novel *Call Me by Your Name* in 2007. André Aciman is an American LGBTQ author of memoirs, essays, and novels, and studies the literature of the seventeenth century. André Aciman was born in Alexandria, Egypt on January 2, 1951. He grew up in a bilingual, Jewish household and attended English language schools in Alexandria and Rome before relocating to New York City in 1968. Aciman is featured in the article, the litfest's *About: Sex Special* (Silent Green, September 18, 18:00), in which he talks about how homosexual sex is depicted in literature. Aciman avoids queries regarding his sexual orientation because he is married and has three boys. He likes to refer to the mechanics of desire and obsession as a mental state and a group of events connected to memory and identity.

A Quote comes from the i-D article by Matthew Whitehouse on November 12, 2018, with the title of the article "Call Me By Your Name author André Aciman on what makes a writer", the article contains questions asked by Matthew regarding the creation of the novel Call Me By Your Name and André Aciman as the resource person provides detailed answers. One of the questions is about the idea that underlies the creation of the novel.

- **I-D:** *"So your ideas come from experience?"*

- **André Aciman:** *"Well, no, not really, because I haven't lived that much. I don't think I am experienced in the way that people who have traveled the world, met a lot of lovers, or done many things.*

From André Aciman's explanation above, it can be concluded that the story in the novel Call Me by Your Name is truly a fantasy story that is the product of André Aciman's extensive imagination. Aciman clarifies that he was never personally affected by any of the events depicted in his book Call Me by Your Name. He claimed that as he was writing the plot for his book, he merely imagined the incidents and situations as if they were actually taking place.

The reasons behind André Aciman's writing novels in the LGBT genre can be found in an interview conducted by Aaron Hicklin on December 7, 2017, which was written in an article entitled " Call Me By Your Name Author: They All Deserve Oscars". From the article, there is one of the questions Aaron asked Aciman which relates to the reason why Aciman wrote the LGBT novel.

- **Aaron Hicklin:** *"You're a straight man who wrote a very queer novel but with a difference: Queer fiction has historically focused on parental rejection. You've turned that around by not making that an issue, the mother and father are not the enemy."*

- **André Aciman:** *"I didn't want the parents (of Elio) to be difficult; I didn't want him to have friends who would make fun of him, and I didn't want anything like that. They're all cop-outs. I don't think I ever write seeking easy tragic cop-outs, the type you see in most stories where one person gets killed, or there's an accident because people can't confront the real issue. This is a boy who feels attractive and does not feel that there is anything wrong with that. He is comfortable with himself and what he wants in life. Nobody seems to judge him. The maid in the house who barely has an inkling of what's going on doesn't even say anything."*

Aciman explained that he did not want Elio, the main character in his novel, to have challenging parents or friends who would mock him for his sexual orientation. Aciman never writes for the easy, sad way out, or for the sort of scenario in which one person is murdered or accidents occur because others are unable to confront the true concerns. Aciman remarked that he wrote a novel with such a plot to illustrate the life of a boy who felt gorgeous and didn't think that there was anything wrong with it. Aciman just intended to give a same-sex love tale with a basic romantic narrative to demonstrate that a love story that deviates from the standard does not have to be accompanied by unpleasant elements.

This is what shows that there is an influence of the social environment on Elio's sexual orientation. The support and openness of people around Elio and the existence and behavior of people in a person's social environment greatly influence an individual's sexual orientation, even a major influence on the love story and the true identity of their sexual orientation. So it can be concluded that the influence of the social environment on sexual orientation is addressed by Andre Aciman in his novel entitled *Call Me by Your Name*.

3.2 Discussion

Based on the three research questions that have been elaborated through the findings above, from the factors that influence the social environment on sexual orientation which is divided into two types of social environment, they are the family environment and the community environment. In the family environment itself, there are three types of factors that influence Elio's bisexuality, the three factors are the open-mindedness of Elio's father and mother, tolerance for differences in values given by Elio's parents to differences in sexual orientation that occur in Elio as their only child, and the support shown by Elio's father and mother for Elio's choice to become a bisexual. On the other side, in terms of the influence of the social environment, Elio's bisexuality is influenced by the arrival of a visiting scholar named Oliver who stayed at Elio's house for six weeks to help Elio's father's research. The frequent encounters and interactions between the two of them led Elio to realize that their six weeks together had caused him to fall in love and experience sexual attraction to Oliver, this is what makes Elio become bisexual.

The depiction of the influence of the social environment on sexual orientation is described through four things, namely through characters, settings, events, and language styles. André Aciman claimed that the story between Elio and Oliver might be related to the stories of people in real life, especially the difficult relationship that Elio and Oliver feel as a homosexual couple in normal society in general. Oliver's arrival makes Elio sexually attracted, confusing Elio at first about his own feelings, he is confused about what he should do when he has feelings for another man. But with the influence of the family environment and the society environment around Eliomade Elio is sure to express his feelings to Oliver so that they both dare to have a relationship that is further through sexual activity, this shows that there is an influence of the social environment on sexual orientation in the novel by Andre Aciman. So it can be concluded that André Aciman really wanted to show how important and how big the influence of the social environment is on human behavior, including how it can affect sexual orientation.

The findings above are the results obtained by applying the theories used in this research, the two theoretical perspectives being behaviorism theory and hermeneutics theory. From the perspective of behaviorism theory, Ivan Pavlov's classical conditioning is the most appropriate to use in this study, Pavlov's findings can be applied to the issue of sexuality, where natural cues are replaced with neutral stimuli to produce certain behaviors. This is what has relevance to the character Elio in the novel *Call Me by Your Name* which is the main object of this study, there are two social environments that influence Elio's sexual orientation, the family environment which comes from open-mindedness, tolerance, and support of Elio's father and mother, as well as the community environment which comes from Elio's father's visiting scholar.

From the perspective of hermeneutic theory, Gadamer's hermeneutics theory is used, because according to Gadamer's hermeneutics, the interpreter seeks, constructs, and reconstructs meaning based on the context in which the interpretation is carried out, where the meaning of the text will never be uniform. In this study, this theory is used to answer the three existing research problems, the researcher applies hermeneutics theory to interpret the contents of the novel *Call Me by Your Name* by Andre Aciman, starting from the storyline in the novel, the depiction by the characters directly or indirectly, the characters' conversations, as well as the explicit language mentioned in the entire content of the novel which is the main data in this study. In addition, hermeneutics theory is also used to interpret the intent and meaning of the content of online novels, books, and articles included as additional data in this study.

The findings obtained in this study are the influence of social environment on sexual orientation in Andre Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name*. The research that makes Elio, one of the main characters in the novel as the main discussion, produces findings where Elio becomes bisexual because of the influence of two social environments around him, including the family environment and the community environment. When viewed from previous studies included in this study, it can be concluded that the findings in this study can be used as additional research information for previous research conducted by Lesi Yunita Tinningrum which is a 2019 research with the title "Bisexuality reflected on Andre Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name* (2007): A Sociological Approach". This research also supports Erisa Mirani's previous research in 2019 entitled "Male Characters Bisexuality in Andre Aciman's *Call Me By Your Name*" and Arisma Elisha's research in 2020 entitled "Bisexuality in Andre Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name*", which equally shows the bisexuality of the main character in the novel *Call Me by Your Name*.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this research analysis, Elio is bisexual or a person who likes both men and women and is influenced by his social environment. According to three current research questions that show the influence of the social environment on sexual orientation, the influencing factors of social environment on sexual orientation which is divided into two types of social environment, they are the family environment and the community environment. In the family environment itself, there are three types of factors that influence Elio's bisexuality, the three factors are the open-mindedness of Elio's father and mother, tolerance for differences in values given by Elio's parents to differences in sexual orientation that occur in Elio as their only child, and the support shown by Elio's father and mother for Elio's choice to become a bisexual. On the other side, in terms of the influence of the social environment, Elio's bisexuality is influenced by the arrival of a visiting scholar named Oliver who stayed at Elio's house for six weeks to help Elio's father's research.

The depiction of the influence of the social environment on sexual orientation is described through four things, namely through characters, settings, events, and language styles. The depiction through characters is depicted through the sexual orientation in the novel, which is heterosexual or people who have a normal sexual orientation in general where men fall in love with women and vice versa, then bisexual or people who can fall in love with two genders at once, men and women. The influence of social environment on sexual orientation in the novel *Call Me by Your Name* is depicted through the place that serves as the background setting for the

story. The depiction of influence of the family environment on Elio's bisexuality is also described through the important events that occur in the novel, one of them being an event related to sexual activities that occur between Elio and Oliver. And the last is a depiction of the influence of the social environment on sexual orientation through style. What is meant by style in this case is the style of describing the symbols of sexuality in the novel *Call Me by Your Name* which are depicted through peaches. When associated with the novel *Call Me by Your Name*, peaches are described as a symbol of same-sex relationships that occur between Elio and Oliver.

The last one is the reasons for the influence of social environment on sexual orientation addressed in Andre Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name*. From various web sources quoted in this research regarding Andre Aciman and the production of his books, it can be concluded that the story in the novel *Call Me by Your Name* is truly a fantasy story that is the product of André Aciman's extensive imagination. He was never personally affected by any of the events depicted in his book *Call Me by Your Name* and he merely imagined the incidents also the situations as if they were actually taking place. André Aciman wrote *Call Me By Your Name* in response to what he perceived as the customary barriers in homosexual literature. Aciman explained that he did not want Elio, the main character in his novel, to have challenging parents or friends who would mock him for his sexual orientation. He just intended to give a same-sex love tale with a basic romantic narrative to demonstrate that a love story that deviates from the standard does not have to be accompanied by unpleasant elements. This shows that there is an influence of the social environment on sexual orientation in the novel by Andre Aciman. So it can be concluded that André Aciman really wanted to show how important and how big the influence of the social environment is on human behavior, including how it can affect sexual orientation.

REFERENCES

- Akter, S. (2022, 1 10). Exploring the Nature of Desire in Andre Aciman's *Call Me By Your Name*: From Page to Screen by Luca Guadagnino. 1-57.
- Albertsen, L. (2020). The portrayal of sexuality in André Aciman's novel *Call Me by Your Name* (2007) and Luca Guadagnino's film adaption *Call Me by Your Name* (2017). 12.
- Barreal, D. (n.d.). To Speak or to Die: The Importance and Achievements of Luca Guadagnino's *Call Me by Your Name* (2017). 38. Retrieved from https://ddd.uab.cat/pub/tfg/2020/231961/DalmauBarrealAlex_TFG2020.pdf
- Bogaard, N. v. (2020, 7 3). The Changing Perceptions of Gay Identities Queer Representation in *Call Me by Your Name* and *The Song of Achilles*. 40.
- Cahyani, A. P. (2019). Elio And Oliver's Negotiation On Heteronormativity In André Aciman's *Call Me By Your Name*. Retrieved from <http://lib.unair.ac.id>
- Clarke, G. R. (2019). Waiting for a queer change: Gender identity through performative waiting

- and the Boudoir Chronotope in *Call Me By Your Name*. Retrieved from https://ro.ecu.edu.au/theses_hons/1536
- Devereaux, A. (2019, 5). Universal Love and “Ageless Ambiguity”: Political Erasure in *Call Me By Your Name*. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.wm.edu/honorstheses/1365>
- Duverger, R. (2021). Construction of a Queer Identity in André Aciman’s *Call Me by Your Name* and Neil Bartlett’s *Skin Lane*. Retrieved from <https://dumas.ccsd.cnrs.fr/dumas-03379608>
- Elisha, A. (2020). Bisexuality in Andre Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name*. Retrieved from <http://repository.untag-sby.ac.id/11721/9/JURNAL.pdf>
- Faidah, A. N., & Rosida, I. (n.d.). Picturing Homosexual Gestures in *Call Me by Your Name: Gender Performativity, Sexual Identity, and Sexual Activity*. 05, 46-61. doi:<https://doi.org/10.30996/anaphora.v5i1.6410>
- Fatmihatun. (2022). Homosexuality as A Rebellion Against Established Culture in the Novel "*Call Me by Your Name*" by Andre Aciman (Viewed from Queer Theory).
- Firhat, M. (2019). Bisexuality: Sexual Orientation Identity Crisis in André Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name*.
- Harten, Z. V. (2018). *Call Me Queer: Queer Theory and the Soundtrack of Call Me by Your Name*.
- Isenhour, A. (2020). A Twisted Sk wisted Skein of Desire of Desire: Conf e: Confession, Gaz session, Gaze, and Time in Andr e, and Time in Andre Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name*. Retrieved from <https://scholarship.richmond.edu/honors-theses/1490>
- Mirani, E. (2019). Male Characters Bisexuality in Andre Aciman’s *Call Me By Your Name*. 07, 5.
- Novenia, M. (2019). Elio`s defense mechanisms in concealing his homosexuality in Andre Aciman`s *Call Me by Your Name*. 63.
- Pratiwi, D. (2018, 12 18). Heteroflexibility of The Main Characters in *Call Me by Your Name* movie directed by Luca Guadagnino.
- Tinningrum, L. Y. (2020). Bisexuality Reflected on Andre Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name* (2007): A Sociological Approach. 11.
- Windriani, A., & Pramesti, T. (2021, 7 1). Homosexuality in Andre Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name*. 4, 70-78. doi:<https://doi.org/10.30996/anaphora.v4i1.5250>
- Wulandari, N. S., & Yaqin, M. A. (n.d.). A Study of Speech Act in "*Call Me By Your Name*" Movie. 32-41.