JOURNAL

GENDER NONCONFORMITY OF LGBT REFLECTED ON "A KID LIKE JAKE" A QUEER PERPECTIVE

Writer by:

M. Kalimulloh NIM. 147095

Approved on February 11th, 2020

Advisor

(<u>M. Syaifudin, S.S., M.A.</u>) NIK. 0720058006

Gender Nonconformity of LGBT Reflected on "A Kid Like Jake" A Queer Perspective

M. Kalimulloh,

E-mail: Muhkalim02@gmail.com,

Departement of English Language Education STKIP PGRI Jombang

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to determine the LGBT that occurs in Jake (minority figures) and also to know the social impact experienced by the main character. In this study, the researcher used the film "A Kid Like Jake" as an object of research. This research is a descriptive qualitative study because the data obtained by researchers in the form of dialogue quotations and film scenarios are interpreted by linking them with the theory used in the study. The theory used in this research is Queer theory to link LGBT with literary works and Sociological approach to find out the social impacts obtained by LGBT. The concept will be used to answer research questions. The researcher concluded that Jake did reflect LGBT in terms of personality and physical appearance played by Jake in referring to LGBT. Jake has a personality that is more dominant than female gender; he prefers to look like a queen rather than look appropriate to his gender. Then the researcher also found that the factor that influenced Jake to reflect LGBT was the role of his parents who influenced changes in his original gender. For the social impact that occurs in Jake's family is in the form of negative impacts such as bullying, discrimination, etc.

Key Terms : *LGBT*, *Queer theory*, *A Kid Like Jake film*

Abstract

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menentukan LGBT yang terjadi pada Jake (tokoh minoritas) dan juga untuk mengetahui dampak sosial yang dialami oleh karakter utama. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan film "A Kid Like Jake" sebagai objek penelitian. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif deskriptif karena data yang diperoleh oleh peneliti dalam bentuk kutipan dialog dan skenario film ditafsirkan dengan mengaitkannya dengan teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori Queer untuk menghubungkan LGBT dengan karya sastra dan pendekatan sosiologis untuk mengetahui dampak sosial yang diperoleh LGBT. Konsep tersebut akan digunakan untuk menjawab pertanyaan penelitian. Peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa Jake memang mencerminkan LGBT dalam hal kepribadian dan penampilan fisik yang dimainkan oleh Jake dalam merujuk pada LGBT. Jake memiliki kepribadian yang lebih dominan daripada jenis kelamin perempuan; dia lebih suka terlihat

seperti seorang ratu daripada terlihat cocok dengan jenis kelaminnya. Kemudian peneliti juga menemukan bahwa faktor yang memengaruhi Jake untuk mencerminkan LGBT adalah peran orang tuanya yang memengaruhi perubahan gender aslinya. Untuk dampak sosial yang terjadi dalam keluarga Jake adalah dalam bentuk dampak negatif seperti bullying, diskriminasi, dll.

Kata kunci: LGBT, Teori Queer, A Kid Like Jake film

Introduction

Literary products are known as literary works that are used to express ideas. There are several types of literature, such as short stories, novels, poetry, films, and fiction. Everything is an imaginative discovery. Film is one example for people who want to take values about human life through literary works. One of the literary works that attracts people's attention is film. People can more easily understand and analyze films (Klaler 2004: 57). Film is also a form of globalization of people's thinking. One of them is about the phenomenon of gender mismatches such as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). In literature, a theory that includes gender mismatches or someone who behaves in a way that is not gender-appropriate is Queer's theory.

This LGBT phenomenon in society is one of the factors causing problems in social structures. Society assumes that a person has a behavior that is opposite to his sex is a bad thing or can not be accepted by society. Means between gender mismatches, social structures are interconnected. This research was conducted to raise an LGBT problem outside of community perceptions that LGBT often occurs in adolescence to adulthood but can also occur at an early age. In a previous study by Rohmah (2017) entitled "Coherent identity in the novel Tabula Rasa by Ratih Kumala" and Kusuma (2015) entitled "Transgender in Julie Anne Peters" stated that in the results of his research, a person with LGBT was a teenager to adult. can be seen from the object of research that there are several discussions about marriage, the environment and place settings in the object. However, this research is more focused on raising the phenomenon of LGBT that occurs at an early age contained in the film A Kid Like Jake.

In this study, researcher raised the phenomenon of LGBT because between LGBT and sex education are interrelated. In education, sexual education is very important to give to early childhood. In addition to parents, the role of the teacher

as a parent in school to provide sexual education to students is one of the important roles to shape good sexual education. Sex education for young children does not teach children to have free sex when they are adults. According to Haffner (1990) which states that comprehensive sexuality education includes biological, socio-cultural, psychological, and spiritual dimensions including teaching a person to be able to make self-protection and make responsible decisions. Sex education is intended so that children understand the condition of their bodies, the condition of the opposite sex, and protect and avoid children from sexual violence.

The researcher want to find and analyze gender mismatches and the influence of social structures that occur in this LGBT film. Film as a literary work is a part of education that can be learned by students, teachers, or the general public. This research can be applied in the world of education in student learning activities that are not only formal education but character education (quality) is also very important to create a generation that is not only smart and good in technology but also has good character and attitude. This research is also expected to be a learning material for English Department students in studying literary theory, especially Queer Theory in appreciation of literature as a subject in the English department which contains more detailed theories. Therefore, researchers also use the theory of literary sociology for research objects that discuss social influences for LGBT people. From the statement, the researcher raised the title "Gender Nonconformity of LGBT Reflected on" A Kid Like Jake "a Queer Persective" so that readers can learn from this problem to be applied in their real life.

Research Method

This research was conducted by researcher using qualitative designs by applying descriptive analysis as a set of techniques to identify the minor character "Jake" reflected LGBT and social impact that obtained of Jake family in A Kid Like Jake film by using Queer theory consisting of objects, and interpretants through analysis in several pieces of scenes selected by researcher that are considered to contain elements of moral messages. The researcher used himself as the main instrument to collect the data with using tables as supporting instrument that has function to identifying what category the datum belongs to. The data collection method used by researcher is the documentation technique. Researcher used this

technique to obtain film data, namely script and scene of A Kid Like Jake film which show that Jake refected Transgender. After the data successfully collected, the data analyzed through three stages, namely; data reduction; data analysis and conclusion.

Results

The researcher does not analyze about the whole content of the film but he only analyzed on "Jake" the minor character and Jake's family. In this chapter, the resercher show the result of the data analysis of transgender of the minor character use queer theory for the first problem, the second problem researcher show the result of the data analysis of sociality impact Jake's family use sociological approach. The researcher use queer theory there are 4 factors that people related to transgender that are hormonial, social contruction, family and culture viewpoint. Researcher found in this film that Jake reflected transgender because of factor from the family's point of view. For the second problem is what sociality impact of the main characters or Jake's family there are extern and intern impact. In the research problem, the researcher find the data from conversation between main character with other character and scene that show transgender and sociality impact.

LGBT reflected in "Jake" the minor character of A Kid Like Jake movie

Transgender is more or less defined as individuals who behave or appear to be opposite to the gender they carry from birth and are inclined to behave like other genders. Transgender is someone who wears different gender attributes to the conceptions that are socially constructed by the community (rohmawati, 2016).

In this study, researcher found words and scenes that showed Jake was transgender and that referred to factors that caused Jake to be transgender. The researcher know that Jake can be said to be transgender from screenplay, dialogue and scripts in the film A Kid Like Jake as shown below:

Judy: I was in his classroom on Tuesday and he, and Emily, and michelle were creating their own fairy tale this enchanted forest. And they'd made trees out of chairs and pillows and Jake, jake was this princess, who didn't know he was a princess and Emily wa the witch who was keeping her locked up. and michelle was somebody's helper or something.

(A Kid Like Jake, 2018 [00:12:57-00:13:22])

From the scene and script excerpt above the researcher knows that the characteristics of transgender are found in Jake. Judy as one of Jake's teachers at school talked to Ally (Jake's mother) that Jake when he was at school had a special personality and explained by Judy that Jake when playing with his friend he preferred to be a princess than other characters in children's games. In this scene Ally was worried about Jake's development at school. Judy advised Ally for the next school Jake would go to, Jake was sent to school which would enable him to develop and the role of parents was very important for Jake's development, as from the script quote above that Jake is a boy who prefers to be a female character than the other game characters. this is a personality that is not compatible with the gender socially constructed by society that men are masculine and women are graceful.

Next scene, Ally and her friend go to the store to buy toys to their children. Ally's friend buys his son a red power ranger shirt which shows his son likes to play as a tough hero and then Ally thinks of buying Jake in the form of a pirate outfit to get used to a boy's toy, but Jake refuses to wear it. this is the script that shows Jake refusing to play male toys:

Jake: why? Why can't be Rapunzel?

Ally: did you see the pirate? It's awesome. It's got these tassels.

Jake: No!! no!!

Greg: Hey, buddy, come on. Mommy's trying really hard.

Ally: Jake, you Haven't even looked. Jake: You promised me, I hate you! Ally: Jake, I need you to calm down

(A Kid Like Jake, 2018 [00:35:09-00:35:28])

in the script above Jake strongly refused when his mother gave a toy in the form of a pirate suit that was identical to the brave, and adventurous character. Jake screams that he hates his mother for buying him a toy in the form of a pirate outfit. all he wants is Rapunzel's shirt. This reinforces that Jake's personality is a woman's personality, preferring female play characters rather than men.

in the data obtained by researchers, there are some data which are only in the form of film scenes without the presence of film scripts as shown in scenes 00: 14: 34-00: 14: 43, when in class many toys can be played by Jake but in this scene shows Jake is very cheerful play dolls that are supposed to be boys in general play cars, robots, monters etc. which are identical in boys. 00:19: 13-00: 19: 31 In this scene, in class again, Jake picks up more dresses, women's shoes, queen's crown to

play with his friends while his other friends choose to become monsters, kings etc. 00: 21-29-00: 31: 51 when his mother picked Jake home from school and watched from Jake's classroom window, his mother saw Jake dancing with his skirt without coercion from her teacher, seeing from this scene Jake looked confident showing his personality as a daughter. And in the script 00: 44: 34-00: 45: 07 when the teacher cleans the classroom to get ready to go home, under the table, Jake doesn't want to take off his clothes but after being persuaded by his teacher finally Jake wants to take off his shirt as if he is maintaining his comfort in wearing a woman's dress. From the four scenes above the researcher can show that gender nonconformity occur in Jake and that Jake to experienced gender nonconformity are not related to sexual orientation but are related to gender identity that should be Jake as a boy but in this film Jake shows that his identity is a woman.

Sociality impact of LGBT for main characters in A Kid Like Jake

In this study, researcher used a sociological approach to analyze the effect of LGBT on its scope by considering aspects of society. and sociological approach is an understanding activity in order to reveal the social aspects contained in literary works.

In this study, researcher found scripts and scenes that showed the sociality impact of LGBT for playing characters in A Kid Like Jake. The researcher know that there are 2 perspectives of social influence that occurs in the main character, namely social influence for Jake's family (extern) and social influence for Jake (internal). this is known to researcher from the screenplay, dialogue and scripts in the film A Kid Like Jake as shown below:

Sandra's husband : So, Caitlyn Jenner. Is she a lesbian now or what

Ally : What?

Sandra's husband : Well, okay, so I was listening to this interview.

Where, um he, she.uh, yeah, Ms. Jenner, she said that she was still attracted to women. And, you know, even though now she's a, So I was just wondering, is she....

What is she now? Is she a lesbian or what?

Sandra : i'm sorry

Ally : How dit we get onto....

Sandra : It was just... I have no idea. It just, you know, he

watches so much TV.

Sandra's husband : I was just reminded of it because when you were

outside. We were talking about your son, and...

Sandra : I was just explaining that I was just saying it's hard,

you know? Admissions time, kindergarden. It's so

hard for, for a child, you know, who...

Ally : Who, who what?

Sandra : Who just, who has unique expression.

Sandra's husband : Listen, hey you know, my brother, Mikey. When he

was kid, he was obsessed with that. Uh that, that game pretty pretty princess. And, you know, you cut to, uh, freshman year of college and he's on the football team. Two hundred pounds, six-foot-three. So it just goes to

show.

Ally : I'm not sure follow.

Sandra's : I'm just saying that you, you may, you probably don't

need, need to worry. That's all.

Ally : No one's worried.

Sandra : that's not what he meant.
Greg : Well, that's not exactly true.

(A Kid Like Jake, 2018 [00:50:28-00:51:16])

In this scene, when Ally and Greg have dinner with her theme, Sandra and her husband, Ally suddenly gets a call from Jake's nanny that there is a problem while caring for Jake. then Ally returned to her dining table. Sandra's husband talked to Ally comparing Jake with other people who became lesbians and comparing Jake with his sibling who when he was a child experienced the same thing with Jake. Ally seemed uncomfortable when Jake compared to others, according to Ally, Jake was doing well. Sandara told Ally that Jake was his child who had a unique personality. Sandra also spoke when Jake would have a hard time finding a suitable school for Jake. In this script quote it appears that the social influence on Jake's Parents occurred. Sandra and her husband consider LGBT people to be something that is related to taboo or abnormal things even those that deviate from the social structure formed by the community. The researcher examined that the impact that Jake's parents had had was an inner pressure, as gossip that could have a negative meaning, doing something very limited such as enrolling Jake in a new school.

Greg : I guess Jake had made friends with one of the girls in his group and one of the boys overheard what they were talking about. And that boy some other boy who told some other boy, who started teasing Jake.

Ally : What were they saying?

Greg : I don't know. But apparently before the teacher could intervene things got physical. They started shoving each other. I think Jake fell down.

Ally : Jesus.

Greg : I guess Jake shoved the other kid back and then I guss he started crying

(A Kid Like Jake, 2018 [00:29:29-00:00:30:01]

In the scene above, Jake plays with his girlfriend in his group and his friend listens to what Jake and his girlfriend are talking about. Then his male friend told another friend and began to bother Jake. the situation became physical, shoving and Jake began to cry. as in the previous quote, this shows bullying against Jake who often plays with his female friends. Jake's friend thinks Jake doesn't behave like other male friends who are generally men playing with men. The bullying that happened to Jake was formed from people who thought Transgender was a deviant thing. This script shows that the impact that happened to Jake.

Jake : Hey! Stop it! Sanjay!

Sandra: what is matter with you, baby?

Ally : what happened?

Sanjay : Sanjay pushed the Bobby. He started it, becaue Bobby called

Jake a flag.

(A Kid Like Jake, 2018 [00:56:24-00:56:38])

in the scene above, on Jake's birthday event. when her mother was making cookies for Jake, suddenly Jake's voice screamed. everyone gathered, including Jake's mother, and then Sanjay (son of Sandra) gave a description of why Jake was screaming and went into his room. Sanjay said that Bobby (Jake's friend) had pushed Jake because Jake looked graceful. it's very visible that Bobby as a boy doesn't like seeing Jake look graceful. in this scene it shows that boys who look graceful are not uncommon things done by boys. and there was physical bullying against Jake. so all the scenes shown by the researchers, the impact that occurs in this Jake shows a negative impact on transgender that will make transgenders feel their lives are wrong.

Discussion

In this study, researcher found 7 data that showed that Jake reflected transgender. Judy mentioned that Jake when playing at school he prefers to wear clothes like a queen while other male friends prefer clothes that are more identical in men, then when Jake experiences problems at Jake's school when fighting with

his friends, he instead dances and doesn't want to talk at all to his friends. as said by Ally, it turns out that Jake plays the mermaid who really doesn't want to talk to people like the story Ally tells when he wants to sleep. Then Ally gave a pirate costume, Jake strongly refused to give the costume and he more asked to buy a Rapunzel costume. then Jake likes doll games more than any other and feels more cheerful about the toy, and can be shown again when Jake prefers queen dresses over other clothes while other friends of Jake choose clothes that are appropriate for their gender. Next, when Ally picks Jake home, Ally sees Jake cool playing with Judy in a woman's dress while dancing in front of Judy. Finally, Jake doesn't want to take off his dress when he gets home, he feels comfortable with his dress and doesn't want to go home. all the data above found by researchers shows that Jake does indeed reflect Transgender that occurs in children. as Sally Hines said that Transvestism is the desire of a certain group of men to dress as women or of women to dress as men. It can be powerful and overwhelming, even to the point of wanting to belong to the other sex and correct nature's anatomical 'error'. For such cases the term transsexual seems appropriate (Hines, 2007: 16). this can be seen from the habits, personality, and physical appearance in the form of dress that is carried out by Jake not in accordance with the gender identity formed by society which considers men to be masculine and women to be feminine.

Researcher found 4 data that show the sociality impact that occurs in the Jake family. there are two data, namely external and internal, external, namely the sociality impact that occurs in his parents, internal, namely the sociality impact that occurs in Jake. this can be shown from Jake's parents when having dinner with his friend, his parents experiencing discrimination from his friend. Sandra and her husband (Jake's parents' friend) assume that Jake is an abnormal child and compare with others who experience lesbians. this can be seen from their conversation which refers that Jake is a different child from other children. Jake's parents both experienced problems when registering Jake at a new school, seen from Judy (Jake's teacher) who received information that Jake is a child having a special personality, then for the sociality impact on Jake, Jake experienced bullying from his friends who thought Jake was a graceful boy unlike other boys and suffered physical violence in the form of encouragement to his body until he fell, this happens

because the stigma of society towards transgender is something that deviates or is not in accordance with the norms formed by society. individuals who are not heterosexual oriented and have no gender identity with the gender identity expected by the community to experience various rejection that is very diverse, this rejection can be verbal violence, psychological violence, physical violence and even discrimination. rejection of transgender can not only occur because they are not heterosexual but all forms of behavior, gender expression, and gender roles as the main causes of the emergence of contra and poor responses from some societies that do not like the existence of transgender as experienced by Jake and Jake's family.

From the results of this study, researchers are expected to be a model for English Department students in studying Queer theory in literature appreciation as a subject in the English department. Students majoring in English can learn about literary theory from several literary works, because it makes students easier and more interested when they learn languages from films, novels, poetry, etc. In addition, it is expected to be able to open the paradigm of students at STKIP PGRI Jombang that many LGBT phenomena can occur to anyone and at any age.

Researchers find and analyze how LGBT occurs in individuals and the impact that occurs in an LGBT in the film. Film as a literary work is a part of education that can be learned by students, teachers, or the general public. This research can be reflected in the world of education as sexual education needed by students to understand the condition of their bodies, the conditions of the opposite sex, and protect and avoid children from sexual violence. In learning activities students not only receive formal education that includes general subjects, but character education is also very important to create a generation that is not only smart and good in technology but also has good character and attitude.

Conclusion

Based on the results of research and discussion of the American film drama genre titled "A Kid LIke Jake" directed by Silas howard and written by Daniel Pearle in 2013, as found in chapter IV, conclusions can be drawn about the two issues according to what formulated in the formulation of the problem. the researcher showed that Jake reflected LGBT people, especially Transgender. by

linking Queer theory with the object under study, namely Jake, Jake can be shown to have reflected Transgender. the data obtained by the researcher shows that Jake's characteristics on the film reflect Transgender. seen from Jake who has a female personality is inversely proportional to his gender from birth, namely men like having graceful, dancing like a queen, would rather be a queen character than the other characters, then with toys that Jake likes are toys that refer to women's games like dolls, Rapunzel dresses etc. From this analysis, it is known that the film "A Kid Like Jake" depicts the condition of Jake's parents experiencing pressure in his life like the gossip that his parents get, discrimination against Jake who is considered a child who has a special personality and has problems when registering Jake in a new school. futhermore the social condition that happened to Jake was that he experienced bullying and physical violence from his friend. this shows that the community at this time believes that LGBT individuals are something taboo or something that deviates social construction formed by the community, and in the end LGBT experienced resistance in society today. with this, hopefully the reader views LGBT as individuals who also need human rights in carrying out their lives. they also need attention, work and peace in their lives.

References

Haffner, D.W. (1990). Sex education: A call to action. New York: Sex Information and Education of US

Klarer, Mario. (2004). An Introduction to Literary Studies. London: Routledge.

Kusuma, An'nastasyaTyandias. (2015). *Transgender In Julie Anne Peters' Luna*. Thesis is not published. Surabaya, Indonesia:State University of Surabaya.

Rohmah, Marsya 'Aissathu. (2018). *Identitas Inkoheren Dalam Novel Tabula Rasa Karya Ratih Kumala (KajianTeori Queer Judith Butler)*. UniversitasNegeri Surabaya Vol.1, No. 2.