1. CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter displays the research background, problem identification, statements of problem, scope of the study, purpose of the study and the significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

In general, movie is defined as a particular motion picture with a sequence of images of moving objects that are photographed by a camera and presented on the screen by lights (Hollander, 1989). Movie is also recognized as a unique and powerful art form which is similar with painting, sculpture, music, literature, and drama (Boggs, 1991). Since it is believed that movie has light and shadow which can be found in painting, it has rhytm which is the same with the ones in music and poetry, and it communicates through imagery, metaphor, and symbol which can also be found in poetry. Further, movie is also believed surpassing drama because of its unique capacity in revealing various points of view, portraying action, manipulating time, and conveying a variety of spaces (1991:3). In addition, according to (Klarer, 1998), movie is also classified as a dramatic genre because the typical elements of novel such as narrative techniques, structuring of plot, foreshadow and flashback, the change of setting and time structure are commonly used in movie.Besides, movie is believed to be able to represent the real life of people in society through a story because it constructs and represents its picture of reality by way of the codes, conventions, myth and ideologies of its culture (Turner, 2006). This is in line with the argument of Bordwell and Thomson (1993) that the stories delivered in movies might be the recording of actual events to give the viewers experiences that they might not be able to get from other media. Movie is also able to communicate information and ideas because it can show the viewers about the places and

ways of life that the viewers might not otherwise know and take the viewers through experiences which are often driven by stories with characters that have relation with them, thus it takes them on a journey that can engage their minds and emotions since movies are designed to have effects on viewers (1993:28). In addition, movie is believed to have a huge role as a form of media for communicating to the masses while remains as a source of entertainment at the same time (Kaul, 2014).

Since the content of a movie can be a powerful tool of communication to the masses which is able to present actual events and the representation of real life, it is also believed that movie can be used to address various social issues. Movie is considered as a medium which plays an important role in the construction of perceptions and impressions about social conditions of a society since it is an informative medium representing the issues faced by people in a society (Gupta & Gupta, 2013). Movie is strongly related to some kind of issues, it comments upon those issues, it offers an explicit or implicit interpretation of the issue. The story presented in a movie is used to be dealing with issues of religion, child abuse, other hardships and the representation of various social groups, and to keep the audiences entertain, the movie uses an interesting mix of reality and fantasy (Kaul, 2014).

From those social issues presented in movies, the issue of LGBT is believed to be one of the most popular issues in the movie industry nowadays. LGBT movies or known as Gay movie refers to the varying and evolving ways in which media portrays the lessbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community which aims to represent LGBT characters to the mass media (Ferreira, 2015). Issues that are used to be presented in LGBT movies are mainly related to the marginalization done by the society towards the homosexuals in which they are dicriminated for their way of living and sometimes some gays are depicted as macho gay in order to look masculine

enough to mask their true identity of characters in movies because they are afraid to come out because of the rejection and discrimination that might hit them (Tagudina, 2012). Therefore, the gays in LGBT movies are always portrayed as unhappy, sad and isolated from community since the force of their surrounding social who force gay people to live in shadows and push them to be afraid to speak out since they are always presented as minority groups (Zhang, 2014).

However, in this millenium era, the movie industry in western society has changed the conventional perspective towards the LGBT in which movie industry has dedicated itself as a haven for homosexuals which started since the cultural historian Michael Bronski referred the the theater as a port of safety for homosexuals (Benshoff & Griffin, 2006). Therefore, the advent of modernism in the arts and movie industry have created a new atmosphere which help the gay individuals to feel freer to live and thrive because modernism has thrown off the traditional attitudes about the gay individuals so they can feel free to express themselves (2006: 43). In addition, with the emergence of a new kind of LGBT cinema in the movie industry, many LGBT movies are produced to support the LGBT community and present homosexual characters who face discrimination with the purpose of promoting LGBT rights and acceptance within society since lesbiansm and gay are depicted in a positive way which leads to break the prevailing anti homosexual mentality among the public (Grado, 2015)

LGBT as one topic to be discussed also reached the movie industries and there were varied titles of movies related (BFI Movie Forever, 2018). Reported from BFI Movie Forever, over 100 movie experts including critics, writers, and programmers have voted top 30 LGBTQ movies. From the top 30 movies voted, there are 3 movies voted around year 2000-2010, namely, *Brokback Mountain* produced in 2005, *Tropical Maladay* produced in 2004, and *Mulholland Dr.* produced in 2001.

On the other hand, there are greatest LGBT movies are listed which primarily have theme about LGBT with the characters (IMDb, 2016). This wepage of IMDb reported 60 titles themed LGBT, but there are 14 movies listed in between year 2000-2010, there are some of them entitled *A Single Man* produced in 2009, *The Kids Are All Right* produced in 2010, *Prayers for Bobby* produced in 2009, *Eu Nao Quero Voltar Sozhino* produced in 2010, *The Hours* produced in 2005, *Letter Days* produced in 2003, *Shelter* produced in 2007, *Milk* produced in 2008, *Kinky Boots* produced in 2005, *Touch the Pink* produced in 2004, etcetera.

There are several movies reflected on LGBT as its theme. Around the year 2000-2010, there are produced those titles, such as *Touch The Pink, The Kids Are All Right, Brokeback Mountain*, etcetera which are bringing LGBT into movie production. It has its own field where LGBT are produced to surface of movie production. One of those LGBT themed movies is *A Single Man* produced in 2009 which is presented in this study.

By the means of technology, the indulgant exercise in 1960s could be brought into the cinema nowadays about the LGBT themed movie entitled *A Single Man* (The Guardian, 2010). This movie is very accomplished visually with the best performances from their actors and actresses bringing the drama into audiences.

The movie entitled *A Single Man* was directed by Tom Ford followed the outlines of the landmark 1964 novel with the same title (The New York Times, 2009). This movie has magnificient dept of feeling where each scenes represents the feeling of the actor. This movie is crumpled and gray which bring the the feeling of heart broken being LGBT.

On the other hand, there are researchers conducted their researches themed LGBT. Bilodeau & Renn (2005) conducted a study on students which their efforts are to serve all students more effectively shared ideas about LGBT. Many student affairs professionals seek to understand how

students come to have and enact lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) identities. There is growing scholarly recognition of the experience and diversity of sexual orientation beyond "heterosexual," "gay," and "lesbian" identities, and this recognition has led to challenges to the traditional stage models of sexual orientation identity development. Scholars have found that bisexuals experience identity processes differently from the way lesbians and gay men do (Fox, 1995; Klein, 1990, 1993 as cited in Bilodeau & Renn 2005). For example, some individuals may come to bisexual identity after self-labeling as lesbian or gay. Others may identify bisexual feelings from childhood onward. Still others may not become aware of bisexual feelings until after experiencing heterosexual relationships or marriages. Further, stage models do not account for ways in which the boundaries between Eurocentric notions of culture, sexual orientation, and gender identity are blurred and reconstructed in non-Western contexts (Brown, 1997; Gonsiorek, 1995 as cited in Bilodeau & Renn 2005). They refered the study as such example which is the existence of "Two Spirit" identities that blend Western notions of gender identity and sexual orientation within Native American communities (Brown, 1997). As the result, they found out that across cultures, LGBT identities have different names and meanings.

The movie themed LGBT entitled *A Single Man* which is produced in 2009 is needed to be analyzed because there are not so many analysis on a movie with LGBT themes. Here the analysis on its movie would be offered to the surface of this study. People need to understand more about LGBT since there are minority in this society and found there is found some bullying toward the small minority. This movie themed LGBT is chosen for the analysis since this movie has the value of bringing the understanding of LGBT movie from another perspective not in sensual scenes such movie of sexual in the movie production.

Important to note that the movie entitled *A Single Man* is different than the other movies themed LGBT. This movie does not explore the sexual part of being LGBT but the effort to survive being LGBT. This movie put the important in the effort of LGBT in the year 1960s where the time LGBT is still taboo. This would be beneficial for the education field in order to explain students for the anticipation of bullying the minority of LGBT in which they are free from racism. By the means of portrayals above, this study would like to identify the gay identity of the movie entitled *A Single Man* through textual analysis.

1.2   Statement of the Problem

The given background showed problems that needed to be solve by this research. The issue of LGBT and how it could be misleading view of the some of the common characterization between men, then it could be the insecurity to show their passion and become stereotype of homosexuality.

1. Is there any homosexual characterization that is represented in *A Single Men* (2009) movie?
2. How gay characterization in *A Single Men* (2009) movie become stereotype and misleading to some common behavior?

1.3   Limitation of the Study

This research is limited on the identification of identifying gay identity on LGBT themed movie entitled *A Single Man*. This study is limited on the identification and to find how is that homosexual characterization is the valid characterization or it just stereotype? and the steps only because of the limited time to conduct the research as well.

1.4   Purposes of the Study

As the given background portrayed, this study has the purpose of identifying the gay identity in the movie themed LGBT entitled *A Single Man* and to find out how the gay identity could be found on this LGBT themed movie whereas the movie already show the survival of minority LGBT in the year 1960.

1.5 Significances of the Study

The significance of study is aimed into theoretical and practical frames. Here are the followings significances theoretically and practically regarding to the research on LGBT themed movie entitled *A Single Man*.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, this study would give understanding toward LGBT, movie, and the social value toward minority. This part would explain about the theories related to the study of this research as the readers would open their mind toward the minority of LGBT. Besides, this study theoretically proposes some theories in combination of LGBT and movie where readers could dig information on how a study of LGBT theme Movie and also the use of textual analysis.

The explanation toward this minority group of LGBT could help people understand that somehow minority of LGBT get depressive because of the situation and they need support. There was the result showed that LGBT youth scored significantly higher on the scale of depressive symptomatology. They were also more likely than heterosexual, non-transgendered youth to report suicidal ideation, which they need support from other people surrounding them (Almeida, J., Johnson, R. M., Corliss, H. L., Molnar, B. E., & Azrael, D., 2009).

This could be taken as serious consideration for people on how they treat the minority surround the people. It had been a long time discrimination toward the minority where gender

and sexual differenciations made into a big deal among people, that they are really different (Almeida, J., Johnson, R. M., Corliss, H. L., Molnar, B. E., & Azrael, D., 2009). Through this knowledge people theoretically understand more about what LGBT are and they are woulding to help each other by knowing more facts about LGBT instead of only the stereotype.

In conclusion, this research theoretically could provide people about LGBT that they could learn about this minority group. People could take benefit to be more open minded on such of this issues. There are several theories, facts and researches on LGBT would be served on this research accordingly that they would share significances.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

Practically, this study would give significance for practitioners in education also for people who seek information of LGBT point of view from researchers. There are some subjects that can get the practical significance, such as EFL students, students and teacher, people in general, parents, lecturer, and researcher.

2. EFL Students

EFL students nowadays cope with English and also its culture. This requires students to dig information everywhere in internet. There is no guarantee if EFL students have no chance to socialize with the LGBT in minority. This study would help EFL students on how to react toward the situation in order to avoid intimidation and bullying, but they can socialize and avoid racism instead.

3. Students and Teacher

It is needed for both students and teacher to know what are the LGBT going through their life. There is no purpose of bullying them but keep socializing with this minority.

Students would find out information in this study and teacher could develop themselves with the knowledge that can be shared earlier with the students about this issue.

4. People in general

This study can give better sense of understanding toward each other in living this life. It is because people need to know each other before judging the LGBT minority from their cover. People in general could dig information here in this study that they would learn themselves in order to avoid racism and they could share others about this issue.

5. Parents

Parent are the closest member in the family for children. There is such an issue that parent should take care of their children. Here, parent could notice the important of sharing quality time to study about LGBT that they can teach their children not to be racist. Besides, they can help their children if they have join LGBT minority that parent could be fair to their children.

6. Lecturer

In college life, students are more free that they need guidance from the lecturer. This study is expected to be helpful for lecturers who need to be aware of LGBT. It is because the study gives example on the analysis of movie themed LGBT.

7. Researcher

This study can be helpful for other researcher who takes the same scope of analyzing media of LGBT. As the researcher tries to find out what are the queer identities in a LGBT movie theme and the steps, other researcher could take beneficial to dig other informations about LGBT using different style of analysisng and different sample.