

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

The environment reflects people's lives and influences many aspects of their lives, including social conduct. Someone growing up in their environment is constantly reacting and acting to imitate the individuals they see. Humans and the environment have an inextricable relationship. The environment is even the most powerful force that influences or sets features and behavior in humans. That is why people differ even in their identity.

Discussing the relationship between humans and their surroundings, which is intimately linked to human identity. Psychology studies are also linked to identity. Erikson defines identity as a "cohesive conception of the self" made up of a person's objectives, values, and beliefs to which they are firmly devoted (Papalia et al., 2004:425). Identity represents people's opinions since it is stable and does not change (Rahmatiah, 2017).

For that reason, it is evident that identity and environment have a solid connection to humans. As if one's identity and surroundings are the foundations of one's existence. Gender, on the other hand, is a crucial component in the development of human identity. The term "gender" is frequently used to distinguish men from women. Gender is a term used to determine roles of men and women, the result of human manipulation as the impact of affected culture society that has no

meaning (Janah, 2017). It also implies a distinction between man and woman in terms of knowledge (Rosalita, 2020).

It is apparent that gender and identity are linked after analyzing identity and gender and comprehending their definitions. Because identity and gender are human qualities molded by one of the environment's roles, this is the case. Gender identity refers to an individual's perception of himself or herself as a male or woman (Halgin & Whitbourne, 2010 : 18). They are usually characterized by a noticeable difference in whatever gender they have formed, and they are also in tune with their sexuality (Bruce & Yearley, 2014)

When it comes to gender identify, anything might happen over time. Gender identity, in particular. As a result of the fact that more people are thinking forward and opening up these days. The way some individuals define LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender). This phrase has been accepted and legalized in a number of countries all around the world. Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people have all grown in number and visibility.

The term "homosexuals" is frequently supplanted in society by the phrase "gays" (Marcus, 2005: 3). Over time, the phenomenon ceases to be strange. With the changing times, gays desired to come out and be recognized. Some of them openly declared it and created a democracy (Rudy, 2016).

In some nations, the term homosexuality is considered taboo. The stigma that homosexuality is deviant and deviates from social norms, as well as the history and theology of LGBT across time, with some of it becoming pro and con. According to

Oetomo (2001:43), many people do not want to discuss about homosexuality.. It is because society either does not know much about it or does not know anything about it at all. Every person has a distinct perspective on how homosexuals are treated nowadays; some accept them, while others reject them (Rudy, 2016)<sup>1</sup>.

Furthermore, the influence of homosexuality takes into account a man's masculinity, which is a measure of a man's function in society. The masculinity gender has a special quality in that masculinity is intrinsically related to a man's role. And a man lacking the attribute of masculinity is cursed in the eyes of human civilization. Masculinity, according to Pleck (1993), is something that is socially and culturally constructed to define what it is to be a man (Maghfiroh, 2017).

Masculinity refers to the aspect of characterisation. It is because masculinity is listed as a characteristic in it. A story's portrayal can bring it to life, reflect its progress, and act as the story's main point. According to Nurgiyantoro (1995:165), a figure or person's character is exhibited in a narrative work or drama. Through word and behavior, the audience sees nature as having a moral quality and a clear disposition. One of the most important literary works was described using meaningful characterization. It conceptualizes and spectacularizes the literary work, and the focus of this case was on the protagonist's character and the circumstance he found himself in (Rachmawati, 2013).

As a result, characterisation completes a work of literature. The film or movie is one of the literary works. Character is the most important element in bringing a film to life. Also, it makes the movie the climax because the character can illustrate

the problem and point of the movie. Over time, the rapid evolution of film has influenced society, and many films have been influenced by an incident or tale in real life. The film continuously records and presents the reality that evolves and develops in society onto the screen (Irwanto in Sobur, 2013:127). It is not unexpected that the film has a strong emotional attachment and sense of familiarity because it is a reflection of human activity that has been immortalized and has a strong moral value (Lestari et al., 2020)

*Moonlight* (2016) is one of the films that explains the components listed above. *Moonlight* was directed by Barry Jenkins, and the movie script was written by Barry Jenkins, who adapted an unpublished play by Tarell Alvin McCraney titled *Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue*. The film depicts the three stages of the main protagonists, who are a toddler, a teenager, and an adult. *Moonlight* was chosen by the researcher because it depicted how one's environment can shape one's identity. Then you will understand how difficult it is for them to live as a homosexual.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

According to the background to the study above, this study can be formulated into three problem statements:

1. How does the environment influence the main character's sexual orientation as a homosexual?
2. How does the main character reveal himself as homosexual?
3. What problems does the main character have as homosexual?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

This study aims to reach the purpose of the study based on the statements of the problem. These are three objectives proposed in this study.

1. To reveal the influence of environment on the main character as homosexual
2. To describe the main character revealing himself as homosexual
3. To find out the problems of the main character in his life as a homosexual.

### **1.4 Scope of Study**

The study is limited to discuss how the role of the environment portrayed the main character's homosexuality and the main character's problems being homosexual in his life applied in his society in *Moonlight*, written by Barry Jenkins. It will center on the main character, Chiron, who is a gay in the film and is going through a difficult time in his life.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The purpose of this research is to determine the impact of the role of environment in forming of homosexuality in film *Moonlight* (2016) by Barry Jenkins, Queer Study. When it comes to the study's concept of LGBT, particularly homosexuality, this study wants to improve people's minds about LGBT, particularly homosexuality. This research can add to the information and understanding that the environment plays a significant role in the construction of a people's identity.

## 1.6 Approach to the Study

This research took a context oriented approach. "A context oriented approach is a learning technique that relates the material studied by students in their daily lives, whether it is in their family, school, or social setting, to find the significance of that material for their lives" (Komalasari, 2013: 17). The contextual approach's fundamental premise is that learning is tied to a specific circumstance while being connected to particular objects in real life. As a result, the contextual method assists the writer in connecting the learning difficulty to real-life events (Susanti & Sobari, 2018).

The writer of this study interpreted the data using Judith Butler's idea of the queer study. Judith Butler's book *Gender Trouble* influenced this viewpoint. In the context of a queer research project. "Gender and sexuality are social constructs. The fixed concept of sex, gender, and sexuality has long served as a source of identity. Humans who look to be people but do not comply with gendered norms imposed by culture are referred to as "incoherent" or "discontinuous" gendered (Butler 23). This idea is helpful in limited cultures, and it does not imply that the body fixes gender; instead, it demonstrates that gender is a process in which individuals are subjects (Sinta, 2021).

In this inquiry, primary data and reference sources were used. The author obtained the majority of the information from the film *Moonlight*, directed by Barry Jenkins and acquired from the internet. In order to gather information, the writer viewed the film multiple times until he thoroughly understood the concept, as well

as reading the screenplay. In addition, references from the study's book, articles, and journals were integrated. The writer's argument is strengthened by the use of facts.

The writer went through various steps of investigation to understand and deepen the subject. The writer began by elaborating on Judith Butler's Queer theory. The writer then went on to explain a Queer theory that was connected to the film *Moonlight*. Using Butler's theory, the issue is how the function of the environment in the representation of homosexuality in society. The film analyzes the main character and his setting, including utterances, scenes, and actions that indicate the main character is homosexual. The next phase is to explain how the main character deals with his sexual identity as a gay. Finally, all of the facts and analysis must be elaborated to conclude.

### **1.7 Organization of the Paper**

The reader will find it easy to comprehend the meaning and point of this study because it is organized logically. It is organized into five chapters, with sub-chapters in each. Firstly in chapter I, the writer describes the background of the study, statement of the problems, objective of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, approach of the study, and organization of the study. Next in chapter II, contains the synopsis of "*Moonlight*" film, and biography of Barry Jenkins. Afterward in chapter III, present review of related literature that consist of previous studies, popular culture, movie, Judith Butler theory, and homosexuality. Chapter IV is discussion. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.

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