

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, statement of the research problem, objective of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary work has a value and art meaning. There are many opinions about literary work. Literature not only has aesthetic value, but also function. The function of literature is *dulce et utile*. It is called as horation formula. It means that sweet and usefull (Wellek and Warren, 1963: 30). It means that literature and life cannot be divided because literature can be created from the story of life. Moreover, according to Julien Bonn (2010), literature includes poetry, drama, fiction and many kinds of nonfiction writing, as well as oral, dramatic, and broadcast composition, not necesarily preserved in a written format such as films and television program (Bonn, 2010: 93).

One of the literary works is novel. Mostly, the story in the novel cannot be guessed by the readers. *Encyclopedia Britanica* defines novel as a fiction prose narratives or tale of conciderable lenght (now usually a long enough to fill on of the real life of past or present time are potrayed in a plot of more or less complexity) (Benton, 1968:673). This statement is supported by X.J Kennedy in his book entitled “*An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama*”. Kennedystates that the novel is a picture of real life and manners and of the time in which it was

written. He also explains that the meaning of novel is book-length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that while we read, we experience actual life (Kennedy, 1979: 226).

Novel is fictional narrative which is written in prose and it is developed from the novella. Novel is usually organized under a plot or theme which focuses on character development and action. Many stories in novels deal with phenomena and problem which are related to human's life. The phenomena and problems are come from all aspects of life including social, politic, culture, education, and sex or gender. There are many problems in social life related to sexuality which influence the social status, they are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender. Related to these sexual problems, Lesbian will be discussed in this study. Generally, sexual in society is a kind of heterosexual which involves man and woman. It means that man has relationship with woman. Meanwhile, Lesbian case is a kind of homosexual between woman. As Tyson (Tyson, 1999: 324) stated that perhaps a better way to define a lesbian, then, is to say that she is a woman whose sexual desire is directed toward women.

There are so many reasons and backgrounds of being lesbian. Lesbian can be caused by trauma, biological phenomenon, social intercourse, and so on. It can be seen that identity of the development model influences someone to change her behavior and perspective. Tyson argued (Tyson, 1999: 336) that an attempt to reappropriate the word from what has been its homophobic usage in order to demonstrate that heterosexuals shouldn't be allowed to define gay and lesbian experience.

In fact, novel is interesting literary work to get reader's attention toward lesbian problem. Along this period, there are many novels tell about lesbian. One of them is the novel entitled *The Gravity between Us* by Kristen Zimmer which is published by Bookouture United Kingdom in 2013. It explains about the two characters named Kendall and Payton. They have close relationship which is like a best friend. Kendall is a famous actress in LA. Kendall and Payton have different way until they have same feeling to be lesbian. Payton has already become lesbian since she was child, it means that it happened biologically. Meanwhile, Kendall becomes a lesbian because of social intercourse when she plays a role as a lesbian in the film. (Zimmer: 2013)

The writer chooses *The Gravity between Us* by Kristen Zimmer as the source of data in this study because it is interesting to be discussed. The two characters of the novel have different ways of becoming lesbians. Payton becomes a lesbian because her own biological. Meanwhile, Kendall becomes a lesbian because her social intercourse. Moreover, the writer chooses the novel because the title is interesting. It makes the readers interpret about the gravity. In society, the gravity is interaction among everything in this world. In this case, the gravity in the novel means the relationship between the two characters who love each other, they are Payton and Kendall.

This research explains the lesbian identity development of two characters. Kendall tries to tell her self from heterosexual to homosexual until she is proud of her feeling. Meanwhile, Payton is a lesbian who feels this feeling since she was child. As a matter of fact, they have different step of lesbian identity development.

Their steps of identity development become the effort to support them from heterosexual person to homosexual person.

Related to the background of the study, Lesbian Identity Development Model is the most appropriate theory to analyze the novel because this research is about the stage of lesbian identity development of Kendall and Payton. Their identity development are started from heterosexual to homosexual. This study is important study because readers will understand that society has a great influences for people to be lesbian, so people can anticipate themselves in order to avoid being lesbian.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problem

The statement of research problem in this research is how Kendall and Payton in the novel *The Gravity Between Us* show the Identity Development Model?

1.3 Objective of the Study

To explain how far the Identity Development Model of Kendall and Payton.

1.4 Significances of the Study

This study consist of two significances, they are theoretical significance of the study and practical significance of the study.

Theoretically, this study enriches the reader's knowledge about lesbian identity development model for readers, especially in *The Gravity Between Us* by

Kristen Zimmer. The writer expects that this study can be the consideration for the student who takes literature as the major and the study will help of the next writer to develop this study. Practically, this study is important study because readers will understand that society has a great influences for people to be lesbian, so people can anticipate them self in order to avoid being lesbian.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study focuses on identity development model of the two characters by using lesbian criticism which portrayed in *The Gravity Between Us* by Kristen Zimmer. The limitation of the study is only in the form of words, phrases, or sentences in Kristen Zimmer's *The Gravity Between Us* which related to the study.