

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Every moment of life that we had experienced become a life story. People tend to tell their life story with other to share experiences, opinions, problems, and everything. By telling their life story, people will choose their interest or even their struggling topic of the narration that they want to share. The process of selecting the themes, the structure, and any contents of their story provides direct access to the speaker's cognitive matrix (Berman, 2003). As a result, they have their own characteristic in communicating and telling story as well as symbolizing power and control, storytelling also produce a storyteller identity or set of identities (Bowles, 2009).

Since people always belong to several communities, they will also have different cultures. Here cultures have an important role to create their identity. Related to narrative, Berman stated that cultures contain narrative models that they make available for describing the course of a life, though which culture itself can be characterized (Berman, 2003). Communities have different kinds of story point because they have different perspective on the proper function and nature of storytelling (Toolan, 20010. From this statement, we understand that narrative is influenced by cultures. The way people narrate their story is constructed by their own communities.

Telling stories about past events seems to be a universal human activity. According to Labov, narrative refers to all stories about specific past event. A narrative

can be a simple chronicle of events or an account that contextualizes event. One event causes another event in the narrative. narrative can be produced through spoken, written, picture, or musical modes of representation, but spoken and written are the most common and serve the important function of bringing the past into the present time consciousness (Ochs as cited in Dijk, 1997). In addition, because narrative is considered as a sequence of events then it always involves a Tale, a Teller and an Addressee (Toolan, 2001).

Regarding narrative, this study uses a gay's life story as the corpus of the study. Nowadays, the term of gay is not a new issue in our society. Since 1970s the world of gay has entered Indonesia (Boellstorff, 2005). The phenomenon of gay is still a controversy in

Indonesia. Many people oppose the existence of this group because they have sexual disorder. Therefore, gays themselves have a demand to fight for their existence in the middle of those who oppose them.

The existence of Indonesian culture which uphold norms, religion, and traditions make gays difficult to express their existence and law also causes difficulties for gay couple to own property together and adopt a child. Different from Indonesia, European counties like Netherland, allows homosexuals marriage, whether gay or lesbian. In the Dutch state, gays do not have to hide their presence because they have been recognized by society, even the state itself.

Gay seems to have a unique characteristic in telling their life story. They usually tell in high-pitched tone and rising utterance-final intonation (Boellstorff, 2004). They also express their identity to the listener through narrative. It is clear in the narratives

that not only ‘race’ and ‘sexuality’, but also other social categories such as class, body characteristics (including age, height, and body shape) and education mediate the way in which gay resist and strategically (re)position themselves against social inequality (Poon and Ho, 2008).

Many studies of gay focus on psychology, gender and health areas. The authors who focus their study on psychology area are Steven E. James, Daniel J. Carragher and Leo wilton. In gender area the authors are Dana Collins, King-To Yeung and Mindy Stombler. While in health area the authors are Stevenson Fergus, Paul Flowers and David Clover. It is rarely to find any studies about gay in linguistic area. Previous study that is found is about the language use of gay community. This is one of the reasons that make this study chooses gay as the participant.

Besides that, generally society sees gay as something unusual and controversial. Usually, gays tend to keep their real identity, live in gay community and do not want to expose themselves in the society. But nowadays many of them are dare to expose their identity, confess that they are gay, even some are proud to be gay because they realize that as human being, they have a right. They want to do anything freely as normal men do. Most people want to be seen as ‘normal’ and ‘good’, not as ‘crazy’, ‘weird’, ‘abnormal’, or ‘bad’ (Poon and Ho, 2008). They also want to be acknowledged in the society. One of the pieces of evidence that shows the existence of gay community is the publication of “GAYa NUSANTARA” magazine in the society. It is a gay magazine that represents gay community. Another evidence is the presence of gay seminar which talk about the gay’s world. This is really interesting phenomenon to be analysed. By using narrative, this study is wants to investigate more about a gay through his life story.

In this study, Labov's narrative theory that has been mentioned by Riessman in his book is used. A theory that is suitable to analyse personal narrative or life story which explores more on the elements of a story. The theory consists of six important elements that become the most influential narrative model. They are abstract, orientation, complicating action, evaluation, resolution and coda.

In this theory, oral narratives are shown to be bounded discourse units that can be segmented according to their information function; abstract, orientation, complicating action, evaluation, resolution and coda (Berman, 2003). With these structures a teller constructs a story from a primarily experience and interprets the significance of events in clause and embedded evaluation (Riessman, 1993). The following parts will expand the structure model on the surface to show how it is related to the narratives text. Therefore, every part of Labov's theory will reveal different variable of gay life story, such as the topic, participant, place and etc.

In addition, this study used qualitative research method. It concerns with exploring people's life histories or everyday behaviour (Silverman, 2000). The data of a gay's life story are collected by using open-ended interviewing or in-depth interviewing. It involves the information's and the researcher in the process of collecting the data (Burns, 2000)

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the statements of the problem are:

1. What are the themes of narrative structure found in Narrative of Gay's life story in Madura?

2. How are the narrative structure in the sub themes of the stories Gay's life story in Madura?

1.3 Objective of the Study

1. To identify the themes in a Gay's life story in Gay community at University of Trunojoyo Madura
2. To describe the narrative structure in the sub themes of the stories Gay's life story in

Gay community at University of Trunojoyo Madura

1.4 Significances of the Study

The significances of the study are: theoretically, this study is expected to enrich and give more understanding about the study of narrative structure which focuses on Narrative Structure of Gay's. This study is also expected to give more information and knowledge related to homosexual community not only their psychological aspect but then their linguistic aspect.

Practically, this study will give an inspiration to the readers who intend to analyse linguistic phenomenon in gay community. In addition, this study is expected to support an indication of how gay reflect their position and identity.

1.5 Scope and limitation of the study

The scope of this study is narrative structure analysis because it deals with oral narrative and narrative structure. This study, especially concerns on narrative element and aspect that influence the narrative structure. The limitation of this study is on the

narrative which is uttered or told by the gay in their story telling of their personal life and the aspect of narrative that will indicate element of each structure.