

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Literature has been widely known by many people and experts. The word 'literature' is derived from the word 'litera' in Latin which means letter. It refers to the written or printed words, by knowing and understanding Literature, people could get more information about what happened in old century reflected from classic novel, play and poetry. Thus literature is the writing or study of books valued as works of arts which can be divided into three kinds such as prose fiction, poetry and drama. Wellek and Warren (1949:11) said that all the literary works such beautiful arts and based on their opinion all the literary works can be categorized into all the fiction such as prose, short story, novel, poetry and drama or play which the author has a message convey within the story.

Related to literature, novel is normally prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the quality or value of human experience or conduct explained by Taylor (1981:46). Based on his opinion novel is a kind of prose but more complex, it is not a blank story, but has some values that the readers can get and learn from the novel.

In conducting this thesis, the writer interested in novel *Giovanni's Room*, a literature that is written by an author in America, James Baldwin. He was born Harlem, New York, U.S and August 2, 1924. He was an American novelist, essays, playwright, poet, and social critic. His essays, as collected in *Notes of a*

Native Son (1995), explore palpable yet unspoken intricacies of racial, social, and class distinctions in Western societies, most notably in middle 20th-century America, and their inevitable if unnameable tensions. Some Baldwin essays are book-length, for instance *The Fire Next Time* (1963), *No Name in the street* (1972), and *The Devil Finds Work* (1976). *Giovanni's Room* published in 1956, it has 159 pages. The novel focuses on the events in the life of an American man living in Paris and his feelings and frustrations with his relationships with other men in his life, particularly an Italian bartender named Giovanni whom he meets at a Parisian gay bar. *Giovanni's Room* is noteworthy for bringing complex representations of homosexuality and bisexuality to a reading public with empathy and astuteness, thereby fostering a broader public discourse of issues regarding same-sex desire.

After reading the novel, the writer found homosexuality as the main topic in this story. The topic about homosexuality is a global issue that can be found in our surroundings. On the one hand, homosexuality is unnatural, abnormal and despised by God. This is a very interesting and proper topic to be discussed, that is why the writer took this novel as the material worth being discussed. We know that homosexuality is perceived as psychological problems.

According to Minderop (2010:3), Psychology comes from Greek words *psyche* and *logos* which means knowledge or science. Thus, psychology means all the knowledge or science which explores and studies about human psyche and behaviour. It means that the spiritual, emotional and mental lives of the character rather than plot and the action are the main concern of psychological literature.

Approach used in this research is the psychological approach by using theory by Sigmund Freud, who reveals about the name as three psyche zones which divided into *id*, *ego* and *superego*, Minderop (2010:11). According to Freud, we are born with our *id*. The *id* is an important part of our personality because as newborns, it allows us to get our basic needs met. The *ego* understands that other people have needs and desire and that sometimes being impulsive and selfish can hurt us in the end. It is *ego*'s job to meet the needs of the *id*, while taking into consideration the reality of situation. The *superego* is the moral part of us and develops due to the moral and ethical restraints placed on us by our caregivers. The three aspects are controlled by desire or libido.

In the *Giovanni's Room*, the main character has problems about his relationship, and the writer would like to find character personality related with human mind or psychology in this novel based on Sigmund Freud's theory, consists of three major structures; *id*, *ego* and *superego*. It is the reason why the writer chooses Freud's theory as it is applicable to analyze this novel. From the reason, the writer would like to conduct a research entitled: **THE IMPACT OF HOMOSEXUALITY TO THE MAIN CHARACTER IN *GIOVANNI'S ROOM* BY JAMES BALDWIN; A PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the problems of this research is identifying of the parts of the main character. There are some problems that can be identified:

1. The factors influence a main character to be homosexual as reflected by the main character in *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin.
2. The influence of environment that lead the main character becomes homosexual in *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin.
3. The reaction of society toward homosexual person in *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin.
4. The impacts of homosexuality in psychology to the main character in *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin
5. The doubtfull of main character in choosen being real man or as man homosexual in *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the research problem above the limitation of this research are:

1. This research focuses on the factors influence a main character to be homosexual as reflected by the main character in *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin.
2. This study will discus about The impacts of homosexuality in psychology by the main character in *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin.

1.4 Formulation of the Research

The problem in this research is to revealed homosexuality in *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin. There are three problems that are formulated, and they are as followed:

1. What factors influence a main character to be homosexual as reflected by the main character in *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin ?
2. What are the impacts of homosexuality in psychology to the main the character in *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin?

1.5 Objective of the Research

Based on the problems of the research, the purposes are:

1. To find out the factors influence a main character to be homosexual as reflected by the main character in *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin.
2. To know the impacts of homosexuality in psychology to the main the character in *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin.

1.6 Significance of the Research

The significance of this research can be viewed from both theoretically and practically aspects, as describe below:

1. Theoritically

The result this research is expected to give something worthwhile contribution of all people who want study English Literature especially in literary work (novel). So, the result of this research gives more explanation about the homosexuality related to psychological field.

2. Practically

1. For the academic society, the result of this study will be a valuable source and a reference to those who take the relevant research study.

2. For the reader, the result of this research is expected to give contribution for the readers to know how to see problem of homosexuality.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

- Homosexuality** : Heavily related to psychology is that homosexuality is defined as a pathologic condition in which normal psychosexual development somehow failed and the person is unable to relate sexually to members of the opposite sex (Fromer, 1983: 79).
- Impact** : The action of one object coming forcibly into contact with another' and 'a marked effect or influence also an impinging or striking especially of one body against another. (Oxforddictionary.com)
- Psychological Approach** : The scientific study of the behaviour of humans and other animals. The term behavior refers both to overt, observable actions and to covert, unobservable (internal) mental processes and states such as perception, thought, reasoning, problem-solving, and feelings. (Encyclopedia Americana (1998:723)