

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Sexual activity is the way how people express their sexuality. As Rathus said that sexuality as the way in which we experience and express ourselves as sexual beings. Sexuality is the essential part of ourselves, whether or not we ever engage in sexual intercourse or sexual fantasy (5). In line with that statement, sexuality is defined as the essence of human's life. All people including babies, children, adolescents, and old people are sexual beings. Humans are sexual beings through their lifetime.

Life is a sequence of human's experience. It can be represented by literature. As Aristotle said that literature is the work as imitation of life (Kennedy 1378). Many realities that occur in life can be taken as plot elements of literary work. Moreover, according to Terry Eagleton, literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination (qtd in zuhriyah1). From that statement, literature is one of media that retells human experiences and occurrences in the society through human's imagination.

There are many kinds of literary works, such as novel, drama, poetry, and short story. Roberts states that literature maybe classified into four categories: prose fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction prose (2). Prose fiction includes such as myths, parables, romances, novels, and short stories (qtd in kiptiyah 1). Meanwhile, a novel

is a book-length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that, while we read, we experience actual life (Kennedy 231). Therefore, by reading a novel the reader does not only get pleasure but also learning from human experiences and occurrences in the real life.

As one of great novels, *Weetzie Bat* was published in 1989. It is a magical realism novel written by Francesca Lia Block. A magical realism is fiction that integrates elements of fantasy into otherwise realistic settings (www.theatlantic.com). In this novel, Block puts the genie's character as an element of fantasy to fulfill Weetzie's wishes in her life. Moreover about the author, Block was born on December 3, 1962 in Los Angeles. She is an American writer of adult and young-adult literature. She is the acclaimed author of the Los Angeles Times Best-sellers Year. Her work is published around the world. Some of her literary works have won literary award, and one of those are *Weetzie Bat* (www.AuthorTracker.com).

Weetzie Bat is a story of an Indian teenager, Weetzie and her gay friend, Dirk-who hunts for their true love. They are searching of their true love but still have not found it. They find it when Dirk's grandmother named Fifi gives a magic lamp to Weetzie. The genie's lamp gives her three wishes. First, Weetzie asks a Duck for Dirk. A 'Duck' is a term to express a gay male in the story. Hence, it means that Weetzie asks the genie to find a boyfriend for Dirk. Second, Weetzie asks My Secret Agent Lover Man for herself. 'My Secret Agent Lover Man' is a term to express a Weetzie's wonderman in the story. Hence, it means that Weetzie asks the genie to find a boyfriend for herself. The last, Weetzie asks a beautiful house like in a fairytale

where they can live happily ever after. One by one her wishes come true. First, Dirk's grandmother dies and leaves a beautiful cottage for them. Second, Dirk finds his true love (Duck). Afterward, Weetzie finds her true love (My Secret Agent Lover Man). They live happily inside the house. Nevertheless, the happiness has changed to the sadness when Weetzie's boyfriend know that she does threesome with a pair of gays, Dirk and Duck. This is a love story among of the characters which is bringing sexual orientation issues.

Sexual orientation is defined by whom we are sexually attracted to and also have potential for loving (Hyde and Delamater 334). Sexual orientation is divided into three, those are homosexual, heterosexual, and bisexual. As Rathus explains that sexual orientation concerns the direction of one's romantic interests and erotic attractions toward members of the same gender (homosexual), the other gender (heterosexual), or both (bisexual) (262). Regardless, in practicing their sexual orientation, people engage in some varieties of sexual activity such as individuals, couples, or groups (Janus 108). Individual sexuality means a sexual activity that involves a person. While couple one means a sexual activity that involves two people. The last but not least, group one means a sexual activity that involves a number of people having sexual relation together. It can be threesome, foursome, fivesome, or more.

Building from those explanations, this thesis uses queer theory. According to Eve Kosofsky Sedwick, 'queer' can refer to 'the open mesh of possibilities, gaps, overlaps, dissonance and resonance, lapses and excesses of meaning when the

constituent elements of anyone's gender, of anyone's sexuality are not made (or cannot be made) to signify monolithically (Sedwick 8). In line with that statement, queer challenges all gender and all sexuality. Moreover, queer theory reads text to reveal the problematic of representations of the dynamic range of human sexuality (Tyson 336). Hence, this theory seems applicable because this thesis tries to reveal the problematic of threesome that belongs to human sexuality.

B. Statements of Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of research will be formulated as follows:

1. What are the factors that cause Weetzie and a pair of gays, Dirk and Duck, decide to do threesome depicted in the novel?
2. What are the effects of their threesome to Weetzie's life depicted in the novel.

C. Objectives of the Study

Related to the statement of problems above, this study intends to achieve some objectives:

1. To find out the factors that cause Weetzie and a pair of gays, Dirk and Duck, decide to do threesome that Francesca's express in *Weetzie Bat* by Francesca Lia Block.
2. To find out the effects of threesome which done by Weetzie and a pair of gays, Dirk and Duck to Weetzie's life depicted in the novel.

D. Scope and Limitation

In order to prevent non-relevant problems, the study will be limited to the novel of *Weetzie Bat* only. The study then focusses on the threesome which done by the characters represented in the novel. To answer statements of problem above, Weetzie's threesome with the pair of gays becomes the most important point to analyze. However, some other characters that Weetzie interacts with will be also the object for analysis but the study will be limited to Weetzie and her friends who are the gays. The scope of this study is upon the background of Weetzie Bat and her friends as the pair of gays; The factors that cause Weetzie and the pair of gays to do threesome and the effects of their threesome to Weetzie's life.

E. Significance of the Study

Threesome case that is portrayed in the novel entitled *Weetzie Bat* brings the study into the aim of giving a new comprehension to the reader toward threesome as the portrayal of sexual behaviour in America. Furthermore, this study will also enrich the reader's comprehension on gender and sexuality issue that unusual which can be said as non straight behaviour. This thesis is also expected to be useful especially for the students of literature to know an example of queer theory application in analyzing a literary work. Moreover, this thesis is hoped can be a helpful reference for other researchers who are interested in conducting further research.

F. Method of the Study

This thesis is library based. Therefore, to make good the study, the study uses library research by using some books including the novel itself as the primary source,

articles, journals, and online resources. In presenting the analysis, the study mainly uses descriptive qualitative method. Strauss and Corbin stated that the term qualitative is meant for kind of research in which the results are not obtained through the process of any statistics procedure or another form of calculation (qtd in Supandi 6). If that so, the best method in this analysis is indeed descriptive qualitative method of research for it describes the depiction of threesome and it does not result in numerical calculation. The research follows the following steps:

1. Reading the novel to get the complete and well understanding on the whole story.
2. Selecting and collecting the data in form of narration and conversation from the novel related to the problem.
3. Analyzing the data collected by firstly categorizing them into two points, dealing with the statement of problems. Then, each point is analyzed using queer theory, which refers to the objectives of the study.
4. Making conclusion based on the result of data analysis.

H. Definition of Key Terms

Human Sexuality : The way in which we experience and express ourselves as sexual beings (Rathus, et al 5).

Threesome :A sexual activity that involves three people at the same time (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Threesome>).

According to Karlen, threesome is three people in one bed or in one ménage (Karlen 44).