

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, there is a significant change in American society. Generally, American believes that the selection of a marital partner should be left entirely to the two individuals concerned. Most American marries people of their own ethnic background, religion, and geographical origin (Althen 162). Also, they marry people of different sex. The man marries woman and woman marries man. However, some people define that the freedom of choosing a marriage couple is their right. On the other hand, American has a new habit in which they marry people of their same sex. The man marries man and woman marries woman.

During 1980, a number of state and local government adopted laws prohibiting discrimination to LGBT in employment, housing, public accommodations, and employee benefits (Harrison 197). Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people struggle hard to get citizen civil right at that time. The constitution does not allow same-sex marriage. They cannot own a house. They do not get good job. This includes in the prohibition to discriminate the LGBT. It can be said as the result of the LGBT's struggle.

Regarding the restriction of LGBT, they acted collectively and in large numbers to assert their rights. Gay and lesbian began to hold gay pride marches throughout the century (Harrison 196). Finally LGBT people are winning the citizen civil right. Since 2003, LGBT have the citizen civil right in the United States. They can get married with their same sex. They can own a house. They can speak their ideas. By 2008, the states of California, Connecticut, and Massachusetts allow same-sex marriages, and Vermont and New Jersey allow civil unions (Harrison 197).

One of those people who married with the same sex is Tony Kushner. He is an outstanding American Playwright. He married with Mark Harris. They held a commitment ceremony in April 2003. In summer 2008, they were legally married at the city hall in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Tony Kushner writes drama about LGBT. It is very possible that the drama he wrote is about his experience. He wants to deliver a message through his literary work.

Drama is one of literary work. Drama is a work of art composed of words, and the words remain essential (Kennedy 833). In this research, I study about drama in text. In drama text, the reader should have more imagination to imagine the story. Kennedy says:

Some readers, when silently reading a play to themselves, try to visualize a stage, imagining the characters in costume and under lights. If such a reader is an actor or director and is reading the play with an eye to staging it, then that reader may try to imagine every detail of a possible production, even shades of makeup and loudness of sound effects (835).

Like the other literary work, drama has elements. One of them is a character. Character divides into major characters and minor characters. A major character is an important figure of the story. A minor character is supporting figure of the story. In this study, the writer of this research will analyze about the character of the drama.

This study analyzes Tony Kushner's drama. It is entitled *Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approach*. The theme of this drama is about homosexuality. The story tells about gay couple and infection of AIDS. There are two homosexual men who have complicated love. They cause conflicts in the story.

This drama is chosen because it is an American favorite and famous drama. This drama becomes famous because the story is actual issue. This drama becomes one of the bestseller books. Furthermore, the play has been made into both a television miniseries and an opera. It gets several prestige awards such as Tony Award for Best Play (1993), Pulitzer Prize for Drama (1993), London Drama Critics Circle Award for Best New Play (1992) and many more. According to yahoo news:

“The US Supreme Court made same-sex marriage legal throughout the nation in a much-awaited landmark decision that triggered wild jubilation and tears of joy across the country. In a 5-4 ruling on Friday, the highest court in the United States said the Constitution requires all 50 states to carry out and recognize marriages between people of the same sex. President Barack Obama praised the ruling as "a victory for America." The court decision marked a fresh coup for the White House, coming a day after the Supreme Court upheld an important and disputed section of Obama's signature health care reform” (<http://news.yahoo.com/us-supreme-court-rules-gay-marriage-nationwide-141601707.html>)

From the quotation above, it shows that marriage over same gender has officially become legal in United States. Therefore, the writer is more curious about the drama and interested in analyzing the drama through this study.

Regarding the consideration above, it is important to analyze the biographical background of the author in order to prove that the drama is real based on author's experience. Abrams states that Poetry is the overflow, utterance, or projection of the thought and feelings of the poet; or else poetry is defined in terms of the imaginative process which modifies and synthesizes the image, thoughts, and feelings of the poet (21). So, this study uses expressive theory by Abrams to analyze the author's background of life.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on background of the study, there are problems related to the study, which will lead by following research question:

1. How does Tony Kushner characterize Louis as main character in his drama?
2. How does this work reflect to Tony Kushner real life?

### 1.3 Objective of The Study

1. To describe Louis' characterization in the drama based on Tony Kushner's view.

2. To find out the reflection of Tony Kushner's real life in the drama.

## 1.4 Scope and Limitation

In order to keep this study on track, the writer will limit this thesis on the main character, Louis. The writer will try to connect the characterization of Louis with the playwright of the drama. The object of this study is a play by Tony Kushner entitled “*Angels in America part one: Millennium Approaches*”.

### 1.5 Significance of the Study

This study dedicates to both English Letter Department in State University of Islamic studies Sunan Ampel Surabaya and the readers. By conducting the study, the researcher hopes that it can give contribution for the readers, especially students who are interested in literature, especially drama. Hopefully, this study can inspire in doing literary study, specifically to have more understanding about the homosexuality in America. It is expected to be one of the worthy contributions in American drama, especially about homosexuality.

### 1.5 Method of Study

This is a library based study which means this study used references such as books, articles, journals, magazines either from hard copy or online ones. In

analyzing this drama, this study is conducted using descriptive qualitative.

Furthermore, the data is described and explained in the analysis. The primary data of this study is the text of drama “*Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches*” by Tony Kushner. The data of this study is from the main characters of the drama. The data are the words, clauses, phrases, or sentences spoken by the character in the drama.

Afterwards, the writer went to library and browsed online research in collecting the information, the writer took the sources from books, articles, and other printed and unprinted materials such as e-books. It is done to find out some previous thesis, essays, journals, and the internet sources. The research steps are stated below:

1. Reading the drama carefully to get the complete and well understanding on the whole story.
2. Selecting and collecting the data in form of conversation from drama; statements that show the main character and characterization. Then find out the data about M.H Abrams theory and theory about New Criticism especially about character and characterization.
3. Investigating the biographical sketch of the author to see the relationship between his life and his work.
4. Analyzing the data collected by connecting them with the theory.
5. Making conclusion based on the result of data analysis.

