

Chapter III

The Characterization of the Main Character and their Comparison with the Playwright

In this chapter, the writer presents the analysis of a drama by Tony Kushner entitled *Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches*. This chapter investigates Louis' character as the author's reflection of the play namely Tony Kushner. The discussions are related to the statement of problems. This chapter is written separately which it consists of two parts. Firstly, it is about Louis' characterization. The second is the comparison between Tony Kushner's real life and Louis' characterization in the drama to prove whether Louis is the reflection of Tony Kushner or not.

3.1 Louis Characterization

In this part the writer specifies the discussion on the main character on the drama that has chosen. The main character that is chosen by the writer is Louis Ironson. Louis ironson is a homosexual man. Here, the writer discuss about Louis' characterization based on Louis' feeling, personality, speech and behavior, and thought. So, the writer will find the characterization of Louis based on the some criteria above.

3.1.1 Louis as a Homosexual

Homosexual is someone who has relationship with the same sex, which means man loves another man. It is normal for them to have desire with the same male gender. This kind of man who would like to have sexual intercourse such making love like a normal couple does. In this drama, Louis is a homosexual. His homosexual characteristic often shows in this drama. Below is the quotation:

“PRIOR: Hmmm?
LOUIS: You love me.
PRIOR: Yes.
LOUIS: What if I walked out on this?
 Would you hate me forever?
(Prior kisses Louis on the forehead.)
PRIOR: Yes.” (46)

Louis and Prior have conversation on the bed (41). Louis intends to leave Prior and ends their relationship. When Prior kisses Louis on the bed, it proves that they are a homosexual. As normal couple does, they act some romance things to the opposite sex. Not for them, they consider they are both are partner with benefits in unusual way. Another scene which proves that Louis has relationship is stated below:

“BELIZE (Trying to jog his memory): How Long?
PRIOR : I don’t remember.
BELIZE : How long have you been here?
PRIOR (*Getting suddenly upset*): I don't remember, I don't give a fuck. I want Louis. I want my fucking boyfriend, where the fuck is he? I'm dying, I'm dying, where's Louis?” (66)

The conversation above is a little talk between Prior and Belize. Prior is hospitalized because he is suffering and dying of AIDS. Belize visits Prior in the

Louis intends to leave Prior because he is suffering AIDS. Louis does not want to be infected by Prior's disease, but Louis still wants to expresses his sexual desire to another man. Louis has an affair with another man. Below is the quotation which proves that Louis has an affair with another man:

“MAN: What do you want?
LOUIS: I want you to f*ck me, hurt me, make me bleed.
MAN: I want to.
LOUIS : Yeah?
MAN: I want to hurt you.
LOUIS: F*ck me.
MAN: Yeah?
LOUIS: Hard.
MAN: Yeah? You been a bad boy?” (60-61)

Louis and The Man are in Central Park. Central Park is one of Public Park in New York City. Louis wants to expresses his sexual desire with The Man. By uttering the words “f*ck me, hurt me, make me bleed” Louis wants to make love with The Man. Generally, a man will be attracted with a woman. A man will express his sexual desire with a woman, but, if there is a man who attracted and has sexual desire with the same sex, this man has a sexual disorientation. He is a homosexual. Louis and The Man express his sexual desire with the same sex. They called as a homosexual.

In the end of this drama, Louis and Prior end their relationship. Then, Louis begins to start a new relationship with another man. His name is Joe. Below is the quotation:

“JOE: Please.
Oh, boy . . .
Can I . . .
I . . . want... to touch you. Can I please just touch you . . . um, here?
(He puts his hand on one side of Louis's face. He holds it there)
I'm going to hell for doing this.
LOUIS: Big deal. You think it could be any worse than New York City?
(He puts his hand on Joe's hand. He takes Joe's hand away from his face, holds it for a moment, then) Come on.
JOE: Where?
LOUIS: Home. With me.” (122-123)

kiss a man, especially if they are adults. A man who kisses a man is called a homosexual. Then, Louis feels lonely tonight, he asks Joe to spend tonight with Joe in the home. Firstly, Joe ignores the invitation and says that he thinks that he is not deserved being loved, but when Louis goes, Joe follows Louis and they spent the night together. It means that Louis begins to start new relationship with Joe. Then, Louis is a homosexual.

From some quotation and explanation above, it proves that Louis is a homosexual because he loves a man, he expresses his sexual desire with man, he kisses a man, he make love with man. He has relationship with a man. The first relationship is with Prior. In this relationship, Louis has affair with The Man. After Louis and Prior ending their relationship, Louis has relationship with another man, named Joe.

3.1.2 Louis' Feeling

There is a method that is used by the author to describe his character based on the character's feeling. In this drama, Louis states that he has a relationship with a man named Prior Walter. They live in an apartment. Below is the quotation which proves about Louis' feeling:

“LOUIS: I feel. . . nothing but cold for myself, just cold, and every night I miss him, I miss him so much but then . . . those sores, and the smell and . . . where I thought it was going. ... I could be ... I could be sick too, maybe I'm sick too. I don't know.
Belize. Tell him I love him. Can you do that?” (105-106)

The statement above, Louis states that he misses and loves him so much. ‘Him’ in this case is Prior, Louis’ lover. Louis loves a man. Generally, a man must love a woman. A man who loves a man, it can be said that he has a sexual disorientation. He is homosexual because he loves the same sex called gay. It means that Louis is a gay.

3.1.3 Louis' Personality

There is a method that is used by the author to describe his character based on the character' personality. In this drama, Louis is describes as a New Yorker. Below is the quotation which proves that Louis lives in New York:

“First week of November. In the men's room of the offices of the Brooklyn Federal Court of Appeals; Louis is crying over the sink; Joe enters.” (34)

It states that Louis is in his office of the Brooklyn Federal Court of Appeals. Brooklyn is the most populous of New York City's five boroughs. Another scene which proves that Louis lives in Brooklyn is:

"That afternoon. On the granite steps outside the Hall of Justice, Brooklyn. It is cold and sunny. A Sabrett wagon is selling hot dogs. Louis, in a shabby overcoat, is sitting on the steps contemplatively eating one. Joe enters with three hot dogs and a can of Coke." (75)

It also shows that Louis is having lunch with Joe on the granite steps outside the hall of Justice in Brooklyn. Two quotations above conclude that Louis is a New Yorker.

The other personality is Louis is a Jewish. The following quotation proves that Louis is a Jewish:

“RABBI ISIDOR CHEMELWITZ: Please, mister. I’m a sick old rabbi facing a long drive home to the Bronx. You want to confess, better you should find a priest.

LOUIS: But I'm not a Catholic, I'm a Jew.

RABBI ISIDOR CHEMELWITZ: Worse luck for you, bubbulah. Catholics believe in forgiveness. Jews believe in Guilt. (*He pats the coffin tenderly*)”(31).

Louis is talking with a Rabbi. He consults to the rabbi. The Rabbi suggests him to consult with a priest. On the other hand, Louis ignores the suggestion because he is not a Catholic. He admits that his religion is a Jew.

Then, Louis is a word processor who works in the Brooklyn Federal Court of Appeals. Below is the quotation:

"First week of November. In the men's room of the offices of the Brooklyn Federal Court of Appeals; Louis is crying over the sink; Joe enters.

JOE: Oh, um. . . . Morning.

LOUIS: Good morning, counselor.

JOE (*He watches Louis cry*): Sorry, I . . . I don't know your name.

LOUIS: Don't bother. Word processor. The lowest of the low.

JOE (*Holding out hand*): Joe Pitt. I'm with Justice Wilson . . .

LOUIS: Oh, I know that. Counselor Pitt. Chief Clerk.” (34).

It is the first scene when Louis and Joe meet. Louis introduces himself to Joe as a word processor. Even though they work in the same office, they do not know each others' name and position. Louis admits that he is a word processor.

Louis is one of the main characters in this drama. He becomes main character because he often appears in the drama and he dominates the story. Louis has some characteristic, Louis is a Jewish. He is a New Yorker who lives and works in

Brooklyn. He works as a word processor in the Brooklyn Federal Court of Appeals.

Louis personality has proved from some quotation that has explained above.

3.1.4 Louis' speech and behavior

Louis' speech and behavior is clearly described by the author in this drama. Based on Louis' speech and behavior, Louis is a sensitive person. A sensitive person is someone who easily upset by the things that people think or say about you. This person is highly responsive or susceptible, easily to be hurt or damaged emotionally. A sensitive characterization is a person who delicately aware of an attitude and feelings of others. For example if someone has an opinion but the other has different opinion with him, he will be easily offend or upset and become sensitive.

This drama describes Louis as a sensitive person. Louis as a sensitive person is revealed when he argues with Joe because Joe was voted for Reagan. Reagan is an American President who crowned in 1980-1988. Louis character as a sensitive person is firstly presented when Louis firstly meets Joe in the men's room of their office.

They have conversations. Below is the quotation:

“LOUIS: Hah. Reaganite heartless macho asshole lawyers.
JOE: Oh, that's unfair.
LOUIS: What is? Heartless? Macho? Reaganite? Lawyer?
JOE: I voted for Reagan.
LOUIS: YOU did?
JOE: Twice.
LOUIS: Twice? Well, oh boy. A Gay Republican.
JOE: Excuse me?
LOUIS: Nothing.
JOE: I'm not . . . Forget it.

After their first meeting, Louis and Joe meet for the second time when they are having lunch in the Hall of Justice not deliberately. Louis still discuss about their difference. Below is the quotation:

“LOUIS: My . . . ? Oh. He's worse. My friend is worse.
JOE: I'm sorry.
LOUIS: Yeah, well. Thanks for asking. It's nice. You're nice. I can't believe
you voted for Reagan.
JOE: I hope he gets better.
LOUIS: Reagan?
JOE: Your friend.
LOUIS: He won't. Neither will Reagan.
JOE: Let's not talk politics, OK?” (76)

Joe talks about Louis' friend who is sick, namely Prior. Joe is asking about Prior's condition. On the other hand, Louis does not like the topic. Louis does not like to talk about Prior and Louis changes the topic about their difference. Louis wants to have debate with Joe about Reagan. Therefore, when Louis meets Joe, Louis always talks about Reagan. Louis cannot believe that Joe voted for President Reagan. When Louis is trying to have debate with Joe about Reagan, Joe ignores him and wants to not talk about politics, especially talk about President Reagan.

Louis not only sensitive with other people who has different opinion about Reagan, but also he is sensitive if someone has different opinion about his religion. It is revealed when he argues with Belize. Louis and Belize has conversation in a coffee shop. Below is the quotation:

3.1.5 Louis' Thought

In this drama, Louis' thought is mostly show that Louis is a smart person especially when he learns or thinks about democracy in America. His good thinking or his good opinion about democracy in America is revealed when Louis talks to Belize in a coffee shop in Act 3 scene 2. Below is the quotation:

“LOUIS : Why has democracy succeeded in America? Of course by succeeded I mean comparatively, not literally, not in the present, but what makes for the prospect of some sort of radical democracy spreading outward and growing up? Why does the power that was once so carefully preserved at the top of the pyramid by the original framers of the Constitution seem drawn inexorably downward and outward in spite of the best effort of the Right to stop this? I mean it's the really hard thing about being Left in this country, the American Left can't help but trip over all these petrified little fetishes:....” (95)

Based on some quotation and explanation about Louis' characterization, it can be said that Louis is a homosexual because he loves man and has relationship with men; they are Prior, The man and Joe. Louis is sensitive person, he being sensitive when someone has different opinion with him. Louis is smart person, especially when he talks and gives opinion about democracy and politics in America.

3.2 The reflection of Tony Kushner's real life in the drama

As a biographical study, it is interesting to return the story of the work to the author's feeling, thought, and background. In this part, the writer will compare between Tony Kushner's real life and Louis' characterization in the drama. The comparison is about their homosexuality.

3.2.1 Tony Kushner and Louis are Homosexual

Related to the issue of homosexuality faced by the character of *Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approach*, Tony Kushner tries to bring the readers to face the fact in present day. In the other words, Tony Kushner wants to explore the newest issues. Tony Kushner creates a drama and makes homosexuality as the theme. Homosexuality is part of Kushner's life. That is why, as a gay, he makes characters who are gays too. Louis is one of the gay men in the play. Louis has the same sexual orientation, as is Kushner.

his parents try to give psychotherapy for Kushner to change his sexual orientation. Kushner's parent felt ironic and sad about the reality that his son was not heterosexual.

Slowly, he came to accept his sexuality and acknowledged it to his family after moving to New York in 1974 to enter Columbia University (Fisher 3). Kushner and his boyfriend Mark Harris, an editor of *Entertainment Weekly*, held a commitment ceremony in April 2003, the first same-sex commitment ceremony. In summer 2008 they were legally married at the city hall in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

So, based on the sexual identity, Tony Kushner and Louis have similarity. Louis and Kushner are homosexual. As a homosexual, Kushner and Louis have the same story. When Kushner being homosexual, his family is very sad and reject it. Kushner family tries to give psychotherapy to make Kushner being heterosexual, but it does not work. Kushner still being homosexual, and when Kushner was collage, he admits that he is homosexual and his family can accept it though it is ironic. In 2003, Kushner marries his boyfriend Mark Harris.

In the case of homosexuality, Louis has the same story with Kushner with different ending. In the beginning of the story, Louis does not want to introduce his boyfriend, Prior because Louis is very close with his family about his sexual identity. For four years Louis has relationship with Prior but he does not want to show to his

