

**BEN GRUNEWALD'S BEHAVIORAL DEVIATIONS IN *I  
LOVED YOU MORE* BY TOM SPANBAUER**

**THESIS**



**UIN SUNAN AMPEL  
S U R A B A Y A**

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## ABSTRACT

Faizah, N. 2023. Ben Grunewald's Behavioral Deviations In *I Loved You More* by Tom Spanbauer. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, MA.

The study is aimed at analyzing characterization, sexual relationship, and the factor that influenced behavioral deviations of Ben Grunewald as the main character in *I Loved You More* novel. This study answers two problem formulation: (1) how is Ben Grunewald's characterization depicted in the novel, and (2) how is Ben Grunewald's sexual relationship described in the novel.

The method used in this research is the qualitative method. The writer uses a qualitative approach to the use of clear and systematic descriptions of the phenomena being studied. The data were collected by reading *I Loved You More* novel. The writer finds a suitable quote based on the novel. Search supporting sources are suitable to support when analyzing data. After collecting all of the data, the writer processes it for analysis.

This study reveals 9 of Ben's characterization in the novel. The results of this study indicate that Ben's character is hardworking, kind, adventurous, active, optimistic, jealous, awesome, sociable, helpful. The writer finds Ben feeling interested and having a relationship with men like Hunk and Tony. Ben also feels interested and has relationships with women like Ruth, Evie, and Betty. With this Ben can be said that he is not only interested in one type of gender but also both. The writer also explained and analyzed 4 factors that influenced Ben's abnormal behavior and the results showed that Ben was affected by the family environment, school environment, social environment, and last a weakness of religious's knowledge.

**Keywords:** Character, characterization, sexual orientation

## ABSTRAK

Faizah, N. (2023). Penyimpangan Perilaku Ben Grunewald dalam novel *I Loved You More* oleh Tom Spanbauer. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, MA.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis karakterisasi, hubungan seksual, dan faktor yang mempengaruhi penyimpangan perilaku dari Ben Grunewald sebagai pemeran utama. Studi ini menjawab dua formulasi masalah: (1) bagaimana karakterisasi Ben Grunewald digambarkan dalam novel, dan (2) bagaimana hubungan seksual Ben Grunewald dijelaskan dalam novel *I Loved You More*.

Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif. Penulis menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif untuk menggunakan deskripsi yang jelas dan sistematis dari fenomena yang dipelajari. Data tersebut dikumpulkan dengan membaca novel yang berjudul *I Loved You More*. Penulis menemukan kutipan yang cocok berdasarkan novel. Mencari sumber tambahan yang sesuai untuk mendukung proses menganalisis data. Setelah mengumpulkan semua data, penulis memprosesnya untuk analisis.

Hasil studi menemukan 9 penokohan dari Ben dalam novel. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa karakter Ben adalah pekerja keras, baik, petualang, aktif, optimis, cemburu, menakutkan, ramah, senang membantu. Penulis menemukan Ben merasa tertarik dan memiliki hubungan dengan pria seperti Hunk dan Tony. Ben juga merasa tertarik dan memiliki hubungan dengan wanita seperti Ruth, Evie dan Betty. Dengan ini Ben dapat dikatakan bahwa dia tidak hanya tertarik pada satu jenis gender tetapi juga keduanya. Penulis juga menjelaskan dan menganalisis 4 faktor yang mempengaruhi penyimpangan perilaku Ben dan hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa Ben dipengaruhi oleh lingkungan keluarga, lingkungan sekolah, lingkungan sosial, dan terakhir adalah pengetahuan agama yang lemah.

**Kata kunci** : tokoh, penokohan, orientasi seksual.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

God created man and woman. God has rules to be peaceful and safe for all his creatures. Interacting and socializing are then destined to have an attraction to the opposite sex according to their existing nature. Humans are social creatures. As part of existing community life, it is not impossible to have to create an interaction for the sake of survival. Humans live with mutual help and cannot live alone to meet a variety of needs. To keep continuity, humans form bonds and create relationships. Men and women together, get married and form a family with customs and norms they agree with. But when someone does not follow the existing rules, then they will feel rejected from the community.

Sexual orientation is the basic desire of the individual to satisfy the need for love, to relate to intimacy, or to feel intimate (Sinyo, 2014). Sexual orientation can develop so that there is a bond between two people. Sexual orientation consists of three categories: first is homosexual, second is heterosexual and the last is bisexual. The common sexual orientation in society is heterosexual. But we can't keep an eye on others who have divergent or different sexual orientations, such as homosexuals. Homosexual is described as a man or woman who tends to like the same gender. Homosexuality is not only sexual contact between a person with another person of the same gender but also relates to the individual in terms of psychic, psychological, and community predisposition to someone of the same

sex. Orientation sexual is influenced by environmental, cognitive, and biological factors. A person's sexual orientation generally appears early in adolescence.

According to Crew and Crewfond (2015), sexual orientation refers to how a person negotiates varying patterns of romantic, sexual, and emotional attraction to other males, females, or a combination of both males and females. The distinction between sexual orientation and gender identity can be evident in how individuals define and construct themselves as members of a particular gender, typically as male, female, or transgender. Since this study is primarily concerned with sexual orientation, transgender concerns won't be included. Transgender does not define sexual orientation in the same manner that lesbian, gay, or bisexual does, hence this distinction is made.

From the explanations of several experts above the authors focus on that sexual orientation is divided into three: homosexual, heterosexual, and bisexual. Homosexuality is the attraction to the same gender. Heterosexuality is an attraction to the opposite gender. Bisexual is an attraction to both. One of the three things that can be said "normal" is heterosexuality.

The term "queer" has been applied to activities, identities, and ideals that are thought to be outside of social boundaries to quiet, suppress, and condemn them (Butler, 1993). This is something that was previously considered wrong, violates the rules, and is strangely changed into something normal, positive, and accepted. The recent reclamation of the term In particular for those who identify as differently gendered, queer signifies a resistance movement, mostly driven by

academics and activists, to change the pejorative connotation of the term into a desirable, political, and positive representation of the self (Pinar, 2005).

Queer that was initially rated “not good” turned into something that was considered normal. With the advancement of an era in which the mindset of every person began to evolve according to the progress of the times, many activists and organizations began to emerge and dare to support it.

The issue of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) equality has emerged as one of the most important human rights issues of the twenty-first century as a result of the convergence of growing interest in Islam and this other issue (Crompton, 2009). Gay issues have been depicted in literature in anything from short stories or novels. Novels are among the most widely read types of literature. Literature is a term used to describe written texts that are distinguished by their careful use of language, including features such as creative metaphors, well-turned phrases, elegant syntax, rhyme, and alliteration, which are aesthetically read or intended by the author to be aesthetically read and are purposefully somewhat open in interpretation (Meyer, 1988, p. 1). The term literature refers to written or spoken material. Poetry, theatre, fiction, and nonfiction are examples of works of creative imagination. Literature can be an expression of feelings, thoughts, ideas, passion, or conviction. According to Bonn, writing a novel is a lengthy fictional story that evolved from the novella and other early forms of narrative (2010, p. 112). There are some popular gay, lesbian topic novels, such as *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, *The Price of Salt* by Patricia Highsmith, etc.

This paper focuses on analyzing a novel entitled *I Loved You More* by Tom Spanbauer that was published in 2013. In this novel, a lot of interesting things are captured by researchers and can also be obtained by readers, one of which is having a story about friendship. Novels are a type of literary work (Reichert, 1977). Novels based on actual life serve as inspiration for everyone and contribute to the story's overall coherence. The novel is a type of literary work that is highly particular. It mostly describes life or everything found in the world. Because it discusses human activities and descriptions of what happens nearby, the novel shows numerous themes such as love and human existence. Reading a novel allows us to naturally expand our knowledge and scientific understanding, particularly in the areas of characters and characterization.

Characters have distinct personalities and physical characteristics that set them apart from other characters. Characterization refers to the process through which an author builds a character (Rohrberger, 1971, p. 20). Characterization is an important aspect of making a tale compelling. Characterization gives the reader or viewer a solid feeling of the character's personality. A character is a person who appears in a literary work, and the author uses characterization to depict the character. A character in the tale must play out a role written or created by the author.

In this paper, the writer choose to analyze the novel entitled *I Loved You More*. First The writer is interested to analyze the main character's characterization because this novel features exceptional characters. Second, same-sex and then different-sex (normal) relationships are very interesting to be

analyzed. Ben's characters in this novel are interesting to discuss. Ben has an interest not only in the opposite sex but also in the same sex. In the novel, it is told that Ben loves his college friend named Hank Christian. Not only Hank whose position has the same gender as Ben. Ben also remained interested in women, such as Evie. Evie was the only woman married to Ben. This novel is not just about Ben's love story. Ben's childhood life, schooltime, until Ben spent his days in New York City. There was the career journey and struggle of Ben as a great and successful writing teacher and author.

After reading the novel, the writer discovers that the main character has an interesting personality. The author attempts to focus on and evaluate Ben as the major character in this section. First and foremost, the writer believes that a thorough grasp of the character is required in this research, as character and characterization play a significant part in the narrative. Second, the author attempts to decipher Ben's sexual orientation.

## **1.2 Problems of the Study**

According to the background above, the problems of study are formulated as follows:

- a) How is Ben Grunewald's characterization depicted in the novel?
- b) How is Ben Grunewald's sexual relationship described in the novel?

## **1.3 Objectives of the study**

According to the problems above, the objectives of the study are aimed:

- a) To describe Ben Grunewald's characterization depicted in the novel.





**Queer** is refers to a wide range of critical practices and priorities, including reading representations of same-sex desire in a literary text, film, music, and image; analyzing the social and political power relations of sexuality; criticizing the sex-gender system; and researching transexual and transgender identification, sadomasochism, and transgressive desires (Spargo, 2008, p. 9)

**Homosexual** is a more realistic and non-judgmental definition of homosexual is someone who has a strong romantic attraction to someone of the same sex and can be sexually aroused by someone of the same sex (Fromer, 1983, p. 79)

**Heterosexual** is Sexual contact between men and women is seen as normal and natural within society; anything other is considered unnatural or inappropriate (Berlang, 2012)

**Bisexual** is the condition can occur in both male and female individuals, in which a single body can have both feminine and masculine characteristics (Storr, 1999, p. 15).

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## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discusses theories used to explain, analyze, and answer the statement of the problem above by using *I Loved You More* as an object.

#### 2.1 New Criticism

The focus of the new critical theory is on literary texts; this does not imply that the author's biography, the economy, the political climate, or anything else external to the literary work is insignificant. According to new criticism theory, literary analysis should center on the text. New criticism was the prevalent approach to studying literature in the 19th century (Tyson, 2006, p. 135). The new critic holds that each text itself can provide the greatest and most accurate interpretation. Plot, theme, character, place, language style, and point of view are the fundamental components of a literary work.

##### 2.1.1 Characters and Characterization

A character is a person, usually portrayed by an actor, who appears in literary works, whether they are fictional or historical figures. Character is a crucial aspect of fiction. Characters are elements that can be found in a movie plot, and narrative and character are interdependent because the plot is not simply a set of events that occur to characterize a character. Character is a personality made up of traits. Characters are the people who appear in the story. A character is a person who appears in a tale or a play (Duffy, 1953, p. 24)

Characters are categorized as major and minor. In a piece of literature, the major character serves as the primary character and the reader's center of attention. The readers' whole attention is focused on the main character. They will believe that he or she will speak for their desires and ideas and that he or she might end up becoming the main character who shapes their hopes and aspirations and, ultimately, modifies or establishes their values (Henkle, 1977, p.92). The readers should pay less attention to lesser characters since they have a limited purpose (Henkle, 1977, p. 95). Character to comprehend how characters' actions and attitudes change or develop. Character development or change is necessary because static characterization does not result in a meaningful change from the action and does not occur directly in the change in human relationships at the heart of the story.

Examining the formal components of text, such as characterization, is one technique to learn about the author's aim or the reader's perception (Tyson, 2006). Characterization evolves through permanent changes in numerous parts of the character, such as personality changes or developing for a change in life, changes in action, and feelings (Welleck, 1976). Characterization is the portrayal of a distinct image of a person (Jones, 1968). Characterization refers to the accurate portrayal of the characters who appear in the story through their actions. According to Murphy (1972) the author depicts the characters in nine different ways:

- a. Personal description, in the tale, the author might describe a person's look and clothing.

- b. Character as seen by another Instead of explicitly describing a character, the author might do so via the eyes or perspectives of another.
- c. In speech, the author provides insight into the personality of one of the people says. When a person speaks, converses with another, or expresses an opinion, he is revealing information about his character to the reader.
- d. Former life, a person's former life might provide the reader with information on events that helped create the person's character. This can be accomplished by the author's direct statement, the individual's ideas, his dialogue, or through the means of another person.
- e. Through the speech of others and the things, they say about him. People talk about other people, and what they say frequently reveals something about the personality of the person being discussed.
- f. Reactions, the author might reveal a person's personality by describing how that person reacts to various circumstances and events.
- g. The author might explicitly describe or comment on a person's character.
- h. Thoughts, the author might inform the reader about what a person is thinking about. It is visible to the readers but not to the other characters in the novel.



subjectivity, queer theory characterizes human sexuality as a fluid, broken, dynamic collectivity of diverse sexualities (Tyson, 2006).

Queer theory is a broad field of study that encompasses many divergent topics, such as what we think of as male-ness, female-ness, and what constitutes normalcy. It is a critique that aims to answer several concerns regarding what is normal, how normal comes to exist, and who is excluded or oppressed by normative conceptions. (This theory's basic base as a stepping platform is heterosexual norms. "For queer theorists, heterosexuality is a matrix" (Butler, 1990). Queer theory is a branch of academic thinking concerned with the construction of gendered and sexual identities and categorizations. According to the queer theorist, heterosexuality and homosexuality are binary social constructions that have historical significance only at specific points in time, rather than descriptions of intrinsic sexual kinds (Seidman, 1994).

The Queer's fundamental presumption is:

- a. Recognize is historically and socially formed; it is not permanent and fixed.
- b. The term "queer" does not apply to anything positive, but rather to occupation when connecting with usually.
- c. Gender formation and sexuality are in flux rather than the core category, which is unchangeable and fixe







### 2.3.2 Heterosexual

Heterosexuality is the inclination to engage in emotional and romantic sexual allure with persons who are not of the same sex as oneself. People of the opposite sex, such as men and women, or vice versa (normal). Heterosexual refers to someone who has sex with the opposite sex (Knight, D, 2008).

### 2.3.3 Bisexual

Bisexual refers to a guy or woman who is physically, emotionally, and psychologically attracted to both genders (Gamache & Lazear, 2009). Bisexual persons are not only physically interested but also emotionally and psychologically. A bisexual person is someone who has a sexual experience with or is solely interested in people of more than one sex. Bisexual enjoys both sexes at the same time (Knight, D, 2008).

According to Peel and Harding (2016) definition of bisexuality vary and have different implications. For Example, one common definition 'attraction to both men and women' is argued to be problematic because it assumes binary gender. This chapter defines bisexual as 'attraction to more than one gender or attraction regardless of gender'. This allows for more than two genders and also includes people for whom gender has very little relevance to their attractions. 'Attraction regardless of gender' also carries the possibility of decentring gender as the organizing system through which sexuality is understood, a project that may have particular relevance to bisexuality.



experience of family parenting such as dominance on the role of the mother so that the child has less or even no image of the father or vice versa.

Sexual orientation and sexual behavior are shaped by peer groups, families, and cultures. Sexual orientation can be influenced by several factors, ranging from the closest environment, such as family. The parenting style applied by parents also determines their child's sexual orientation. Daily interaction with family members in a house between brother and sister. The environment around the place of residence is like interaction with neighbors and friends. Socializing interaction when outside the home, such as at school, office, and others.

According to Slamet (2008) Physical environments include things like buildings, the atmosphere, and food. The socio-cultural environment includes things like family, school, dorms, and other groups. The social environment can shape the behavior and attitudes expected in a cultural setting. People gain knowledge about the social function of their interactions with similar sociocultural groups.

According to the experts' arguments above, the writer can conclude that family, environmental variables, and the weakness of religious knowledge influence a person's sexual orientation.

## **2.5 Review of Related Studies**

There are three previous studies related to this research. First, is graduating paper written by Bagus Suryo Guritno (2017) a student from the State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Jogjakarta entitled "*Depiction of Sexual Desire of Alan Turing in The Imitation Game*". The paper focused on Alan Turing

as the main character and this paper used queer theory and movie theory. Alan Turing the main character of the movie is accused of being a homosexual. The similarity of this research is to use the same topic about sexual personality. The difference between this research and the research is the object analyzed and the theory.

The second is graduating paper written by Antti Saastamoinen (2017) entitled "*Iranian Queer Refugees' Thoughts about Home Five Queer/ Gay Men Interviewed about Their Sense of Belonging After Emigration*". The students from the University of Eastern Finland. This paper uses the queer theoretical framework in this research. All of the respondents in this thesis are men who identify as gay or queer. The similarity of this research is to use the same topic about gay or sexual personality. The difference between this research and the research is the object analyzed and the theory.

The Third thesis is Siti Hardiani (2022) entitled "*The Depictions of Homosexual Practice and Discrimination Towards Gay Reflected In Troye Sivan Songs*". The student from State Islamic University Sulthan Thaha Syaifudin Jambi. The thesis discussed how homosexual acts are depicted. The similarity of this research is to use the same topic about homosexual. The difference between this research and the research is the object analyzed and the theory.

From the previous study above, the writer found similarities and differences. For a similar object, the writer did not find the previous study that uses *the I Loved You More* novel as the research object. The difference is that the writer employs a novel named *I Loved You More* by Tom Spanbauer.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter presents research design, data source, data collection, and data analysis.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

In this paper, the author uses descriptive qualitative methods. A qualitative method is an approach where the researcher must describe and explain the results of his analysis (Creswell, 2009). Qualitative analysis is carried out with several methods, first, the preparation method is the author provides a record to write important parts as well as read related theories in the research. Second, the collection of data is to gather some important things that can support this research. The third is data analysis (Bogdan, 1982). Because qualitative several data collection approaches, including qualitative interviewing, focus groups, participant, discourse and conversation analysis, and text and document analysis, have been created to address the diverse needs of the various subjects. This is an example of library research. To support the topic, library research goes through many books and other references such as papers, journals, and websites.

#### **3.2 Data Collection**

This section presents research data, data sources, instruments, and data collection techniques.

### 3.2.1 Data Source

The primary source for the study is *I Loved You More*, a novel written by Tom Spanbauer and published in 2013. Data sourced from the novel are used as the main data to run the research. While there are several supporters, namely from several books, journals, and articles thesis and some eBooks that related to the issue in this research.

### 3.2.2 Instrument

The instrument of this research was the researcher herself because the researcher was the one who collected the data, and described the data. The researcher needed a cellphone and laptop to collect all the data from the novel.

### 3.2.3 Data Collection Techniques

The data collection is taken from the novel entitled *I Loved You More* which includes quotes, phrases, monologues, conversations, and descriptions.

- a. The writer reads carefully and also repeatedly and understood in depth the text of the novel *I Loved You More*.
- b. The writer focuses on identifying Ben's character and characterization that reflect his sexual orientation and the factors that affect in forming Ben's sexual orientation.
- c. The writer tries to find a suitable quote based on the contents of the novel, such as from a conversation or dialogue that is in it. Making a note of data after marking the words or sentences and all the essential claims and facts.

- d. Search and sort out which supporting sources such as articles and journals are suitable to support when analyzing data. Reading the material carefully, the writer highlights any relevant explanation to aid in the process of research analysis.
- e. Explain and identify the data. After collecting all of the data, the writer processes it for analysis. The writer then developed a good arrangement for the finalizing research.

### 3.3 Data Analysis Techniques

Understanding the data and providing a solution to the problem are the goals of data analysis.

- a. The writer describes about Ben's characterization
- b. The writer explains Ben Grunewald's sexual orientation depicted in the *I Loved You More* novel.
- c. The writer describes factors that affect in forming Ben Grunewald's sexual orientation.
- d. The writer used theory to analyze the data.
- e. The writer describes a conclusion drawn from data analysis. The answer to the research problem is based on data analysis.
- f. The last, the writer gives a conclusion based on the analysis.

## CHAPTER IV

### ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer analyzes the problems. The writer uses the theories that support the analysis of Ben Grunewald's characterization, then Ben's sexual orientation, and the factors that affect in forming Ben Grunewald's sexual orientation.

#### 4.1 Ben's Characterization

##### 4.1.1 Hard-working

Everyone has limitations, but that doesn't keep him back and eventually gives up, instead he'll still try his best in completing everything he's doing. Ben has a personality that strives to do the best in everything he does. Ben did not give up easily and tried to find a way out of every problem.

"Plus, unlike my fellow students, I had a job. Actually two job. As a waiter at Cafe Un Deux Trois four nights a week. And then my super job. I started out with one building, then after I graduated Columbia there was four. So I didn't do a lot of social gatherings." (Spanbauer,2013, p. 28)

The quotation above shows that Ben had several jobs while he was still active as a student. Behind his busy study, Ben remained persistent and passionate working not just in one place but in two places. He is proud to do so because he can have broader relationships and gain experience.

"Midnight. Actually the black cat on the clerk's wall says 12:10. I finally take a breath." (Spanbauer, 2013, p.165)

















































































The quotation above shows that Ben said that he abandoned God and his religion. Ben also admitted that he liked both men and women. Ben knew he had broken the rules. This is the importance of a strong religious understanding for each individual in shaping one's mind and personality. Be able to think and distinguish between good and bad. In this case, it is shown how due to the lack of understanding and knowledge of religion Ben has been one of the factors in Ben's conduct of misconduct (homosexual). Ben has also divorced his wife Evie. In Ben's religion, divorce is also prohibited and Ben has violated it.

In addition to family, school, and social environmental factors, the lack of religious knowledge also contributes to the form factor on Ben's sexual orientation. In addition to external factors, one must also be taken care of from within by having a supply of religious knowledge. Here Ben is depicted as having less of that and it also contributes to the formation of Ben's sexual orientation. A person who has faith and adequate knowledge will help to become a better person.

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## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

#### 5.1 Conclusions

In this conclusion, the writer concludes the analysis discussed in the previous chapter to find Ben's characterization, the sexual relationship of Ben described in the story, and the factor that affect in forming behavioral deviations of the main character in the novel *I Loved You More* by Tom Spanbauer.

The depiction of Ben's characterization in the novel is: a) hardworking, Ben worked hard to meet daily needs by working, even when college Ben had two jobs. During his illness, Ben was accompanied by Ruth to keep teaching in his class. b) kind, Ben is very fond of his sister named Margaret. Ben shows through his attitude that Ben often calls his brother to ask for news. Margaret was the only family Ben had after both Ben's parents died and they cared for each other. c) adventurous, Ben made his first trip with his other four friends. Ben visited a place in Idaho, Atlanta. They travel for a long time. The place is still natural and has minimal electricity, but it fits the scenery there. d) active, Ben filled his time positively, from cleaning up his home to cooking. Ben was a well-known author and also a writing teacher, having many students. Every day he was busy with his many activities. e). Optimistic, Ben is a very active and busy person. He has a lot of busy schedules every day. Everything changed when Ben was sentenced to illness by a doctor. Physics is not the same as before. Ben began to be busy with his treatment and had to go back to the hospital. The pain affected Ben's daily



depicted that he said he was in love with Evie and Bette. Ben even cheated with a woman named Betty Ann Podegushka, when Ben still becomes Evie's husband. Ben has an interest in both sexes. Ben is depicted as having been interested and having a relationship with Hank (male-male), and interested in Evie and Bette (male-female).

The first factor influencing the formation of Ben's behavioral deviation is the family environment. Ben has a father and mother who are less careful in caring for Ben. Ben had a father who taught the values of how to be a good boy so that it influenced Ben's behavior and thinking. Ben has a sister named Margaret who considers Ben a woman rather than a man, like dressing Ben as a woman, curly Ben's hair, colors lips cherry red, hangs earrings on his ears. Second, is the school environment. Ben in school was often badly treated by one of his friends named Abe Martin. Abe also wasn't afraid and even invited other guests to take Ben away. Not only physical but also verbal assault, Ben was repeatedly called with a dirty word. The third is the social environment. Ben enters a bar and there he meets a gay community. They have a secret code to recognize each other and communicate when in public. With this, it can be concluded that the social environment also participates in the community and has a way to keep the community alive. The fourth is the weakness of religious knowledge. As a result of his lack of religious understanding, Ben has broken the rule, namely, divorced his wife and also admitted that he was interested in men.

## 5.2 Suggestions

This research is expected to be useful for many people who are interested in the study of literature. Based on the analysis in the research, the writer suggesting for readers that this novel is interesting to read. The writer hopes the presence of this study can provide an understanding and picture of the phenomena of sexuality that occur in the novel *I Loved You More*, but this phenomenon can also be found in daily life so that it can be a reference in good behavior and consciously do not follow this, according to the teachings of religion and norms that apply in the environment of Indonesian society. This novel has other characters that can be analyzed with other theories and concept.

Hopefully this study contributes in study of sexuality. In the future, hopefully this thesis can be helpful for those who want to look deeper of the life of people who are involved in sexual relationship. The next researcher can use the psychological approach to support this study. In the future, it can be utilized as a reference source or as a comparative study research. The writer recognizes that this research is still many less in the various sides. This does not mean that the writer as a researcher didn't do his job seriously. Therefore, the writer hopes there are suggestions and criticism from the readers. Hopefully, the writer's suggestions could be the consideration for the next researcher.







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