

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background Of The Study

Queer theory is a discourse analysis exercise. It emphasized the value of utterances and the power of language (Giffney,2007). Giffney added that queer theory is concerned with how identity is formed through generally prejudiced discourse against people whose identities are being constructed. DePalma and Cullen (2011) explained that queer theory is a type of discourse analysis that investigates how texts are composed by investigating and changing the text's numerous assumptions, uncovering the text's internal conflicts, and relying on ignored characteristics to provoke a common identity.

This thesis is mainly interested in investigating sexual orientation secrecy in the movie by employing critical queer discourse analysis. The researcher chose a movie because it can display content much faster than a book. After all, they are visual rather than textual (<https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2012/11/9/movies-books-harvard/>). Moreover, movies are better pathways for reaching and informing a wide audience because they are more observable, cinematic, and easier to memorize than comparable written works.

Secrecy is the process of covering up facts from individuals or groups who do not have an "ought to know" while exposing it to someone else. Some experts have defined the meaning of secrecy. Wismeijer (2011) mentions that secrecy is the conscious and active action of keeping information from others

selectively. Secrecy is a common social phenomenon, and confidentiality is standard worldwide (Costas & Grey, 2016). People keep secrets because they are concerned about the social effects of revealing their secrets, mainly to prevent judgment from others (Flett, 2012). People also like to keep secrets so that they do not damage their social life and prevent breakdowns (Finkenauer and Hazam, 2000). Following the theory of Finkenauer and Hazam, secrecy indirectly protects oneself from bad feelings.

When the discussion touched the private life, sexual orientation often becomes one of identity covered. Itzhaky and Kissil (2015) mention that sexual orientation is the general secret that individuals prefer to hold. Smith, Kippax, and Chapple (2008) stressed that individuals who are homosexual tend to be forced into an interplay of secrecy. In the Itzhaky and Kissil's research *Orthodox Jewish Gay Men's Experiences Living in Secrecy*, one of the participants said, "I hate the lie of my life knowing that I lie not only to my family and my friends but to myself as well. I have daily prayer, 'God let me be a common person; right now, I feel like a liar'. They described feeling ashamed about having secret lives and had to lie to their loved ones for being homosexual daily (Itzhaky & Kissil, 2015). From the theory of Itzhaky and Kissil that has been previously described, the researcher considers that secrecy in sexual orientation is a social phenomenon that is important to be studied for both English learners and lecturers.

Bailey (2016) mentioned that sexual orientation is categorized as sexual relations among people of the same sex (homosexual), the opposite sex (heterosexual), or both sexes (bisexual). By studying the secrecy that occurs in a person's sexual orientation, this research will be the new horizon in the helpful

literature for English Department students who want to identify secrecy in sexual orientation. Furthermore, through using romantic secrecy theory as a guide in this study, it will form supporting insights and theories as a reference for further studies for English Department students related to secrecy based on queer approach. Furthermore, they will be more encouraged to research secrecy using the queer theory approach.

This phenomenon occurs not only in the real world but also in movies. Several movies portray the life of queer people in society, such as *The Philadelphia* (1998), *Brokeback Mountain* (2005), *Moonlight* (2016), *Call Me by Your Name* (2017). The researcher chose *Love Simon* because it is different from the previously presented film. If *Moonlight* and *Call Me by Your Name* describe sexual behavior, called eroticism, *Love Simon* focuses more on Simon Spier's struggle to hide his sexual identity. This movie is interesting to investigate because *Love Simon* is the first-ever movie in a major Hollywood production studio that portrays the romantic life of a queer teenager (Haley, 2018). After the *Love Simon* Movie was released, this film also has received several awards. In 2018, the *Love Simon* movie got three awards. *Love Simon* won as "Best Feature Film" in Valladolid International Film Festival. In MTV Movie and TV Awards Nick Robinson (Simon) and Keynan Loislände (Bram) selected as the "Best Kiss" winners. In Teen Choice Awards this movie won as "Choice Movie : Comedy" and Nick Robinson (Simon) as the main actor won as "Choice Movie: Breakout Star". In 2019, *Love Simon* also won as "Outstanding Film - Wide Release" at the GLAAD Media Awards.

Secrecy in the movie has become one of the major conflicts performed by character, and early investigation of movie script reveal the secrecy. It can be seen through the dialogue in scene 5 :

"I'm just like you, I have a perfectly normal life. Except I have one huge-ass secret"
(and start watching a gardener man in front of his house)

From the above dialogue, the main character explains that he has an average life like people in general, but the biggest secret he keeps inside him is that he is a queer. Look from how he looked at the man gardener in front of his house. While Simon was daydreaming, he was suddenly surprised by his dad's appearance, who entered his room, looking at the gardener. Simon immediately looked at the computer and pretended not to see anything outside.

Simon uses his e-mail to become "himself alone", communicating with a gay person under the pseudonym "Blue". While surfing in cyberspace, Simon did not use the name original but "Jacques" as a pseudonym. However, he goes on a roller-coaster ride to come to terms with his identity until a blackmailer named Martin threatens to expose his email with a gay named "Blue" if Simon doesn't help him to win Abby's heart. At the end, Martin reveals his secret in social media among high school students. Simon was struck by grief, he felt isolated and friendless.

The subject of this study is worth investigating, as the researcher expects to be able to show the romantic secrecy performed by the main characters in the movie. The researcher uses the movie script of the movie as the source of the data. The researcher use descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data.

1.2 The Problem of The Study

Concerning the background, the problems of the study in this research were formulated as the following :

1. What are the influences of sexual orientation secrecy found in *Love Simon*?
2. How the influences of sexual orientation secrecy realized in the movie?

1.3 The Scope of The Study

This research focuses on the sexual orientation secrecy described in the utterances and the author's narration in *Love Simon* movie script. The limitation of the study is the only analysis of the queer literature approach. The subject of the study is *Love Simon* movie script.

1.4 The Significance of Study

A. Theoretically

This study is expected to increase critical queer discourse analysis regarding the secrecy of sexual orientation in movies, especially for English and Literature Students.

B. Practically

The findings of this study are expected to be useful for :

1. For The Students

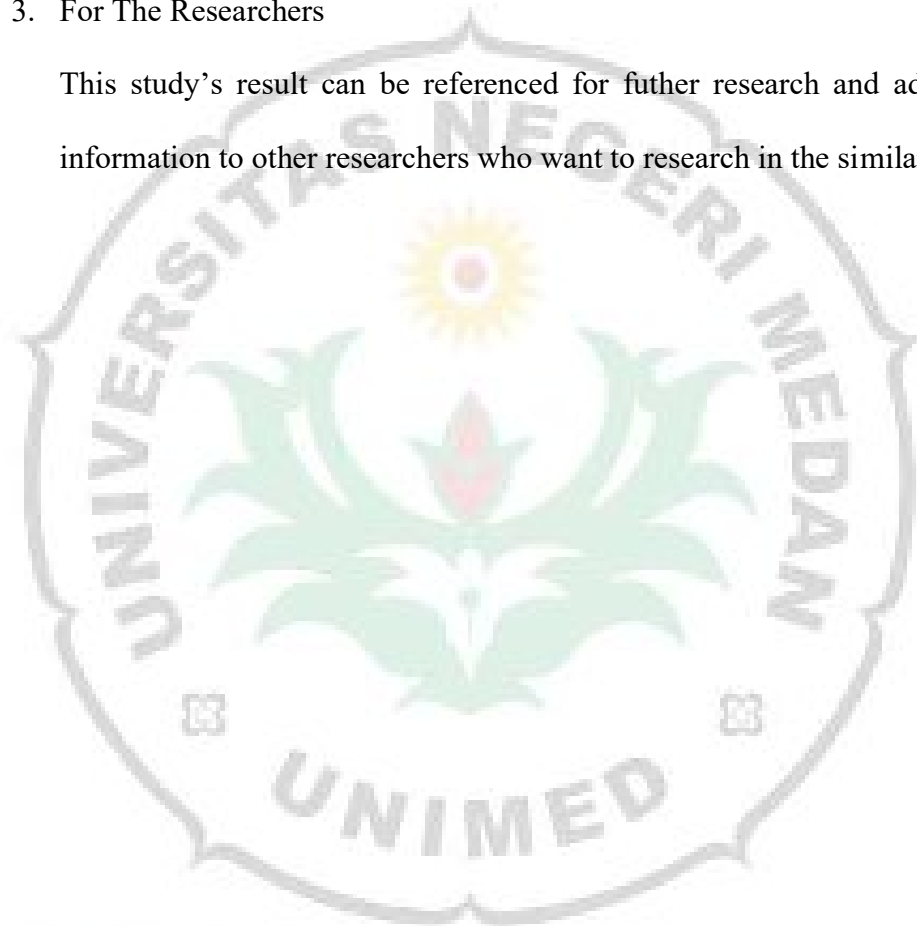
This study can be used as a reference to improve students's ability to understand critical queer discourse analysis in secrecy of sexual orientation especially in the movie

2. For The Readers

This study can be used as reference to understand the critical queer discourse analysis.

3. For The Researchers

This study's result can be referenced for futher research and additional information to other researchers who want to research in the similar field.



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