

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Simply put, an online novel has been posted online. Can be read in a paid way or for free. They are typically issued on schedule and are serialized, which means the author distributes the story in installments, frequently one chapter at a time. Readers can remark on any new contributions to the story and authors can directly engage with their audience if the platform where the story is published permits it. Online storytelling is always evolving; currently, there are numerous platforms for sharing and making money from novels (Ardincaple, 2021). According to Ulfa (2018), online novels have also long been a solution, particularly when a pandemic prevented people from traveling. Online novels are a solution for those who don't like carrying books around in addition to keeping their distance.

Wattpad is one of the largest apps and websites for fiction on the web. The most popular social media site with a reading-centric focus is Wattpad. Wattpad is a blogging platform and application that offers its users the ability to write and read (Syaharani and Mahadian, 2017). By writing and reading, what we mean is that users can write and read fairy tales that have been written by other users. A web-based program called Wattpad is used to post, download and distribute literary works. This app offers a wide selection of readings, including novels, short stories, poetry, and reference books. Additionally, the Wattpad app serves as

a platform for the community to showcase all its capabilities. Teens used the Wattpad program to create their literary works, including poetry, novels, and short stories, in addition to reading them.

Particularly in Indonesia, websites like Wattpad have considerably strengthened the idea of reading on a bigger scale as a social practice. Group reading, often known as "social reading," has been used to examine the social dynamics that are inherent in reading (Peplow, 2015). While Wattpad lacks the immediate intimacy of direct reading groups, there is a strong social component as users reply to each other's views, emotions, and interpretations. In terms of this social component, Wattpad reviews have the propensity to encourage privilege rather than criticize it. This may help partially explain why statisticians and other literary scholars interested in using naturalistic approaches to investigate the social aspects of reading are increasingly using online book reviews as literature response data (Doche & Ross, 2022).

The reconnection of meaning to being a reader is the result of the growth of reading as a social practice. The development of reading as a social practice has led to reconnecting with what it means to be a reader and the way this has been defined over time as part of negotiating social meaning and implementing identity performance, particularly about the traditional printed book (Albrechtslund, 2019). The author goes on to state that 'as reading culture becomes increasingly embedded in new media practices, this quality must not be abandoned but, so to speak, is gaining more visibility and new forms of expression'. It is precisely this new form of expression that they explore in their research study that aims to

understand a new conceptualization of readers' characteristics with different responses.

Reader response is a literary theory that focuses on the reader (or "audience") and their experience of a literary work, as opposed to other schools and theories that place a greater emphasis on the author or the substance and form of a literary work. Numerous literary critics and experts have created the theory of the readers' response. It can mean many things depending on the person who came up with the idea. Overall, nevertheless, this theory explains how to make a reader aware of the meaning of a text and how the reader understands it. Readers are recognized as active agents who give the work "real presence" and complete its meaning through interpretation in response (Navisha, 2018). Reader feedback suggests that literature should be understood as a performing art in which each reader creates their interpretation of the work, which may be unique. This method is used to avoid plagiarism of the work produced because it recognizes that reading is influenced by textual and cultural boundaries. Three general attitudes of readers correspond to certain types of readers, namely The Self-Deprecator, The Re-Reader, and The Senser (Doche & Ross, 2022).

The first, The Self-Deprecator, demonstrated their poor writing skills, which made it difficult for them to cross literary barriers. The second, The Re-Reader emphasizes that to truly appreciate a book, they must engage with it more. And third The Senser has not considered a barrier to rich receptive experience because the Senser emphasizes the feelings and sensations encountered. Using a mixture of good and negative reviews to create many types of readers which are

ultimately determined by the attitude of the readers, the researcher studies how readers position themselves as novel readers (Doche & Ross, 2022).

As sexual beings, humans it is unquestionably true. In other words, sexuality is about how a person thinks, feels, and behaves based on his or her place as a sexual being (Lucas and Fox, 2022). It is also about how a person expresses themselves sexuality. One of the primary forces influencing everyone's feelings, thoughts, and actions is their sexuality. It characterizes one's psychological and social self-representations, specifies how one reproduces biologically and determines how one is attracted to other people. Additionally, it trains the body and brain to crave pleasure. However, despite how crucial sexuality is to be human, many people avoid discussing it in their personal or professional lives. Sex is merely one factor. The term "sexuality" encompasses much more than that. It includes anything that has to do with sex (or has something to do with sex). There are eleven sexual orientations, including:

1. Lesbian
2. Bisexual
3. Pansexual
4. Gay
5. Asexual
6. Allosexual
7. Hyterosex
8. Homosexual
9. Monosexual

10. Polysexual

11. Queer

This time, the researcher uses a story that comes from the Wattpad application, which is entitled *Homicidal* with the two main characters namely Taehyung and Jungkook who play the most role in the story as a research reference for examining gay habits. This story is a murder story mixed with the story of a gay couple. The story is about a young man who is in college but he wants to die because he has lost his entire family in a fire while having a party. But his life changed 180 degrees, when he wanted to commit suicide, he was brought in by a delinquent youth to save him. This story contains rape, anger, murder, bleeding, family abuse, dysfunctional, sexual abuse, mental abuse, and physical abuse from a man for the man he loves. Yes, this is a story about a gay couple, to be more precise, a murderer is attracted to a man who is handsome and seductive, so he is determined to have the man completely.

The word "gay" is typically used to describe homosexuals or their characteristics. The phrase's original meanings were "free/unbound," "glad," and "bright and conspicuous." The use of this term to denote homosexuality probably first appeared in the late 19th century AD, but it took off in the 20th century (Rosario et al, 2006). Gay is an adjective and a noun in contemporary English that describes persons (particularly males who like other guys) and the behaviors and cultural norms related to instinctive sexuality (habitus). Habitus is a network of objective structures that exist in social space and is composed of individual experiences connected to other persons. According to Gading & Marsih (2019),

Habitus is the generative basis for individuals to act and practice. Individuals' actions and practices are generated by their habits. People interact socially and practice their social structure through habit.

In the research that has been done, researchers use two different theories, namely the Habitus gay theory and the Reader-Response theory. The first is the theory of Habitus Gay obtained from research by Gading and Marsih who previously conducted research on "Gay representation in Becky Albertalli's Simon vs the homo sapiens agenda" in 2019. This research was used to reveal habitus gay in the Simon VS Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli. According to the research findings, Simon's character exhibits five examples of habitus gay: (1) having no attraction to the opposite sex, (2) adoring the same sex, (3) obsessing and fantasizing about the same sex, (4) feeling jealous and cynical to suspected competitors, and (5) falling in love with the same sex. Numerous factors lend strong support to this gay persona. Primary socialization and secondary socialization are the two different types of socialization that provide supporting elements. The interactions between Simon and his family make up the majority of Simon's socialization. Additionally, Simon's interactions with his friends in his social surroundings are tied to secondary socialization.

Second, the Readers' Response theory was obtained from previous research conducted by Doche and Ross in 2022 'Here is My Shameful Confession. I Don't Really "Get" Poetry': Discerning Reader Types in Responses to Sylvia Plath's Ariel on Goodreads, a platform that tries to understand fresh conceptualizations of the traits of various readers. According to the research

findings, three main categories of reader types can be distinguished based on the attitudes of certain readers in both positive and negative evaluations thanks to the coding procedure.

The analysis looks at how The Self-Deprecator, The Re-Reader, and The Senser appeared in both favorable and unfavorable assessments. Doche and Ross and explore the key similarities and contrasts between good and negative reviews for each type of reader before concluding. Here, it should be made clear that "reader type" refers to "reader attitude." In other words, Doche and Ross emphasize a comprehensive evaluation of the close relationship between the attitudes indicated textually in the reviews and the empirical readers who wrote them — one review can display more than one attitude or 'type'. Doche and Ross created a review that is likely to reflect this to learn how Ariel is viewed and experienced by readers who give her both positive and negative reviews.

Based on different previous studies, research that has been done used these two theories to conduct research on habitus gay and reader response according to the title of the research proposal. To answer the first research problem, the researcher used the theory of habitus gay which originates from the results of Gading and Marsih research in their research "Gay representation in Becky Albertalli's *Simon vs the homo sapiens agenda*" in 2019. In this study, Gading and Marsih's habitus gay theory is used to explain how Jungkook and Taehyung's attitude and behavior reflected their habitus gay.

Meanwhile, to answer the second question, the researcher used the readers' response theory which comes from the result of Doche and Ross's research on their research 'Here is My Shameful Confession. I Don't Really "Get" Poetry': Discerning Reader Types in Responses to Sylvia Plath's *Ariel* on Goodreads in 2022. There are three different categories of readers discovered by Doche and Ross namely, The Self-Deprecators, The Re-Readers, and The Senser. In this research, reader-response theory is used to explain the type of reader to the text he reads.

Gay sexuality towards the story *Homicidal* on the Wattpad application can be seen in the content:

"I-I want you inside me." Taehyung says shyly while still whimpering and moaning".

In this content, the representation of habitus gay is obtained based on Bourdieu in Gading and Marsih (2019), namely the habitus gay presented by Jungkook is falling in love with the same sex so they do it.

In this content there are also two different readers' responses, the first reader to write randomly, namely:

"TSKOWODKNDN CYES"

"LMFSOA"

While the second reader is:

"The result of thinking with your dick"

The two readers are The Self-Deprecators type readers (reader 1) where type reader has poor skills so they cannot write responses properly. While The Senser type of reader (reader 2) focuses on the sensations experienced so that there are no barriers to interpreting content into text.

In light of the aforementioned reasoning, it is intriguing to learn about gay content and reader types through reader response theory. This topic was chosen by the author since it is a current phenomenon. In addition, this research issue is rarely used as research, which makes it interesting to discuss and makes academics interested in talking about it. In this study, researchers have analyzed the content of gay content in stories and reader reactions to see if and how to link the two results: (1) investigating gay content in stories through habitus theory, and (2) after that researchers examined reader types based on the responses generated by readers to each gay content in the story. The author chose a novel from the Wattpad app entitled *Homicidal*.

B. Problems of the Study

Based on the research background, the research problem can be formulated as the following questions:

1. What are the characteristics of habitus gay performed by characters in the online novel *Homicidal*?
2. How do the readers respond to the act of habitus gay?

C. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem of the study above, the objective of the study is the followings:

1. To identify the characteristics of the habitus gay, the characters in the online novel *Homicidal* were carried out on Wattpad.
2. To describe the readers' response toward the novel *Homicidal*.

D. The Scope of the Study

This study focuses on sexuality to reveal the habitus gay in the characters in the online novel and its sexual content. This research also focuses on analyzing the extrinsic elements of the story related to reader response theory and analyzing the types of reader responses to find three types of readers, namely The Self Deprecators, The Re-Reader, and The Senser on Wattpad. The story to be analyzed is the story of a social writer 'kth1wd' on Wattpad entitled *Homicidal*.

E. Significance of the Study

Practically, this research is expected to make a meaningful contribution to the study of literature, especially in the field of literary elements. It is hoped that the results of this study can be useful for lecturers, and can facilitate lecturers in teaching the imagery and biographical approach in literary works to students of the English Department. For students, especially for students majoring in English Literature, this research is expected to be able to expand knowledge about imagery in literary works, especially in examining stories about sexuality in

online novels and being able to analyze themselves as what type of reader, as well as to find out how the literary work is related to the background behind the author's life.

Theoretically, this research is expected to be useful for readers, especially online novel readers on various platforms, who want to identify the imagery used. By reading this research, it is hoped that the readers can understand the research that I did. Furthermore, for future researchers, this research will be a resource for other researchers who are interested in researching the same field and are expected to obtain better results.

