

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter elaborates on the basis for this research and the researcher's reasons for conducting this study. Through the background, the researcher finds some irregularities in the topic to make it information in this paper.

### 1. 1. Background of the Study

One of the media that has a great influence on the audience is film that circulates in the community. Films are providing entertainment from the audience's daily life, also play an essential role in transmitting messages and promoting culture to the public. The strength of the information to be disseminated varies according to the flow produced. The producer presents various subjects that are beyond reason as well as concerns that arise in society in order to satisfy the audience's demands. When individuals see a film, it indirectly alters their opinions, feelings, and mentality. The audience can choose whether to accept it as is or to re-filter the film's contents. The audience's perspective on the film is the outcome of cooperation between the audience's personal experience and the audience's interchange of ideas. The audience's spontaneous attitude is what film producers want as success in constructing a tale.

The transgender phenomenon is a hot topic for many parties, especially in academic circles. Not for any excuse, this circumstance of transgender is not only happen in the developed country but also in the developing country. While it is hard to get decent publicity, they do not just give up their privileges. Transgender people use their sexual and civil rights as a protection to be respected in the light of the government and seek to advocate with their voices so they can be known as human beings in general. They organize gatherings and set up associations and communities to increase unity between transgender people. A sense of solidarity has ability to increase connection, decrease alienation, dangerous activities and create trust required to navigate the LGBTQ community (Hiller & Harrison, 2007). From simple things like this that will make themselves stronger.

A concept that never ends up being discussed as if the author is motivated to bring it into a fictional piece is a minor event that happens in culture. Literary work is not only about beauty and morals, and even this literary work will pose dark problems in this modern age. The issues that exist in a literary work will grow up. This theme shows something that is fresher than ever, so it follows what's going on at that moment. Even if the entire story is not fully accurate, the narrative might reflect other unforeseen possibilities. Therefore the Trans people consider literary works to be a medium for acceptance and are recognized as the third sex which this state is very taboo in the literary works before the modern era. For the first time in cinematic history, transgender depictions were made in 1953, Glen or Glenda

by Ed Wood which tells about the cross – dressing. A year later, Adam Est. Eve was published by the French State in 1954. Then followed more the transgender films which are generated a lot of opinions from movie lovers.

The researcher used the Encoding/Decoding model suggested by Stuart Hall to expose this case. Hall said there are three phases of his philosophy, namely: dominant – hegemonic, negotiated and oppositional. For the replies of respondents, this study is related to 5 previous studies: First, Elinwa's (2020) finding in entitled Audience Readings and Meaning Negotiation in the Film Viewing Space: An Ethnographic Study of Nollywood's Viewing Center Audience is the audience's lives and exchanging ideas with other viewers to create audience knowledge against it. Films with fascinating plots and characters are always well received. Second, Pett's (2020) finding in "Transnational Cult Paratexts: Exploring the Reading Audience of Tartan's Asia Extreme Brand" show that not all viewers enjoy the manipulate scene and violence. Third, Zaid's (2019) results in Audience Reception Analysis of Moroccan Public Service Broadcasting, the language and background of the audience have a significant impact on the audience's perception of the media. They will find it challenging to receive communications from the media due to their limited language abilities. Fourth, Brown and Keeler's (2007) finding in Audience Responses to *The Passion of the Christ* is When religious elements are mixed with entertainment and education, they create a one-of-a-kind partnership. Fifth, Omoera's finding in Audience Reception of Benin Language Video Film in

Nollywood is The producer's character's capacity to identify an audience's thinking capabilities. Furthermore, because what is being played is related to the culture and life of the community, there must be a sense of satisfaction in watching it. This study is also related to two previous studies on audience attitude: First, Till et al.'s (2011) finding in *Coping and Film reception: A Study on the Impact of Film Dramas and the Mediating Effects of Emotional Modes of Film Reception and Coping Strategies*, that the audience's mood state is affected by the media they view. The audience's imagination and experience will spark the audience's interpretation of the media. Second, Davis et al.'s (2014) findings in *Emotional Reactions to Dramatic Film Stimuli: The Influence of Cognitive and Emotional Empathy with the theory of Empathy and Affective Reactions*, namely empathy and the audience's intellectuality produce a response to the media. If these factors are maximized by the audience, the responses will be more varied.

Therefore, the researcher particularly interested in this topic to be her research. The reasons are as follows: First, the researcher would like to find out how transgender characters are viewed by the Indonesian audience in *the Danish Girl* movie because they all have different emotions in responding. Second, whether they agree or disagree about the presence of transgender people in this country. And last, the researcher preferred the film because people enjoy the narrative structure even if they do not really grasp the dialogue between characters.

This film which is the theme of this paper is “*the Danish Girl*”. Researcher suspects this film is courage in bringing up this controversial issue to the public domain. The film adapted from David Ebershoff’s novel is based on the true story of a famous painter in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It presents how complicated the life journey of the first exposed transgender is indecisive about his future. The scenes in this film are made as real as possible so that the audiences feel the indecision of each actor and the resulting sadness. Tan (1996) has argued the audiences’ interest in a film is the effect of emotional feelings and sympathy for the actors as well as curiosity about the storyline, so that they get some awards such as best supporting artist and many more.

In this qualitative study, the researcher takes the data from 12 adult participants who have 20 – 30 years old. They are dividing based on ages and the gender. This research is conducting by online or direct interview. The researcher asks them for react about *the Danish Girl* Film. Then the researcher is recording during the questioning section to acquire their level emotional. After get the hypotheses, the researcher is classifying those based on Encoding and Decoding theory by Stuart Hall.

## 1. 2. The Problem of the Study

In line with the background, two problems are formulated as the following:

1. What are the audiences’ perspectives to the *Danish Girl* film?

2. What are the audiences' perspectives of the transgender in the film?

### **1. 3. The Objective of the Study**

With reference to the problems, the objectives of this study are:

1. To investigate the view of Indonesian audiences about the transgender character in the Danish Girl movie, and
2. To express the audience's expression of this film

### **1. 4. The Scope of the Study**

With the limited knowledge, skills, and time, the researcher only focus on audience perspective on transgender character by using the Stuart Hall's theory named Encoding/Decoding.

### **1. 5. The Significance of the Study**

The researcher has expectations that this research will provide information either in academic and practical field, such as:

#### **1. Theoretically**

- a. As a guideline for similar research for undergraduate regarding the development of reception theory
- b. For lecturer, this research expected to help as a supporting reference for conducting research about transgender and audience perception.

## 2. Practically

For the public, this study is intended to provide information about how humans react to films that pose this booming issue.



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