

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

#### 2.1 Characters and Characterization

According to the statements of problems, the author will be focusing the analysis on how the issue of homosexuality is being represented and the author will discuss it by analyzing from the character and characterization of the main characters. As widely known that all stories need certain necessary elements. Without these elements, literary works often fail to make sense. For instance, one of the essential elements of every story is a plot with a series of events. Another important element is a character. A character can be any person, a figure, an inanimate object, or animal. There are different types of characters, and each serves its unique function in a story or a piece of literature. Here are the types of the characters according to the Literary Terms which include:

**Confidante.** A confidante is someone in whom the main character confides. He or she reveals the central character's thoughts, intentions, and personality traits. However, a confidante need not necessarily be a person. An animal can also be a confidante.

**Dynamic Character.** A dynamic character changes during the course of a novel or a story. This change in character or his or her outlook is permanent. That is why sometimes a dynamic character is also called a "developing character."

**Static Character.** A static character remains the same throughout the whole story. Even the events in a story or novel do not change character's outlook, perceptions, habits, personality, or motivations.

**Antagonist.** An antagonist is a bad guy, or an opponent of the protagonist or the main character. The action in the story arises from a conflict between the protagonist and the antagonist. The antagonist can be a person, an inanimate object, an animal, or nature itself.

**Protagonist.** Every story has a protagonist, the main character, who creates the action of the plot and engages readers, arousing their empathy and interest. The protagonist is often a hero or heroine of the story, as the whole plot moves around him or her.

**Round Character.** The round characters are well-developed and complex figures in a story. They are more realistic, and demonstrate more depth in their personalities. They can make surprising or puzzling decisions, and attract readers' attention.

**Flat Character.** A flat character does not change during a story. Also, he or she usually only reveals one or two personality traits.

**Stock Character.** A stock character is a flat character that is instantly recognizable by readers. Like a flat character, the stock character does not undergo any development throughout the story (Literary Device).

Character is interconnected with characterization. Characterization is a literary device that is used step-by-step in literature to highlight and explain the details about a character in a story. It is in the initial stage in which the writer introduces the character with noticeable emergence. After introducing the character, the writer often talks about his/her behavior; then, as the story progresses the thought-processes of the character. The next stage involves the character expressing his/her opinions and ideas, and getting into conversations with the rest of the

characters. The final part shows how others in the story respond to the character's personality. Characterization as a literary tool was coined in the mid 15th century. Aristotle, in his Poetics argued that "tragedy is a representation, not of men, but of action and life." Thus, the assertion of the dominance of plot over characters, termed "plot-driven narrative," is unmistakable. This point of view was later abandoned by many reasons, in the 19th century, the dominance of character over plot became clear through petty bourgeois novels (Literary Device).

The data from the analysis of the character and characterization will be used for the findings and discussion in chapter four. In order to support the data for the findings and discussion of the first statements of problems, the author will analyze the main characters and characterization of the novel.

## **2.2 An Overview of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ)**

Nowadays, society tends to see that woman are supposed to be feminine and men are supposed to be masculine, while in LGBTQ lives that does not make any sense for them. It means that it is fine for them if women are more masculine than man, and the man are more feminine than woman. That is related to gender equality, it is when people of all genders have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities in every day's life.

"Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world (UN Woman, 2021). A historic moment took place in the Balearic Islands' parliament. The law that recognized the rights for the LGBT community was finally a reality. This was a long-awaited moment both for the Balearic Islands citizens who identify themselves

as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transexual, and for the majority of the social community who support the movement (Balearic 2016, 16818). Once and for all there was a legal document signed by the government of the Balearic Islands which guaranteed the well-deserved rights for the LGBT community and also served as a tool to eradicate the so-called LGBT-phobia. A term which is closely connected to the unfair reality that “non-heterosexuality is still considered abnormal by many people in our society”. Enough reason why LGBT individuals can feel “devalued or struggle to resist internalizing society’s negative views about them” This social and ideologic power that heterosexuality enjoys is transmitted negatively through heterosexism which sets its base in defending that all the other sexual identities different from heterosexuality are considered inferior (Barozzi and Guijarro 2014, 132). Making heterosexuality seem normal or natural is the practice called heteronormativity, which was coined by the queer theory (Nelson 2002, 50).

Once the term ‘queer’ was, at best, slang for homosexual, at worst, a term of homophobic abuse. In recent years ‘queer’ has come to be used differently, sometimes as an umbrella term for a coalition of culturally marginal sexual self-identifications and at other times to describe a nascent theoretical model which has developed out of more traditional lesbian and gay studies. The rapid development and consolidation of lesbian and gay studies in universities in the 1990s is paralleled by an increasing deployment of the term ‘queer’. As queer is unaligned with any specific identity category, it has the potential to be annexed profitably to any number of discussions. In the history of disciplinary formations, lesbian and gay studies is itself a relatively recent construction, and queer theory can be seen as its latest institutional transformation (Jagose, n.d.). Broadly speaking, queer describes

those gestures or analytical models which dramatize incoherencies in the allegedly stable relations between chromosomal sex, gender and sexual desire. Resisting that model of stability which claims heterosexuality as its origin, when it is more properly its effect queer focuses on mismatches between sex, gender and desire. Institutionally, queer has been associated most prominently with lesbian and gay subjects, but its analytic framework also includes such topics as cross-dressing, hermaphroditism, gender ambiguity and gender-corrective surgery. Whether as transvestite performance or academic deconstruction, queer locates and exploits the incoherencies in those three terms which stabilise heterosexuality. Demonstrating the impossibility of any 'natural' sexuality, it calls into question even such apparently unproblematic terms as 'man' and 'woman' (Jagose, n.d.).

There has been progress over the past twenty years in the legal landscape and in the evolution of social opinions and attitudes related to an individual's sexuality, gender identity, and gender expression. Nonetheless, members of the LGBTQ community still suffer pernicious and blatant gender bias in all areas of public and private life, including housing, employment, opportunities in academic settings, in the ability to buy goods and services, and in the opportunities to participate meaningfully in our society's decision making processes. There is a growing number of laws around the country being enacted under the guise of religious freedom that curtails, even eliminates the rights of LGBTQ individuals (Gender Equality Law Center). Furthermore, homophobia and discomfort with individuals who do not conform to antiquated stereotypes of sex and gender often manifests into heinous discrimination against these individuals. Nearly 41% of gay and lesbian adults face some form of hostility or harassment on the job, including

being fired or forced to quit because of their sexual orientation. Although federal laws protect people from workplace discrimination on the basis of sex, race, national origin, religion, age, and disability, there is no federal law that specifically outlaws workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation by private employers. However, over the years, there has been more legal support for finding that prohibition against "sex" discrimination also covers sexual orientation discrimination. The reasoning is that sexual orientation discrimination necessarily involves gender-based stereotypes of how men and women should behave and with whom they should be in romantic relationships (Gender Equality Law Center).

Looking from the medical and psychological perspective, many studies disproved the belief that homosexuality is related to mental illness and criminality. Until the 1950's, most homosexual persons studied by psychologists and others were prisoners or mental patients, so it was easy to conclude that these were linked. Evelyn Hooker, a brave psychologist at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), began undoing this belief in the early 1950s. A gay former student told her, "Evelyn, it is your scientific duty to study men like me." Hooker agreed, "He's right, we know nothing about them" (Burr, 1993). When she told the psychiatry department chair she wanted to study normal homosexuals, he replied, "There is no such person!" (Hooker, 1993, p. 450). Her work was difficult. Gay males she wanted to test feared she would betray their confidentiality. If she did, their "occupations and very lives were at risk" (Hooker, 1993, p. 451). Neither government nor businesses would hire homosexual persons. Hooker gave the Rorschach test to thirty homosexual and thirty heterosexual males. Three Rorschach

experts tried to distinguish the responses of the two groups but could not (Hooker, 1957).

Many later studies with other measures led to the conclusion that homosexuality had no related pathology, and that gays and lesbians function equally well in work and in loving relationships. In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental diseases. This recognition that homosexuality is not associated with any pathology has helped foster its acceptance. The other contribution by psychology is the discovery that homosexuality is largely determined by heredity, not just a free choice. This discovery is important, as support for the rights of homosexual persons is strongly linked to the belief that it is something individuals are “born with” (Gallup, 2007). Most gay men and lesbians believe they have “no choice at all” in their sexual orientation (Herek, Norton, Allen & Sims, 2010).

In the 1990s, evidence for the inheritance of homosexuality grew rapidly. Bailey and Pillard (1991) compared the sexual orientation of male identical twins, fraternal twins and adopted brothers. They reasoned that if homosexuality is shaped by genetics, more closely related people should be more alike in their sexual orientation. Their findings showed that about 70 percent of homosexuality may be directly attributed to heredity. Later studies concurred, although the percentage was sometimes higher, sometimes lower. A network of genes, variations in maternal hormones during pregnancy, and their interactions may all play a part. According to Ngun and Vilain (2014) there are perhaps multiple biological origins of homosexuality. Far more Americans now accept that homosexuality is not just a choice. The percentage who believe homosexuality is something one is “born with”

was just 13 percent in 1977 (Gallup, 2007). While in 2015, 51 percent believed that gays and lesbians are born as such (Gallup, 2015). The acceptance of homosexual persons continues to advance, and the work of psychologists has contributed substantially. Psychologists have shown that homosexuality is not associated with mental illness or criminality, is largely determined by heredity, and that anti-homosexuality is related to other prejudices and to authoritarianism.

### **2.3 Theory of Lesbian, Gay, and Queer Criticism**

A better way to define a lesbian, is to say that she is a woman whose sexual desire is directed toward woman. Then, gay is the sexual relations between men, or even just the sexual desire of one man for another, is the generally accepted criterion of gayness in white middle-class America today. Nevertheless, not all cultures share this definition. On the other hand, the use of the term queer can be seen as an attempt to reappropriate the word from what has been its homophobic usage in order to demonstrate that heterosexists shouldn't be allowed to define gay and lesbian experience. As gay men and lesbians have learned, the term is a tool for oppression, but it's also a tool for change. Furthermore, some lesbians and gay men have adopted the word queer as an inclusive category for referring to a common political or cultural ground shared by gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and all people who consider themselves, for whatever reasons, non-straight (Tyson, 2007).

Theologians and biblical scholars have been writing about Christianity and homosexuality for over three decades, but lesbian/gay and queer theologies are still unfamiliar. Since questions about lesbian, gay, and queer Christians are confronting



many denominations (Lowe, 2009). It is part of a larger cultural context in which homophobia has long played a major role. Although gay people are no longer placed in mental institutions for “treatment” which sometimes included aversion therapy, electric shock treatment, and even lobotomies. It wasn’t until 1974 that such practices officially ended, when the category of homosexuality was removed from the **American Psychiatric Association’s** list of psychological disorders. Moreover, it wasn’t until 1990 that the 1952 immigration policy restricting homosexual immigration into the United States was lifted.

**In literature**, LGBT-inclusive discourses often reinforce heteronormativity and binary constructions of sex and gender: that is, the social understanding that there are two distinct genders, women and men, that are synonymous with two distinct sexes, female and male, and that the expectation of being a woman (female) is to desire men (males), both emotionally and sexually, and vice versa. Because of this, LGBT-inclusive discourses may provide only a “sentimental education” to readers, one that insists that gay and lesbian people are just like straight people and thus erases significant differences among people (Britzman, 1995, p. 158). Alternatively, a queer approach strives to suspend sexual and gender identities rather than underscore them (Jagose, 1996), interrogating heteronormativity by acknowledging a variety of genders, sexes, and desires, as well as foregrounding the sexual, thereby challenging the notion of what counts as normal among them (Blackburn & Clark, 2011).

**As in the society**, people in the LGBT community are fighting for equal rights and acceptance. Trans people, especially, face a lot of difficulty in finding

acceptance. People in the LGBT community are looked down upon all the time. This is a major issue because discrimination against the LGBT community is highly prevalent. People's prejudices lead them to think that LGBT people are odd and very different. Today, homosexuality and queer identities may be acceptable to more youths than ever before but within the boundaries of families, homes and schools, acceptance still remains a constant struggle for LGBT people. I have heard of people coming out of the closet and declaring to their families that they are not the person their family expected them to be.

Being L,G,B or T is not a 'problem', nor is it a 'choice' as such. LGBT individuals are merely individuals who have sexual preferences that differ from what would appear to be the 'norm', due to differing learned behaviours and having a personal perspective and mindset that differs from everyone else's. Saying that it's objectively wrong for people to have sexual preferences that differ from the norm is objectively wrong itself (Malviya, 2019).

By looking at the theory of LGBTQ Criticism, the author will discuss more about the issue of homosexuality as one of the literary elements in the novel. It will be the main data for the author to elaborate the findings of this study. Homosexuality issue mainly talks about sexual interest in and attraction to members of one's own sex. The term gay is frequently used as a synonym for homosexual while female homosexuality is often referred to as lesbianism (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2021).

## 2.4 Theory of Reader-Response Criticism

Reader-response criticism is a study of literary theory that focuses on the reader (or “audience”) and their experience of a literary work, in contrast to other schools and theories that focus attention primarily on the author or the content and form of the work. Although literary theory has long paid some attention to the reader’s role in creating the meaning and experience of a literary work, modern reader-response criticism began in the 1960s and ’70s, particularly in the US and Germany, in work by Norman Holland, Stanley Fish, Wolfgang Iser, Hans-Robert Jauss, Roland Barthes, and others. Reader-response theory recognizes the reader as an active agent who imparts “real existence” to the work and completes its meaning through interpretation. Reader-response criticism argues that literature should be viewed as a performing art in which each reader creates their own, possibly unique, text-related performance. It stands in total opposition to the theories of formalism and the New Criticism (Reader-Response Criticism. Introduction to Literature, 2020). Reader-response criticism is a broad, exciting, evolving domain of literary studies that can help the readers learn about their own reading processes and how they relate to, among other things, specific elements in the texts that being read, the life experiences, and the intellectual community of which the readers are a member (Tyson, 2007).

In relation to the second statements of problems of this study, which is the analysis of the kind of attitude that is expected from the readers of this novel toward the issue of homosexuality. The author will use the reader-response criticism because it is the most suitable criticism that can be used to cover the findings and

discussion on the second problems. It is very related to the reader's response toward the issue of homosexuality in the novel and the response will be used to answer the kind of attitude that is expected from the readers of this novel. Specifically, the author will use the Psychological Reader-response Theory. The second problems is related to the psychological response of the reader, because it is more like the reader's interpretation or perspective toward the issue of homosexuality in the story, not about the story itself. Holland focuses on what readers' interpretations reveal about themselves, not about the text. Holland believes that we react to literary texts with the same psychological responses we bring to events in our daily lives. That is why the author will apply this theory to cover the findings and discussion for the second problems.

## **2.5 Earlier Studies**

The author found some earlier studies that related to this study on Google Scholar which has been done by other researchers. The author also attached the link of the works in the references list. Here's the list of the earlier studies;

The first study on Andre Aciman's novel was about 'Queer Jewish memory: Andre Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name*' that has been done by Frederick S. Roden. In this study, the author is only focusing on the queer criticism in analyzing the literary work. The author is not elaborating the other elements in the novel. The similar between the Roden's study and the author's study is that both are discussing the queer criticism but the difference is that the author's study will also discuss about the homosexuality issue that is being represented in the story.

The second, the thesis was done by Tinningrum, Lesi Y entitled 'Bisexuality Reflected on Andre Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name* (2007): A sociological

Approach.’ In this study, the author is also focusing on the bisexuality issue but the difference is that she was not asking the respondents which is the readers. The author of this previous study was no more elaborating the discussion about the homosexuality that occur in the novel, while the author of this study will elaborate the reader’s arguments or perspective about the homosexuality in the story. Not only discussing about the issue of homosexuality but also the reader’s perspective about the homosexuality in the story.

The third, the thesis was done by Rahmandani Bertha Y. entitled ‘Being Homosexual and Its Consequences in Andre Aciman’s *Call Me by Your Name*.’ It was only analyzing about the consequences of being a homosexual in the novel. As already stated in the introductory part, the author will be focusing on the reader’s arguments about the issue of homosexuality and the attitudes that is expected from the readers of this novel toward the issue of homosexuality. Furthermore, this study also discussing about the relation between the issue of homosexuality and the reader’s perspective about it. In Rahmandani’s study, she was not discussing about the reader’s perspective about the issue of homosexuality. Here, the author plan to do a research that will be focusing more on the analysis of the attitudes that is expected from the readers of this novel toward the issue of homosexuality. So, the author think that she can go to a deeper analysis for the research questions above because it has not been done by the other researchers.