THE ANALYSIS OF EINAR’S GENDER IDENTITY IN “THE DANISH GIRL” BY DAVID EBERSHOFF

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Abstract

In some religious countries, LGBT which stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender can give complicated conflicts. It raises the pros and cons in the society. This issue sometimes becomes ‘scourge’ because it goes against the principle of some communities. LGBT is considered to violate the nature to which has been given by God. Meanwhile, it is often discussed by institutions supporting LGBT. This study investigates LGBT as the unfamiliar issues in societies as reflected in The Danish Girl by David Ebershoff. It is a qualitative research which applies Harry Benjamin’s theory of transsexual related to gender studies. The results reveal that 1) Einar Wegener is described as a man who has feminine tendency, submissive, inferior and emotional, 2) There are internal conflicts such as Einar’s having less confident in wearing man’s clothes, being sexually attracted to the same gender and struggling for identity determination, and 3) Having the presence of finding identity, Einar has solution for his identity how to be a real woman by genital surgery.

Keywords: Einar, Gender identity, the Danish Girl

INTRODUCTION

In nearly all societies, men and women boys and girls, have different status and play different roles. Men and women behave (Attitudes and interests) and dress differently. It is contrary against traditional custom that hold the beliefs these differences between male and female behavior are biologically determined. Based on the concept of gender, this study is revealed that they are socially constructed. Gender becomes a global issue and the most favorite issue to be discussed.

Pilcher & Whelehan (Pilcher & Whelehan, 2004) argues that the concept of gender, as we now use it came into common parlance during early 1970s. It was used as analytical category to draw a line of demarcation between biological sex differences and the way these are used to inform behaviors and competencies, which are then assigned as either ‘masculine’ and ‘feminine’. In Gender Sensitivity, sex is a biological term referring to people, animals, etc., being either female of male depending on their sex organs or genes. Sex also refers to the differences between individuals that make them male of female (Guez & Allen, 2000).

Besides knowing male and female as the concept of gender, it is also essential to notice the terms of transsexual and transgender. Benjamin (1999) states that true transsexual feels that they belong the other sex, they want to be and function as members of the opposite sex, not only appears as such. For them, their sex organs, the primary (Testes) as well as the secondary (Penis and others) are disgusting deformities that must be changed by the surgeon’s knife. The transsexual, however, puts all his faith and future into hands of the doctor, particularly surgeon. While in journal of American Psychological Association, transgender is an umbrella term used to describe people...
whose gender identity (Sense of themselves as male or female) or gender expression differs from that usually associated with their birth sex.

This study focuses on the phenomenon of transgender. Transgender is and umbrella for a person who feels and dresses at the opposite sex. For example, a man who dresses as a woman and he claims himself as a woman. However, transgender only feels and dresses as an opposite sex, but they do not change their sex into opposite ex. It is known as transsexual. Appearing and dressing. Most of them feel disgust about their primary sex, and they want to have surgery to change their sex. Transsexual people feel that they are trapped in wrong body, so the decision to have surgery will be taken.

Transsexual phenomenon can be seen not only in daily life, but also in literary work. One of the most famous novels is written by an American author, namely David Ebershoff and the title of his book is The Danish Girl. This novel is taken from true story of Einar Wegener, who changes his primary sex to the second sex (Man into woman), and he changes his name into Lili Elbe. He is also the inspiration for transsexual people today.

The author chooses this novel because it can bring the imagination of Einar when he is struggling to find his identity. Ebershoff illustrates the story clearly. He provides the story with emotion, so the reader can feel the atmosphere about what happen in Einar’s life. In writing his novel, Ebershoff totally searches information about Einar Wegener that becomes Lili Elbe.

This novel becomes interesting since it shows how Einar’s confusion about himself. This novel is a bit complicated to understand once, because it tells how Einar often dresses woman’s dress before he decides to do transsexual surgery. However, the basic problem is that they are feeling trapped in wrong body. The author thinks that it must be so difficult for transsexual people to recognize their identity. Here, the author decides to analyze the whole conflict in order to find his identity.

This study uses three studies namely characterization, theory of gender and theory of transsexualism. Understanding the character is needed in this study in order to know how the story is going. Abram (1985) stated that characters are the most important thing in a literary work. They support the idea of how the story is going. Characters are “persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work that are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities”. Those values can be examined by the inferences of action, speech and motivation. Motivation in this context means “character, temperament desires and moral natures for their speech and action”.

As mentioned before, the author tries to see Einar’s gender by using theory of gender identity, but before comes to gender identity’s explanation, the author gives us the definition of gender. This theory is important in this study because it can help the author to find the answer of the character in the novel about his gender. However, the main character in the novel is confused about his gender whether he is a man or woman.

Pilcher & Whelehan (2004) argues that the concept of gender, as we now use it came into common parlance during early 1970s. It was used as analytical category to draw a line of demarcation between biological sex differences and the way these are used to inform behaviors and competencies, which are then assigned as either masculine and feminine. The purpose of affirming a sex/gender distinction was to argue that the actual physical or mental effects of biological difference had been exaggerated to maintain a patriarchal system of power and to create a consciousness among women that they were naturally better suited to “domestic” roles.
It means that sex cannot be a criterion to determine which a person is masculine or feminine. Gender has social, cultural, and psychological rather than biological connotations. It is defined in terms of femininity and masculinity. The proper term for describing sex is male and female, while the terms for gender is masculine and feminine.

Guez and Allen (2000) argues that one’s gender can be determined in many ways e.g., behavior. In most societies, humility, submissiveness, emotional and quiet are considered feminine behavior and women are expected to behave that way. Men, on the other hand are expected to be dominant, aggressive, etc.

The theory emphasizes that gender is constructed by social. By seeing his/her sex, socially expects that the gender should follow the sex. If a person was born as a man, he should be masculine.

As Guez and Allen (2000) states in Gender Sensitivity, gender refers to ‘subjective feelings of maleness and femaleness’, irrespective of one’s sex and this is called as gender identity. Further, Stoller in Glover and Kaplan (2000) states that Gender identity starts with the knowledge and awareness, whether conscious, that one belongs to one sex and not to other, though as one develops, gender identity becomes much more complicated, so that for example, one may sense himself as not a male, but a masculine man of an effeminate man or even as man who fantasies being a woman.

Thus, Gender identity is defined a personal conception of oneself as male or female (or rarely both or neither). This concept is intimately related to the concept of gender role, which is defined as the outward manifestations of personality that reflect the gender identity. Gender identity, in nearly all instances, is self-identified, as a result of a combination of inherent and extrinsic or environmental factor; gender role, on the other hand, is manifested within society by observable factors such as behaviors and appearance.

Thus, gender role is often an outward expression of gender identity, but it is also called as a society’s evaluation of behavior as masculine and feminine. Meaning to say, gender role is behaviors, traits and another characteristic that someone has to follow to be feminine or masculine.

Transsexual is a person who wants to change their sex by doing surgery. Most of transsexual people feel that they live in wrong body. In The Transsexual Phenomenon, Benjamin (1999) states that he transsexual male or female is deeply unhappy as a member of the sex (or gender) to which he or she was assigned by the anatomical structure of the body particularly the genital.

This statement shows that the big will of transsexual people are changing their genital. It also supports the idea of “live in wrong body” that the author mention above. Most of transsexual go to the doctor to find any help for changing their genitals, so the feelings of wrong body can be the right body as their soul lives.

METHOD

This study applied the qualitative method. According to Sahu (2013), qualitative is an approach which aims to explore a phenomenon through understanding the behavior of individuals or groups. The example of qualitative research is the reason why a certain group of people in a particular area prefer a particular type of tea. A qualitative method has been used in anthropology, sociology, philosophy, and almost all fields of social science of inquiry, including applied linguistics (Croker, 2009). This research approach uses gender theory of Schmitz that is a part of feminist criticism emphasizing on women’s revolution. It was the behaviour especially who had
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emphasized that the ideas of feminineness are chiefly influenced by cultural factors. The most off-quoted sentence of her studies, “One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman” (Schmitz, 2007). Our natural sex merely defines our body. Yet, all factors that we considered, consciously or unconsciously, as defining of “manliness” and “feminineness” are cultural, not natural, as becomes clear when we remember that they are different in different human societies.

The source of the data on this study is taken from the novel of The Danish Girl by David Ebershoff. The gender issue reflected on this novel attracts a lot of attention from some communities in the society. It shows that gender is constructed by society. However, sex does not determine the gender. It can be said, when a person is born sexually as a man, but in society his is treaded as a woman, he would have been feminine. This approach is related to this study which is seeing that the gender is influenced by social.

The method of supplying data is by referring to reading technique with the advanced technique of note taking. Sudaryanto (2016) states that the stage of data namely taking note, selecting and removing unnecessary data. The next stage is data analysis as the author’s effort to deal with and to go deep with the problems contained in the data. According to Flick (Flick, 2017), qualitative data analysis is generally defined as “the move from data to meanings or representations.” The analysis of qualitative data has three general aims. The first aim is to describe a phenomenon or a case (individual or groups) and a link between them. It can also focus on comparing several cases. The second aim is to identify the base differences in a situation and explain the differences itself. The third aim is to develop a theory. The data analysis method was carried out based on character and internal conflicts of Einar.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section is the results and the discussion of the research that have been carried out about the character and internal conflicts analysis. Characteristics of Einar Wegener are feminine and masculine. The feminine’ characteristics that Einar has are submissive, inferior, emotional and emotional. Masculine’s characteristic shown dominantly by Einar is aggressive. Einar’s internal conflicts about his gender identity are having less confident in wearing man’s clothes, struggle for determining the Identity,

Feminine Character

Submissive

Even though Einar is a man, but he is submissive. This characteristic is explained as a person who always does what other people say, even though it is not what he wants. The author sees many evidences about that. When Einar was young, he had a close friend named Hans. Hans paid attention to everything about Einar and they always played together. Hans also treated Einar as a little girl that should be kept. Einar sat in a sweater on a lichened rock, a pick paper parasol set up by Hans protecting him from the sun. They played in Einar’s grandmother’s sphagnum fields, while Hans acted like a husband waited for the food and Einar was like a wife, Hans touched Einar’s wrist like a husband touch his wife.

Hans said quietly, “Light a fire. Boil some water. Drop in a few stone potatoes and mutton joint”. Then more vaguely, his gravelly voice suddenly smooths: “Einar, let’s pretend.” (Ebershoff, 2000)
In describing Einar’s submission, it cannot be concluded as seen only from his childhood. When Einar married, he was also become submissive to his wife. Greta, the one who asked for Einar’s help, support Einar to dress as a woman, even Greta agreed when Einar became Lili. Einar always listened to what Greta says.

“Then just slip it on for a few minutes.” Greta brought it to Einar and held it to his chest.

“Greta,” he said. “what if I-“

“Just take off your shirt,” Greta said.

And he did.

“What if I-“

“Just close your eyes,” she said.

And he did. (Ebershoff, 2000)

The dialogue above showed that Einar obeyed Greta’s order. The author found that actually Einar did not want to wear the dress, but he had no power to reject that. The way author describes his submissive by the words, “and he did”. Einar’s submissive was also depicted when Greta asked him to be a model, while Einar was busy with his painting.

“For a moment, Einar felt defying his wife. He had his own painting to finish. He had told himself that he would call up Lily in the afternoon, that he’d spend the morning painting, which he’d been so much lately, and buying the groceries at open market. But now Greta wanted him to choose Lily over him. Greta wanted to him to give up his own painting for hers. He did not want to. He did not long for Lily just then. He felt as if Greta was forcing him to choose. ‘Maybe you can spend an hour with her before Hans comes by’” (Ebershoff, 2000)

This paragraph showed how Greta forced Einar to be Lili, because she wanted to paint Lily indeed. It also showed that Einar was busy with his painting and he wanted to finish his painting. Finally, he obeyed Greta’s request and chose the dress.

“He chose a dress. It was white, printed with pink conch shells. Its hem hung to his calf. The white and pink looked pretty against his leg, which had taken color from the French sun.”(Ebershoff, 2000)

By listening what Greta says, Einar chose the dress by himself. Murphy’s theory can be applied to these two evidences, which is personal description, that the author can give a clue about the character. Based on the story, Greta wanted to paint Lili, before Hans, Einar’s friend when he was young, comes to their house.

Further, Einar also could not reject what Greta wants when she asked him to visit a doctor. Einar felt that he was fine with his mysterious bleeding (This mysterious bleeding came once a month after he realizes about Lili), but Greta a bit forced Einar to see a doctor, even she made an appointment for the doctor.
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“Greta straightened her back, her head lifting. “But I want you to go,” she said. “I’m your wife, Einar.” She pointed him toward tracks 8 and sent him on his way, her hand falling on the small of his back, “Go on.” (Ebershoff, 2000)

By pointing Greta’s speech ‘I’m your wife, Einar’ and finally Einar followed Greta’s asking, it showed that Einar did not have any mettle to speak his mind that he was alright.

Inferior

The second characteristics of feminine behavior is inferior. When Einar was young, he lived with his father and grandmother. His mother died when he was a baby, Einar found that he was very envy of his dog because his father loved it so much. Einar felt that his father loved his dog than him. Even though, he felt that way, he loved his father so much. When his father was sick, the mysterious malady, Einar would sneak into his father’s room while he was asleep, and would find foam collected on his father’s lips, bubbled with breath (Ebershoff, 2000).

Einar was a famous painter than Greta. Einar’s paintings were always accepted by the art dealer, so he wanted that Greta’s paintings were put in the same gallery of the art dealer. He said to Ramussen, the art dealer, to consider his request. Finally, Ramussen agreed that Greta’s painting was displayed for two weeks. He wanted to help Greta to be proud of her masterpiece, because she never found the art dealer for her paintings (Ebershoff, 2000).

Besides, Einar would always try to help Greta in painting. He helped her wherever possible, and would try to teach her techniques he thought she did not know, especially about the light and distance (Ebershoff, 2000)

Emotional

Emotional is a part of feminine character that the author wanted to explain in Einar. The author finds the evidence showing that Einar is quite emotional. Besides, Einar also became more sensitive when he dressed as a woman.

Lili and Hendrik often met after the party, but in their last meeting, Hendrik said to Lili that he had already known about Lili. Hendrik knew that Lili was Einar. After Hendrik said that, Lili suddenly broke up their relationship, because Lili was shy that anyone knew about the true of her.

Lili shuddered again. “I’m afraid I can’t see you anymore,” Lili finally said. “I’m going to have to say goodbye to you tonight.”

“What are you talking about?” Hendrik said. “Why are you saying this?”

“I just can’t see you anymore. Not right now.”

He reached Lili’s hand, but she refused. “But it does not make any difference to me. Is that what is about? That what I’m trying to tell you. Is this because you think that I won’t-“ (Ebershoff, 2000)

The emotion was directly seen when he refused Hendrik’s hand. Hendrik was trying to explain, but Einar did not want to hear anything from Hendrik. It showed how Einar became so sensitive because Hendrik knew about the truly Lili. By seeing the reaction from the character, it helps the author to establish Einar’s characteristic as an emotional person.
The emotional in this context also means that Einar was sensitive. He would easily cry for simple things. This is proven when Hans wanted to visit Greta and Einar. Greta was expecting that Einar would meet Hans in men-dressing, but Einar refused that. Einar wanted to show as Lili (Ebershoff, 2000, p 78). After long conversation they had, Hans did not realize that Lili was Einar. However, Lili was worried that Hans would notice her.

“Lili cried and said to Greta “Hans didn’t figure it out, did he?” Her arms folded across her breasts, which the way things were, hand more flathy than Lili’s.” (Ebershoff, 2000)

Speech and reaction by Murphy are applied here. When the author wrote ‘Lili cried and said to Greta’, it could be concluded that she was emotionally crying. Besides the speech was also used for this evidence to explain about Lili’s worrying that Hans would notice her. Besides, Einar always wanted to meet Hans and dress up as a woman.

Einar’s sensitive feeling also could be seen when Einar made two cup of coffee when Greta woke up. In their life, Greta almost never saw Einar when she woke up. Einar in woman-dress woke up early and made some breakfast for both.

They fall asleep and when Greta woke up, she found Lili holding two cups of coffee. Lili was smiling, and then she tried to slip back beneath the sheet, but tipped. Greta watched the coffee spill across the bed, toward her hand, and Lili began to cry. (Ebershoff, 2000)

The emotional could be seen in her reaction when her hand was spilled by the coffee. Her reaction showed that feminine characteristic was dominant.

**Masculine Character**

After analyzing the female characteristics, the author tries to analyze the masculine characteristics of Einar Wegener. According to Allen and Guez in Gender Sensitivity about masculine behaviour that should be dominant, aggressive, not emotional and talkative (Guez & Allen, 2000), yet Einar does not have all those characteristics, because the characteristics found are dominant feminine.

Even though Einar is a man who has tendency of being a woman, but he is married to Greta with no children. Further, the ‘masculinity’ of Einar is seen when he does sexual intercourse with Greta.

“Any children?” Dr. Hexler asked.
“No”
“You do conduct intercourse, is that right?” Dr. Hexler face was stony, and Einar could imagine him in his rose garden with that same face, discovering with grave disappointment a petal eating mite. “There is ejaculation?”
“Sometimes.”
“Good enough.” Dr. Hexler said. (Ebershoff, 2000)

Based on that conversation to others, it shows that Einar does sexual intercourse with Greta, even though, he has the tendency to be more feminine. One of the characteristics of masculine is
aggressive, but when Einar does sexual intercourse with Greta, he is awkward and without initiative.

“It was almost as if the question had tumbled with its own will out of Greta’s mouth. She had never wondered about this before, because Einar had always been sexually awkward and without initiative.” (Ebershoff, 2000)

By seeing the Greta’s thought above, the author concludes that Einar still has ‘masculinity’ side because he still does sexual intercourse with his wife, even though it is awkward and without initiative. Those evidences prove that masculine characteristics based on the Gender Sensitivity by Allen and Guez does not happen to Einar.

**Einar’s internal conflicts**

**Having less confident in wearing man’s clothes**

The confusion of Einar Wegener starts from the first time his wife asks to wear Anna’s dress and shoes. When Einar is wearing the shoes, Einar feel dizzy and warm. He feels something wrong about the shoes.

“He looked down at his shins, the silk smooth except for a few hairs bursting through like tiny hard fuzz on a bean. The yellow shoes looked too dainty to support him, but his feet naturally arched up, as if he was stretching a long-unused muscle. Something began to run though Einar’s head and it made him think of a fox chasing a field mouse: the thin red nose of the fox digging for the mouse through the folds of a pulse field.” (Ebershoff, 2000)

Later, when Greta asks for wearing the dress, Einar feels warmer like never felt before. Einar put his attention to the dress when the first time Anna (Greta’s model for painting) wearing that.

“A strange watery feeling was Einar as he stood on the lacquer trunk, the sunlight moving across him, the scent of herring in the air. The dress was loose everywhere except in the sleeves, and he left warm and submerged, as if dipping into a summer sea. The fox was chasing the mouse, and there was a distant voice in his head: the soft cry of a scared little girl.” (Ebershoff, 2000)

The dress makes Einar imagine about a little girl which it has been a long time he has saved in his mind. Einar realizes that from the first time he sees the dress, he loves the dress and wonders that it belongs to anyone, even to him. That moment makes Einar always thinks about the little girl, Lili, Einar feels that Lili is a part of his soul which Lili should be known by others.

“I’ve been thinking about her,’ Einar said.

“Who’s that?”

“Little Lili.” (Ebershoff, 2000)

The dialogue between Einar and Greta above shows that ‘the dress’ makes Einar always thinks about Lili. Further, starting from the moment, Einar is confused about his identity. Part of him wants Lili becomes the first before Einar. However, by wearing the dress when Einar helps
Greta to finish the painting, it feels like the dress calling a little girl inside Einar. Besides, Einar also loves the dress.

Starting from that moment, Einar has lost his confidence to dress up as a man. He often dresses up as woman in order to make him satisfied. Einar also feels that he gets a chance to dress up as a woman by knowing that Greta permits him to dress up as a woman. Greta gives an idea to dressing as a woman in ballroom party in painting exhibition, because she knows that Einar is almost never liked going to the ballroom party.

“Lili was in chiffon dress with a linen sailor’s collar and cuffs. The dress was making a soft noise as she walked and she kept her mind on the swish-swish, nervously trying not to think what lay ahead.” (Ebershoff, 2000)

Inside of Einar, he is happy of dressing as a woman, even though he is still shy because that is the first time of dressing as a woman in front of public. Later, dressing as a woman becomes a desire for Einar because he knows that by dressing as a woman, he can appear Lili inside him.

Additionally, Einar realizes that he is more confident when he dresses up as a woman. He finds such as satisfaction of it, so he decides to dress as woman when Greta’s twin comes to visit them.

“He’ll be here within the hour,” Greta said. She was wearing a brown wool dress that clung to hen in a pretty way. “Are you going to stay dressed as Lili?” She asked.

“I thought I might.”

“But I don’t think he should meet Lili right away. Not first. Not before Einar.”

Greta was right, and yet part of Einar wanted Lili to be the first to meet Carlisle, as if she were his better half.

The sentence above supports the idea that Einar has low self-confidence when he dresses as a man, other evidence is when Hans comes to visit Einar and Greta. After years, Hans and Einar never met, Einar thinks that he should dress as Lili, because he is not ready yet for meeting Hans. Besides, Einar finds himself comfortable covered by woman’s dress not only in meeting people, even when he goes to bed, he will cover himself with nightdress.

Greta fell asleep before Einar came to bed. When she woke up, she discovered Lili lying in her camisole beneath the summer sheet. Never before had Lili slept with Greta; they had eaten breakfast together in silk kimonos patterned with cranes, and shopped for stockings together.

The author also gives a clue that Einar is more comfortable when he dresses as a woman. Einar is also ‘smart’ to choose his own dress to make him look beautiful. Einar realizes that the more he dresses up as a woman; the most Lili’s shadow comes into his mind.

“Where do you go to find her?” Dr. Hexler asked.

“Inside me.” Einar said

“And is she always there?”

“Yes. Always” (Ebershoff, 2000)
The evidence shows that Lili has always been living in Einar. The delusion about Lili makes Einar believe that he lives with two souls exist; Lili and Einar.

Those all evidences above refer to the characteristics of transsexual. After seeing that Einar is confident in women’s dress, it relates to the characteristics of transsexual; transsexual put on women’s underwear and clothing, transsexual reported that their appearance was quite feminine, and transsexual wished born as girls instead boys (Benjamin, 1999). Besides, by dressing as a woman, it makes Einar grows more feminine, not only in appearance, but also in gender. However, the conversation between Dr. Hexler and Einar also supports that actually Einar wishes born as Lili.

**Being sexually attracted to the same gender**

After analyzing the low self-confidence of Einar, the author finds the second internal conflict which is Einar’s sexual attraction is to male. The effect of dressing as a woman influences Einar’s sexual attraction because he thinks that he is a woman. In conducting this analysis, the author puts several evidences show that Einar has tendency to male sexually.

Firstly, young Einar has old friend, named Hans whom they often play when they were young. Hans treats young Einar like a little girl that should be kept, and it makes Einar melts by the way Hans treats him. It looks simple but precious for Einar.

> “And Einar got more and more used to spinning spool, and kite dipping and rising wrens. Hans was tickling Einar’s stomach with a reed. His face was so close to Hans’s that he could feel, through the grass, his breath. Einar wanted to lie so close to Hans that their knees would touch, and that moment Hans seemed open to anything at all.” (Ebershoff, 2000)

Hans can make young Einar always feels comfortable with him. The next day, when they play in the kitchen, Hans puts Einar’s grandmother apron and whispers, “You never played this game?” Hans whispered, his voice hot and creamy on Einar’s ear and they kissed. Knowing that scene, Einar’s father gets angry and drives Hans away from their house (Ebershoff, 2000).

Secondly, the sexual attraction to male also can be seen when Einar starts to realize that he is partially woman. It also portrays as the climax moment, because Einar cannot change the feeling to other men. After ballroom party, when Einar converses himself with woman’s dress and turns out into Lili, Einar meets a man named Hendrik Sandhal, who is starring at her from the first time she enters the room. Besides, Lili feels like she sees her father when she looks at Hendrik. Lili cannot lie to herself that the man takes her attention. Hendrik walks to Lili and they start to talk to know each other. Their conversation ends up when Hendrik asks the permission to kiss Lili.

> “Hendrik, whose lips were flat and purple and cracked just down the middle, kissed Lili. His head swooped in, his mouth landed on hers and they pulled away. He did again, and again. While his hand kneaded the flesh above her elbow, and then the small of her back. What surprised her most about man’s kiss was the scratch of the whiskers, and the dense hot weight of a young man’s arm. The tip of his tongue was straightly smooth, as if a scalding that had burned of the bumpy buds. Lili wanted to push him away and she couldn’t do this, but it suddenly seemed like an impossible task. As if her hand could never shaver away Hendrik, whose corkscrew hair twisting likes a rope around her throat.” (Ebershoff, 2000)
The evidence shows that Lili enjoys Hendrik’s kiss and Lili cannot stop it. Einar was aware that he is covered by woman’s dress and at the moment he was Lili. She was afraid if Hendrik knows that, she would be breathless. However, it did not make Lili stop to meet Hendrik. In her heart, Lili wants to be loved as a woman by Hendrik. Greta asks to stop seeing Hendrik, but Einar (in Lili’s dress) refuses that.

“I don’t want to stop seeing him,” Lili said.
“Then please, stop seeing him for me.”
“Lili said she’d try, but even she said it she knew it would be impossible.” As she stood in the front room, by Einar’s empty easel, she knew she was lying to Greta. But Lili couldn’t help it. She could hardly help herself. (Ebershoff, 2000)

The conversation above leads to the fact that Einar likes Hendrik, even they often meet secretly. Einar experiences the new thing; he was happy always meeting Hendrik. In every meeting, they always have a kiss to prove their love.

Thirdly, sexual attraction of Einar can be seen when he does “Blowjob” to a man that he meets in Madame Jasmine Cartoon’s (Prostitution in Paris). When Einar watches a man and woman are doing sexual interaction in the prostitution, Einar suddenly thinks that he wants the man to do the same to Lili. Further, Einar meets a mysterious man in the prostitution which is the man watching Einar more than he watches the stripper. After the strip show has done, the man got closer to Einar and opened his trousers.

“Einar sank back in the chair. The man seemed to like what he saw. He unbuttoned his overcoat, split it open. With the knot of his tie diamond-shaped, he was well groomed except for one thing: His flies were open and through it poked in the eye of his penis. He stepped toward Einar. Then another step. The head of his penis was peeking from beyond foreskin. It smelled salty, and Einar began to think of the beaches of Jutland, of Skagen, where his mother was laid to sea in the fishing net picked clean of gills, and then the man’s penis was only inches from Einar’s mouth, and Einar closed his eyes. Einar’s mouth was opened. He could almost taste something bitter and warm, and just as Einar’s tongue emerged from his mouth and the man took one final step closer, just when Einar knew for sure that Lili was here to stay and very soon Einar have to disappear.” (Ebershoff, 2000)

Einar has reached the point where he is very curious about the man’s penis. In the beginning he arrives in Madame Jasmine Cartoon’s, he watches two people are making love, and he wants it to happen to Lili. However, from this situation, Einar increasingly convinces that he must immediately choose to lead to the determination of identity that he does not know.

**Struggle for Determining the Identity**

In this part, the author analyzes the process of determining his identity. It takes a long process for transsexual to encourage themselves to find and choose the identity. This is also happening to Einar, which he has been experienced many things before he is brave to choose become a woman.
Knowing that Einar start to like a man and he seems enjoy that, his confusion about himself is growing every day. Einar and Greta move to Paris to have a new life because Greta’s painting becomes the French’s taste. Before they move to Paris, Einar and Greta visit a doctor to examine mysterious bleeding (Caused the changing of hormone, and it comes once a month).

“You’re not really concerned about the bleeding?” Greta asked to Dr. Hexler.
“Not in the least?”
“Not as much as I am about his delusion that he is a woman. Even X-ray can’t cure that. Would you like me to talk to Einar? I can tell him that he’s injuring himself.”
“But is he really?”
“Yes, of course.” (Ebershoff, 2000)

Dr. Hexler straightens that Einar has a delusion of being a woman. Dr. Hexler also says to Greta that Copenhagen (Denmark) cannot accept a man like Einar. It makes Greta think to move to Paris in order make Einar feeling better. Besides, Greta’s painting of Lili becomes French’s taste.

After moving to Paris, Einar becomes so frustrated about himself. Besides, Einar feels that Lili should alive rather than Einar. He also goes to library to find books about the gender development; The Sexes; The Normal and Abnormal Man; A Scientific Study of Sexual Immorality. Those can help Einar to find his gender and he can decide about Lili should be existed.

By reading this book, Einar believes that he should make any move to reach his will. Einar really realizes that the half of him is Lili. His imagination about female organs also becomes his will. However, the one who supports and believes that Lili exists is Greta. Greta sets Einar free to choose his identity.

“No. It just that I sometimes don’t know what’s going on with me.”
“But that’s not true,” she said. “We know exactly what’s going on with you. Inside of you lives Lili. In your soul is pretty young lady named Lili. It’s as simple as that. It has nothing to do with being crazy.” (Ebershoff, 2000)

Greta’s dialogue shows how she believes in Lili’s existence, and it influences Einar’s thought about Lili. Because of Einar feels that he is supported by his own wife, so he often thinks about his identity whether he is a man or woman.

Gender identity is the way a person expresses him/herself and it relates to gender role that reflects to gender identity (Glover & Kaplan, 2000). It means when a person expresses himself as a woman, then he should follow the role of being a feminine. In the Einar’s case, his confusion is caused by that fact that his sex is a male but his gender identity is dominant feminine, even he claims that part of his is woman.

“No one would tell him this, but Einar knew it was because he was female inside. He’d read about it: The buried female organs of the hermaphrodite hemorrhaging irregularly, as if in protest.” (Ebershoff, 2000)
Einar’s confusion about his identity is also hard to be faced. He often tries to be a man, and tries to forget about Lili, but he cannot hide Lili each morning when he wakes up.

“Einar was sleeping late and rising tired. Each morning he’d promise himself that he would live the day as Einar, but when he went to the wardrobe to dress, it was like coming across the belongings of an ancestor in the attic.” (Ebershoff, 2000)

The dialogue shows how hard Einar tries to be a man, but Lili’s shadow comes around his head. His thought about Lili is stronger every day until he gives himself time for year to decide.

“If in exactly one year Lili and Einar weren’t sorted out, he would come to the park and kill himself. It made him straighten his back. He could no longer bear to chaos in his life. Einar and Lili were one, but it was time to split them in two. He had one year.” (Ebershoff, 2000)

The uncomfortable feeling of being a man is seen in the dialogue above. The confusion is not only about a woman soul that lives in Einar. However, it also affects his sexual desire.

Einar was born as a man and realized that he has a tendency to be a woman. Then, his confusion caused by Lili that lives in Einar’s imagination. However, in society, his sex is male then it should be a masculine rather than feminine. It also makes Einar’s confusion about his gender identity grows stronger every day. By seeing the evidences in part Einar’s thought and speech, they show how Einar’s tendency becomes a woman.

The confusion also led him to be a different person. It means here that actually he is a husband, but he cannot give Greta sexual satisfaction and he does not have a role as a husband. Then, his sexual desire also directed to a man, which is in the evidence when he is kissed by Hendrik and the man in prostitution.

The internal conflicts that happen in Einar are viewing how the gender is constructed by social. Further, sex and gender are in one line, but in the object of his study it shows that sex doesn’t influence the gender. Especially, for transsexual people who feel that they live in wrong body.

CONCLUSION

The author finds that gender is constructed by social. When Einar was a boy, he was forbidden to play with girl’s stuff. It made him to stay to be a man until he married Greta. After married to Greta, Einar’s gender changed into feminine. This is because Greta permits Einar to dress and hang out with men. Einar’s confusion begins when he realizes that he has two genders; woman and man.

The author also divides the description of Einar into two parts; feminine and masculine characteristics. In feminine characteristics, Einar can be said as a person who has submissive, inferior and emotional. The author only emphasizes in feminine characteristics, because Einar has the tendency to be more feminine. The author proves the masculinity of Einar when he does sexual intercourse with his wife.

Later, in the process of finding his identity, Einar has internal conflicts which are devided into two sections. The author finds that Einar has low self-confidence when he is dressing as a man or wearing men’s clothes. Einar gets such satisfaction when he dresses up as a woman. It becomes an internal conflict because it relates to the theory of gender identity. The effect of having low
self-confidence is Einar starts considering about little girl, named Lili, that lives inside Einar. When Einar thinks that he is a part of woman, he realizes that he has sexual attraction to male. This moment makes Einar’s confusion is deeper until he gives time to himself to choose whether he lives with the soul of Einar or Lili. However, Einar wanted to be loved by Hendrik as a woman not as a man, and he would do anything to get his dream came true, even to get his dream is by doing surgery to his body.

The most interesting part to analyze is when the conflicts occur in Einar’s life. This novel can bring the imagination how Einar Wegener struggle to find his identity. The author summarize that the struggle of the main character is the value of this novel. And the novel is about transsexual life, it’s a new knowledge for the author and also for the people who read the novel.

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