

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the background, objectives, significance and the scope of the study.

1.1. Background of the Study

Sex and Gender are different. According to the Webster's Dictionary, Sex is the two divisions of human beings respectively designated as male or female while gender is any of two or more subclasses that are partly arbitrary, but also partly based on distinguishable characteristics such as, sex as masculine or feminine. Sex is based biologically, exposed into male and female, it also demonstrates the identity of male and female while their basic similarities such as body ground-plan will differentiates sex within their; genetics, chromosomes, genitalia, embryos (Oakley, 1972). Gender roles will differ human partly from sex and societies expected from their assumption towards sexes (Holmes, 2007).

Gender roles has been debated throughout the world, its significance to the point of view of the world towards the stereotypes in which genders should behave. Gender roles affect how people interact one with another. Holmes (2007:2), argues gender refers to the socially constructed categorical difference between masculine and feminine behaviors while sex refers to the biological difference between males and females. In addition to that, Gardiner (2004: 35) argues the most important accomplishment of feminist theory in the last century

was the development of gender as a social construction. The concept of gender has erased the belief that both male and female have their own inherent characteristics as well as the division of people into male and female categories as a social construction. Gender role impact identity development and influence the way in which people interact with their environment (Torres, Jones & Renn; 2009). Gender roles influence coping, social support, patient-physician communication, marital relationships, and friendships (Friedman & Silver, 2007). Gender role also affect one's choices, interactions, decisions making, aspirations, behavior, and achievement (Eccles, 1987). Gender role itself is a social construct that is constructed by society, and given to people based on how they behave, norms, and expectations (Unger, 1979). Gender role changes over time because gender role shaped by both childhood and adult experience (Twenge, 1977; Blee & Tickamyer, 1995).

In Asia, Jeffrey & Basu (1998) argues that gender roles on the appropriation of gender explores the paradoxical relationship of women to religious politics, Jeffrey explores the varied meanings and expressions of gender identity through time in political context by gender appropriation in Asia. Jeffrey and Basu explores the paradoxical relationship of women to religious politics in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Contrary to the hopes of feminists, many women have responded to religious nationalist appeals; contrary to the hopes of religious nationalists, they have also asserted their gender, class, caste, and

religious identities; contrary to the hopes of nation states, they have often challenged state policies and practices. Through a comparative South Asia perspective, *Appropriating Gender* explores the varied meanings and expressions of gender identity through time, by location, and according to political context.

Tang and Tang (2001), studied the influence of gender role internalization as a moderator in the relationship between women's multiple roles and psychological distress, this study issued after the empirical interest over the decades due to demand simultaneous responsibility and commitment (Green & Russo, 1993). Tang and Tang found that internalization of gender role messages for women has been linked to various mental health problems which internalization contradicted with the modern women role. Women are expected to possess many various traits and behaviors, such as competitive and nurturing, compliant and assertive, and to appear in control without any sign of vulnerability, while still demonstrating the traditionally feminine trait of emotionality (Bepko & Krestan, 1990).

Meanwhile, in Japan, the femininity and masculinity within Japanese Gender Role Index (JGRI) (Sugihara and Katsurada, 2002) shows that men scored significantly higher than women on the masculinity scale, but there was no significant difference between men and women on the Femininity scale. The findings also showed that both men and women scored slightly higher on the Femininity scale than on the Masculinity scale. The research showed Japanese people favored both desired characteristics for either men or women in the

society. The findings revealing some of the items such as affectionate and have leadership abilities seem to be universally valued, whereas individualistic values such as independent, assertive, strong personality, and self-reliant were not endorsed as socially desirable in the culture. The following items categorized as feminine are innocent, graceful, affectionate, have charm, attentive to the need of others, polite, calm, love children, like to care for others, and have neat habits. On the other hand, items categorized as masculine are have a leadership ability, strong willed, ability to implement action of one's own accord, have a broad perspective, ability to bring others together, have guts, become self-supportive, persuasive, relied on by others, and upstanding. The results show that both women and men are socially desired for both masculine and feminine items although men scored slightly higher on the masculine items.

In the 2014 novel *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* (君の膵臓をたべたい, pronounced *Kimi no Suizō o Tabetai*) written by Japanese writer Yoru Sumino tells a story from the perspective of Haruki Shiga about his popular high-school classmate Sakura Yamauchi who is dying as her pancreas is failing.

The novel starts with Haruki finding about Sakura's illness inside her diary entitled "Disease Coexistence Journal" which Haruki found in the hospital. Knowing that Haruki is the only one who knows about Sakura's Pancreas, Sakura convinced Haruki not to tell the others about her failing pancreas as Sakura does not want her friends to pity her and let her hopes down. Fates unites Sakura and

Haruki from the accidental diary finding and with that, Sakura trusted him to ensure all of the wishes fulfilled with him before her pancreas fails.

This collates with Tang, Lee, Tang, Cheung, Chan (2002); who explored the associations between role occupancy, role quality, and psychological distress of women in Hong Kong. They found that the quality of experiences within social roles, has been found to be related to women's psychological well-being (Barnett & Baruch, 1985). Women's mental health influenced differently by the quality of various social roles.

Both Sakura Yamauchi and Haruki have inversely proportional characteristics. While Sakura is easy going and extroverted, Haruki more of an antisocial and left out from others. Upon knowing that Sakura suffers from a pancreatic disease, Haruki was led to follow Sakura's actions to fulfill her wishes reluctantly as Haruki tends to avoid interaction with other people from his antisocial trait.

This contradicts with the culture and central health of women in Asia, gender discrimination in Asia has led to second class status of women in society. This led to their mobility, work, self-esteem and self-image being repressed within a patriarchal society, even more women's worth and identity depended upon the male members in the society (Niaz, Hassan; 2006).

The novel depicts woman in a different way as the main protagonist is facing limited time in the world, creating different outcomes of ordinary women in Japan would live their life. Thus, this study analyzes the role of main female character in the novel as the characters differ one's way of facing problems, acts, communicate, thus the main female character affects the main male character in how they interact one another.

This study focuses on both female and male main protagonists in interacting between one another. *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* novel has deep issues towards priority of life in the face of death and love in schools and how it affects the main male of the character, this novel worth to be analyzed.

The writer chose *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* by Yoru Sumino because this novel was initially serialized as a web novel in the user-generated site *Shōsetsuka ni Narō* in 2014, then the book was published in print in 2015 by *Futabasha*. Eventually it began to serializing a *manga* (Japanese comic book) adaptation in *Futabasha's Monthly Action* magazine that ran from 2016 to 2017. Moreover, A Japanese live-action film based on the novel, titled *Let Me Eat Your Pancreas* premiered in Japan on 2017. Not only that, an *Anime* (Japanese animated film) adaptation of the novel announced in august 2017 and premiered in theaters on September 2018 throughout the world and received awards of Japan *Academy Award for Newcomer of the Year*, *Popularity Award* from 41st Japan *Academy Prize* and *Best Newcomer* by *Nikkan Sports Film Award*. This novel is worth to be

researched due the popularity of the novel that only began as web novel to awards winning animated film.

The writer chooses the novel *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* (2014) written by Yoru Sumino as the corpus of the research, and will analyze the growth of the protagonist based on gender roles depicted in this novel. Therefore, researcher propose the following research question.

1.2. Research Question

Based on the background of the study, the writer intends to analyzes

1.2.1 How is gender role depicted in *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas*?

1.2.2 What are the impacts of gender role for Haruki's life?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

The objective of the study is to explores on how is gender roles depicted in the novel *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* and how does gender roles affect the male characters observed in this novel.

1.4. Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the text which convey gender roles interaction of Sakura and Haruki and how it impacted Haruki's life depicted in *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas's* novel by Yoru Sumino. The author analyzed on how the main male and female characters interact in the novel using Oakley's and Lebra's

gender roles theory and how the interaction affected the main male character of the novel. However, the interaction between observed characters which only the two main female and male protagonists (Sakura and Haruki) are limited to Lebra's gender roles of Japan and the impact to the characters analyzed from Oakley's gender role internalization and in addition to elaborate the data, the validation of shown behaviors within the interaction is elaborated with Sugihara and Katsurada's gender stereotypes. Another limitation from the novel puts the scope of the impact of gender roles only observed in the main male character as the story is told from a first-person point of view from the main male character.

1.5. Significance of the Study

The writer expects this study will give new insight to other researchers especially to the literary study of *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas*'s novel. The writer also expects the findings of this study will enrich information to the reader on what kind of gender roles appear in this novel and will give the reader an insight and understandings.