

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of The Study

In this fast-paced era, online media is a human choice to get the most up-to-date information. Online media is also used as the first place to look for information when we just wake up in the morning, because it can be easily accessed through our smartphone. The media takes a role in framing every piece of information they provide. Therefore, the role of media is very important in disseminating accurate and actual information. The information can be varied as Indonesia is faced with variative groups of people. Transgender community in Indonesia is one of the groups of people in Indonesia. They are striving to get social acceptance in the society. The reason why the researcher chose transgender community in Indonesia as the object of the study is because in February 2016 the only Islamic boarding school -called al-Fatah- for transgender people was forcibly closed by an Islamic extremist group.

Based on *bbc.com/indonesia*, the closure happened after its existence was blasphemed by local Islamic extreme groups. The founder of al-Fatah Islamic boarding school named Shinta Ratri, -or commonly called *Ibu Shinta* by the local residents- is a transgender, and she is also a transgender activist who helps to provide life-connecting services for the local transgender community. The school is also

located at her house. To this moment, she still works for transgender empowerment in Indonesia.

Based on Martua Hidayana, Iwan (2018). *Seluk-beluk Sejarah Homoseksualitas di Indonesia*. Retrieved from matamatapolitik.com, the trans people exist even before colonialism. Far before Islamic era the Bugis tribe confirmed five genders, there are man (oroane), woman (makkunral), trans woman (calabai), trans man (calalai), and androgynous priest (bissu). Another example comes from some tribes in southeast Papua. Before the Islamic and Christianity came to Indonesia, they practiced a homosexual ritual, which we could never find such practices today. For homosexuality now believed as sin in religious teach. The homosexual rituals were forbidden in the era of Dutch colonialism, for their believe in Christianity. The Dutch Colonialism redefined the concepts of gender and sexuality according to religion and modern values. The modern religion firmly forbid homosexual practices or gender transition.

The Indonesian transgender community's life is presented in some online or offline (printed) news articles. Transgender representations are also written in some studies. In so many medias transgender are portrayed both positively and negatively by some researches.

In the previous study "*Being Transgender: The Experience of Transgender Identity Development*", Heidi Levitt, (2014) focus on how the media affects the transgender identity development and how people perceive it. They explore the

transgender psychology development by seeing the transgender's childhood. In this journal they use both quantitative and qualitative method. First, they interviewed 17 people identified as transgender, then they use grounded theory analysis to analyze the data.

The psychological, economical, and linguistic are explored in this journal "*Narrating Transgender Identities: A Linguistic Perspective*" (Zottola, 2018). The researcher focuses on the way in which language choices adapted by transgender individuals to narrate their experience in the workplace. Critical Discourse Analysis is employed in this journal. From this journal, the researcher is saying that from the linguistic perspective, interest towards the topic of transgender and gender non-conforming identities has been drawn only recently, despite the relevance language use has on the general understanding of these identity expressions.

Yudah (2013) in her journal "*Representasi Transgender dan Transeksual dalam Pemberitaan di Media Massa: Sebuah Tinjauan Analisis Wacana Kritis*", explores the texts about transgender in Pos Kota newspapers, by using critical discourse analysis. She finds that transphobia is depicted through the Pos Kota newspaper.

The next article explores about how transgender is portrayed in Sweden newspapers. This article "*Representation of Trans People in Swedish Newspapers*" Åkerlund (2018), deploys quantitative method and discourse analysis. She uses Machine Learning for Language Toolkit or MALLET, a java-based, open sources

software (McCallum,2002) to sort the data that consist of some issues she had chosen. She collected 15,901 articles by using the media archiver *Retriever*, these articles were published between 2000 to 2017. In this study she finds that trans people is perceived as a deviant, and deceiving. Media tends to trivialize excluded and silenced trans people.

In the journal "*Transgender Representation in Media*" Jobe (2013), they focus on how transgender is represented on television shows, series/cartoon series, news, and movies. They analyze the corpus by seeing as a whole the characters' quality as transgender. They find that trans people are used to pull into higher ranks of the shows.

Meanwhile in the journal "*Transgender Representation in Offline and Online Media: LGBTQ Youth Perspectives*" Lauren B. McInroy (2015) highlight the representation of transgender in offline and online media perceived by both transgender and non-transgender people. The transgender people that is become the object of this study is the young. This research utilizes grounded theory and interviews were also carried out. They interviewed 19 LGBTQ young adults that is also active in consuming offline and online media. The findings of their research are that the depiction of transgender in offline and online media are various and influential. The offline media offers a more heterosexual and heteronormative experiences, meanwhile in online media, the transgender people are more explicit, but in online media the transphobia is clearly visible.

The previous studies found that transgender people are portrayed both positive and negative. Other researchers also have not explored about how transgender is portrayed in online newspaper (especially The Jakarta Post online newspaper) through the text that contains positive or negative sentences or phrases. Most of the journals use critical discourse analysis, on the other hand this study employs Appraisal to analyze the text. The other researches are more focused on analyzing the text in visual media (such as on magazines, or television), meanwhile this research will be more textually focused.

The researcher will use appraisal analysis to find out how Indonesian transgender are portrayed on The Jakarta Post online newspaper.

1.2. Research Question

Based on the previous background, a problem statement can be drawn as follows:

How is Indonesian transgender portrayed in The Jakarta Post Online Newspaper deploying appraisal analysis?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

In accordance to the research question, the purpose of the research conducted is to find out the portrayal of transgender in Jakarta Post online newspaper.

1.4. The Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the words, phrase or sentence that represent the portrayal of the transgender people in Indonesia, whether it is a good representation or not.

1.5. The significance of the Study

Some of the significant that can be obtained from this study includes:

1. For researcher

The researcher will gain knowledges about the life of transgender in Indonesia and how they cope with negative stigma developed in the society.

2. For other researchers

The researcher expects that this study could be a reference for other researcher to conduct a research.