

CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Dance is mainly about movements which have hidden meaning (katamaridance, 2007). It serves as a medium to express people's feelings such as happiness, joy, sadness, and envy (katamaridance, 2007). People who love to dance can deliver and express their emotion better through this dance and the music.

In his thesis, the writer wants to talk particularly about male dancer discrimination, specifically discrimination which happens in the ballroom dance. Similar to other dances which express a person's soul through movement, ballroom dancing is a "dance produced by couple dancers where couples move to the music using step-patterns and rhythms that match character of a given song" (thedancespace.com, t.thn.).

A dancer itself is defined as "a performer who dance professionally" (showmeword.com, t.thn.). A dancer specializes on a particular dance such as traditional dance, Modern Dance, Ballroom Dance, etc. Although, dancer can refer to female dancer or male dancer, 'male dancer' in some societies often has extra weight as male dancer is often prejudiced as someone different". Burt (1995) discusses the trouble experienced by a male dancer. Burt starts by describing a male dancer in the following way:

"He wears tights, has an ugly face, solid thighs and big hands. The artist, however, has not made him look grotesque, just less

attractive than the ballerina. The implication is that the viewer would rather look at her, but the male dancer wants you to look at him, and anyway he is in the way” (Burt R. , 1995, p. 22).

The writer intends to write about male dancer because the writer is a ballroom dancer. Being a professional male dancer, the writer often feels discriminated. Some people assume that being a male ballroom’s dancer is like a person who does not have masculinity sides; they are seen as people who act like female. Thus, male dancers are stigmatized by the society as not normal people.

1.1.FIELD OF THE STUDY

The field of the study is literature which focuses on gender studies.

1.2.SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This research is based on Gender Studies. The writer chooses Gender Studies aspect to find out Gender Discrimination elements which happen in the society.

1.3.PROBLEM FORMULATION

There are two questions that are formulated as follows.

1. Why do the male dancers choose to become dancers?
2. What kind of discrimination experienced by male dancers?

1.4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the objectives of this study

1. To reveal the reasons of the male dancers to become dancers.
2. To find out the discrimination experienced by male dancers.

1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study will help people to understand more about male ballroom dancers and discrimination faced by male ballroom dancers.

1.6.DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. Dance :

Dance is most commonly defined as a way of human expression through movement. But dance simply cannot be reduced merely to movement because dance can also be defined as a specific art movement, based on the expressive moves of the human body, (Pusnik, 2010, p. 5).

2. Gender :

Gender has long been used to mean a person's sex and was reserved largely for the grammatical categories known as masculine, feminine, and neuter (Herbst, 2001, p. 116).

3. Discrimination :

Artistic-professional excellence, manifest in structural inequalities, professional practice and social discourse ; and athleticism, involving discursive and representational strategies – consist of emphasising the masculinising aspects of dancing-as-art/profession (virtuosity, creativity), and dancing-as-leisure/body-activity (prowess, self-control). (Basseti, 2016).

4. Masculinity

Masculine. As an adjective, it is a reference to certain qualities and behaviors believed to be appropriate to or associated with a man (Herbst, 2001, p. 195).

5. Male :

Male ultimately from Latin *masculus*, *di-minutive of mas*, a man or boy; as an adjective, relating to men, masculinity, or of the sex that has organs that produce spermatozoa (Herbst, 2001, p. 188).

6. Ballroom Dance :

Dance produced by a couple dancer where couples move to the music using step-patterns and rhythms that match character of a given song (thedancespace.com, n.d.)

7. Gay :

Gay, a term used for and by someone who self-identifies as a homosexual, especially a male (Herbst, 2001, p. 112)

