

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary work, for example a film, simply reflects life experiences. As a literary work, film can be viewed as a reflection of life in a society at a certain time. One example of films showing about gender identity is the one entitled *Tomboy* directed by Celine Sciamma. This film's greatest accomplishment is the writer/director Celine Sciamma's stunning ability to draw natural, believable performances from her adolescent cast. She always makes a different concept in her moving film. At this film she makes a film from daily live.

The film basically tells a story of a family that moves into a new town. Laure is a ten – year – old who wants to be a boy. She looks like a boy with short hair and boys' clothes. Her mother is pregnant; they are waiting for a new baby. When Laure plays with her sister Jeanne, she sees a group of children playing outside and she wants to join them. Then she meets Lisa in front of her apartment. Lisa introduces herself and Laure introduces herself as a Michael. Lisa asks to follow her and they play together with others. Next day, "Michael" sees her friends playing football. She just watches them and does not play football because she is playing with her sister. But Laure does not like playing with her sister and

after that she just goes away and plays football with her friends. "Michael" is good at football and she acts what her friend's attitude. She plays without clothes and also tries to spit.

In the next scene, Lisa invites "Michael" to go swim with others, but "Michael" is afraid of her being in disguise. When she plays with Jeanne, she finds an idea to keep her disguise a secret. In over time Jeanne knows it and Laure orders her sister not tell their mother. Laure makes an agreement with Jeanne with one condition that Laure will invite Jeanne to play with them. They play water war and Jeanne falls down and hurts. Michael hits her friends until her friend gets bruised.

In the end, Laure's mother knows her disguising as a boy. Her mother is very angry with Laure. Her mother wants to tell Laure's friend that she is a girl not a boy especially because Lisa starts to like her as a boyfriend. After her friends know it, they want to make sure her disguising and to make sure that Michael is a girl not a boy. At last, Michael admits herself as a girl not a boy and her name is Laure.

To that end, the story drifts into focus, and the emphasis remains on the wheels in Laure's head, which turn loudly despite her relative silence. When Laure/Michael watches boys playing soccer, you might think you're looking at a lonely child. But when she joins a later game, whipping off her shirt like one of them, you know you're witnessing an identity in formation. Céline Sciamma last found a UK audience with her

2007 movie *Water Lilies*, a disturbing drama about tensions among teenagers at a swimming pool. Her new film is a smaller-scale piece, directed with a light touch. This film was workshopped at the Sundance Institute because the writer and director Celine Sciamma is operating in a different tradition, different from that of Hollywood or Indie wood. Retrieved March 17, 2013, from <http://www.sfgate.com/movies/article/Tomboy-review-New-girl-takes-on-boy-s-identity-2290415.php>

Gender is a key dimension of personal life and social relations. We know that gender patterns never change. Many people believe that men and women are psychologically opposites, that men are more intelligent than women, that men are naturally violent. Many people imagine masculinity, femininity and gender relations only in terms of their own local gender system. They miss the vast diversity of gender patterns across cultures and down to the history. (Connel, 2009, p. 1)

We know that everybody has their own identity. The difference between male and female identity is clearly seen at clothes lifestyle, hair style, sports, hobbies, jobs, how to eat, how to pee, how to walk, how to cry and so on. The gender identity between male and female would be in danger if there is an exchange of identity between male and female when they are still children. Thus, when the boy and the girl were assigned to the boy or the girl category exactly, the boy must behave masculine and the

girl must behave femininity. Gender shows two characteristics if masculinity for male and femininity for female.

Gender identity is a crucial part of human identity. One's gender is unchanging and directs many aspects of our lives, including recreation, occupations, relationship, and academics. It follows, then during childhood people may ask themselves how well they fit in with their gender or how much they feel they adhere to their own gender stereotypes. (Egan and Perry p.1)

The writer wants to analyze the message contained in the film *Tomboy*. This film is an interesting film directed by Celine Sciamma. In developing an analysis, the writer talks about the girl's gender. There are many factors that make the identity exchange happen in the film and also identity exchange related with gender approach

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of the study is Literature, with the specification of film narrative analysis using gender approach.

1.3 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study will focus on the change of identity that a girl takes on boy's identity as it happens in the film. The factors of the

exchange in which a girl takes on a boy's identity in the film, and the exchange of identity analyzed from gender perspectives will become the focus of the study.

1.4 Problem Formulation

The questions that will be developed in the study are as follows:

What are the factors that make the identity exchange happen in the film?

1.5 Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

To search for the factors that make the identity exchange happen, that is, a girl who takes a boy's identity.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is to apply the knowledge already gained and combine it with the theory, to analyze the existing film material. The result of the study hopefully may build awareness for the difference between male and female and see article identity exchange. The writer also hopes that the readers have a new insight about the study of film itself. Furthermore, the result of the study can be used for practical purpose.

1.7 Definition of Terms

The definition of terms in this study:

Tomboy: a girl who was physically active, noisy, impulsive and heedless.

(Dukut, 2011, p.31)

Puberty: the period of rapid skeletal and sexual maturation that occurs mainly in early adolescence. (Santrock, 2001, p. 180)

Gender: the social dimension of being female and male. (Santrock, 2001, p. 405)

Gender identity: a personal conception of oneself as a male or female (or rarely, both, or neither). (Shriver, 2002, p. 288)

Gender stereotypes: the impressions and beliefs about what behavior for females and males. (Santrock, 2001, p. 404)

Masculinity: Masculinity is not a fixed characteristic of men, but is socially created and changes through history. (Baron and Kotthoff, 2001, p. 141)

Femininity: The matchmaking, universal sexuality, woman's highest value, which she seeks to realize always and everywhere. (Weininger, 2005, p. 236)