

**THE STRUGGLE AND THE EFFECTS OF BEING
TRANSGENDER AS DEPICTED IN
JULIE ANNE PETERS' *LUNA***

THESIS

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**ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA**

2014

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JULIE ANNE PETERS' *LUNA***

THESIS

**Presented to
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in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra***

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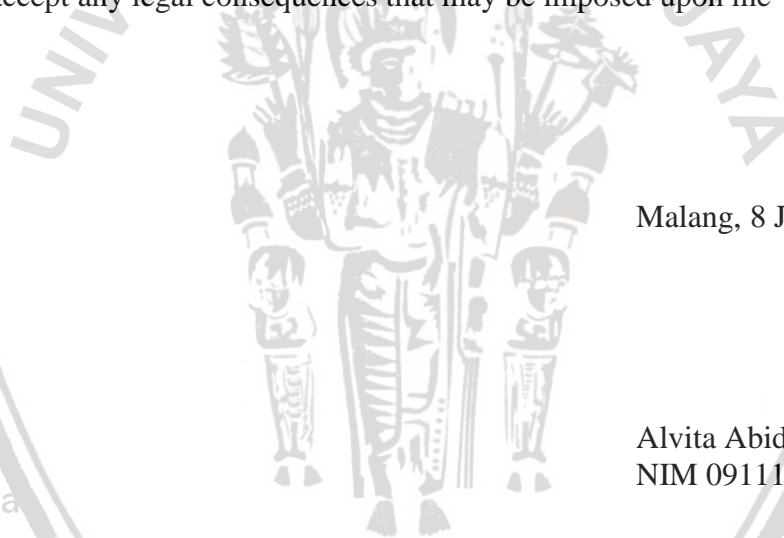
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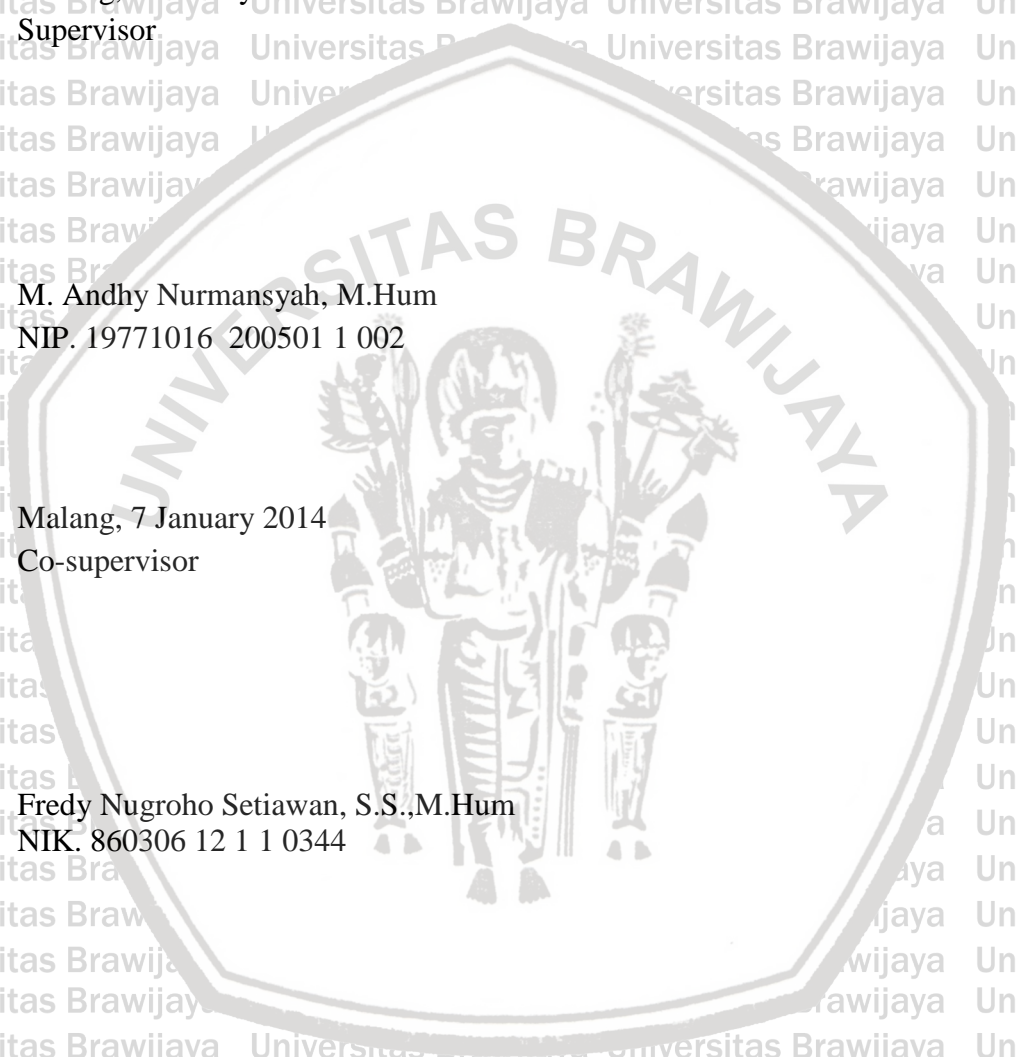
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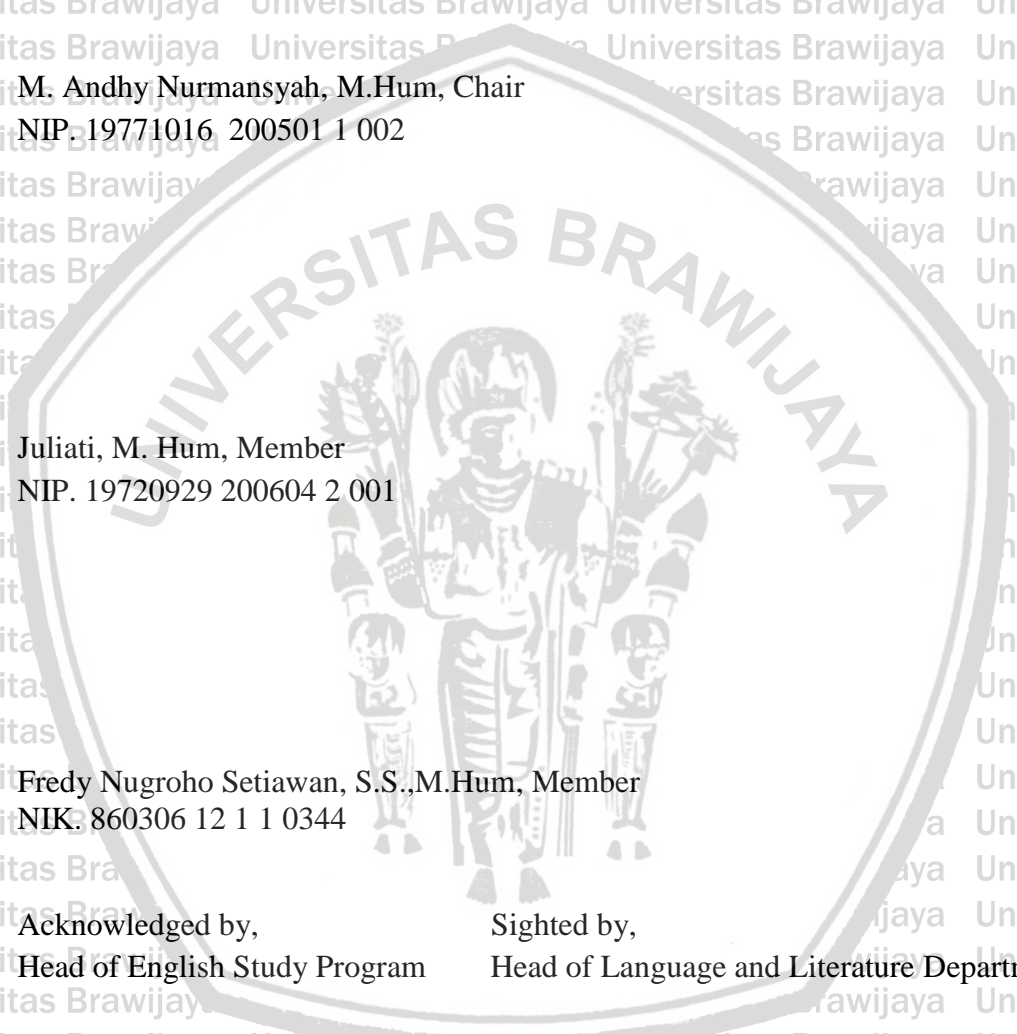
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ABSTRACT

Abidati, Alvita, 2013. **The Struggle and The Effects of Being Transgender as Depicted in Julie Anne Peters' Luna.** English Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: M. Andhy Nurmansyah; Co-supervisor: Fredy Nugroho Setiawan.

Keywords: transgender, society, depression, mood disorder.

Transgender is a gender identity disorder. To be accepted by the society that believes gender stereotypes of both male and female, transgender tries to be the opposite gender by changing his or her appearance. Unfortunately, many of them are still getting alienated and mocked. These treatments surely affect transgender psychology such as feeling depressed and committing suicide. In this study, the researcher identifies how is the struggle of transgender in dealing with negative treatments from the society and the effects of those treatments toward his psychological condition, as represented by Luna, in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna*.

This research uses qualitative method because it is aimed to analyze and explain the meaning of the message inside the novel. Therefore, by using qualitative design of research, the writer needs to collect the text from the novel to be analyzed. The study uses sociological approach and queer theory to help the writer understands more about transgender. The writer also uses psychological approach and mood disorder concept to analyze the psychological effects of society negative treatments toward transgender psychology, represented by Luna.

The result of the study shows that Liam is a transgender, named Luna. Every time he comes out as Luna, she gets some negative treatments such as bullying, mocking, transphobia and harassment. These treatments affect Liam's psychology and make him feels depressed and thinks of committing suicide. However at the end, Liam, can encourage himself after meeting another transgender who supports him to be transgender and to do sex reassignment surgery. Gradually he has her new identity developed.

For the next researchers, the writer suggests the use of transgender theme and queer theory as an approach can be applied in another novel and the other genres of literary works to enrich the study of queer gender and sexuality in the literature.

ABSTRAK

Abidati, Alvita. 2013. **Perjuangan dan Efek Sebagai Seorang Transgender Seperti yang Tergambar di Novel Julie Anne Peters *Luna***. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: (I) M. Andhy Nurmansyah; (II) Fredy Nugroho Setiawan.

Kata kunci: transgender, masyarakat, depresi, *mood disorder*.

Transgender adalah kelainan identitas gender. Untuk diterima masyarakat yang percaya akan stereotipe gender atas laki – laki dan perempuan, transgender kemudian berusaha untuk menjadi lawan jenisnya dengan mengubah penampilan fisiknya. Sayangnya, banyak dari mereka yang akhirnya dihina dan dikucilkan. Perlakuan seperti ini pastinya mempengaruhi kejiwaan transgender seperti merasa depresi dan bunuh diri. Di penelitian ini, peneliti mengidentifikasi bagaimana perjuangan seorang transgender dalam menghadapi perilaku negatif masyarakat dan efeknya terhadap kondisi kejiwaannya, seperti yang tergambar pada *Luna*, di novel *Luna* karya Julie Anne Peters.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif karena penelitian ini ditujukan untuk menganalisa dan menjelaskan arti dari pesan yang terdapat di dalam novel. Oleh karena itu, dengan menggunakan desain kualitatif, penulis perlu mengumpulkan teks novel untuk dianalisa. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan sosiologis dan teori *queer* untuk membantu penulis memahami transgender. Penulis juga menggunakan pendekatan psikologis dan konsep *mood disorder* untuk menganalisa efek kejiwaan dari perilaku negatif masyarakat terhadap transgender yang direpresentasikan oleh *Luna*.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa Liam adalah seorang transgender yang bernama *Luna*. Setiap kali dia tampil sebagai *Luna*, dia mendapat perlakuan negatif dari masyarakat seperti ejekan, penindasan, *transphobia* dan kekerasan. Perlakuan ini mempengaruhi kejiwaan Liam dan membuatnya merasa depresi dan berpikir untuk bunuh diri. Namun pada akhirnya dia mampu menyemangati dirinya setelah bertemu dengan transgender lain yang mendukungnya untuk menjadi transgender dan melakukan operasi perubahan alat kelamin. Secara perlahan identitas barunya terbangun.

Untuk peneliti selanjutnya, penulis menyarankan penggunaan tema transgender dan teori *queer* sebagai pendekatan bisa diterapkan di novel lain dan di karya sastra jenis lain untuk memperkaya penelitian tentang gender dan seksualitas yang berbeda di kesusastraan.

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Malang, 8 January 2013

The Writer

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer explains the background of the study, problem of the study and objectives of the study to show what this thesis will analyze.

1.1 Background of The Study

According to Wellek and Warren (1993, p. 2) “sastra adalah aktivitas kreatif” which means that the process of producing literary works is a creative activity. This creative activity is sometimes intended to show human expressions.

All literary works, such as poem, novel, drama or play and artworks, reflect human nature and often convey something important in human life or society.

Literary work itself is a product of literature that is created on purpose, such as expressing the feeling of the author or serving a lesson, in an aesthetical and imaginative way as Wellek and Warren (1993, p. 10) says that great books are chosen based on its aesthetic consideration. That is why the language used in written literary works is beautiful and expressive, not as formal as scientific texts.

From the statements above, it can be concluded that literary work is a creative, imaginative and aesthetic work that reflects human nature and tries to influence, persuade and change the reader’s perception. Most of literary works do it, including novel.

Novel is written literary product that contains literary and narrative writing. It has characterization, plot, setting and dialogues. Novel is also a “long work with a great amount of details on every page” (Peck and Coyle 1984, p.

103). A writer or novelist creates the basic story by adding the details into the story so that it becomes a complex story. Novel, as a literary work, mostly tells about the story of human life; the relationship and conflicts between individual and the society.

Society is a place where all human activities happen, including its deviations or abnormal things or behaviors. The social norms, religion and culture that society believes and practices are the standard of life because most people agree to practice and believe it. This standard is decided as the normal condition; the condition that is expected by general people which is usually determined by biological aspect and standard of morality and truth. As the result, human who does something which is different from the mainstream in a certain social standard of life will be usually labeled as the abnormal one. One of these social differences is gender identity disorder, which there is a conflict between gender anatomy and gender identity. For males, gender identity disorder is marked by a persistent distress at being a boy, coupled with a desire to be a girl and for girls, it is marked by a comparable unhappiness about their anatomy and desire to possess a penis and be a boy (Wilson *et. al.* 1992, p. 225). This gender identity disorder nowadays can be found in our society with the term 'transgender'.

According to Jamison Green (2004, p. 1), transgender people are individuals of any age or sex whose appearance, personal characteristic, or behaviors are different from the standard that is created by society about the ideal men and women. Transgenders change their gender to be the opposite gender without changing their sex. They only change their name and do cross – dressing.

Thus, sometimes their biological characteristics are still visible, for example, a male-to-female transgender is still seen as a male. The differences in physical appearance of transgender attract negative response from society. A transgender can be alienated, mocked and even get physical harassment. These negative treatments surely make the transgenders depressed, and in an extreme level they will commit suicide, as it is found that “32% of transgender youth attempt suicide” (Fitzpatrick *et. al.* cited in Pardo 2008, p.2). However, some transgenders in recent years are trying to do some steps to be accepted in society instead of committing suicide. They dare to do cross-dressing and expose themselves. Even, as the technology developed, some of them do sex reassignment surgery to change their sex genital organ to be the opposite sex in a whole part, called transsexual. So it can be said that transsexual is a further phase of transgender. This kind of issue is interesting to be taken as a theme in literary work, such as novel.

One of the novels, which represents a transgender life, is *Luna* written by Julie Anne Peters. It tells about Liam who was born sexually as a boy, is a male-to-female transgender who acts as a girl named Luna by cross-dressing at night. Liam struggles against his gender disorder and society, which cannot accept his being transgender. He tries to be a ‘normal’ man, as everyone expects. In the end, he gives up struggle his male sense and decides to be a real transgender.

The writer chooses *Luna* because it has different story than the other teen literatures that mostly tell about the dramatic love stories. The novel tells and portrays how the transgender life is and what transgender feels, clearly. It also gives the reader a new knowledge, new perception about something different in

this life, especially transgender. Therefore, in order to know more about transgender, this thesis is important to be done. By reading this research, the writer hopes the readers can enrich their understanding about transgender, transgender life and the psychological effects that are felt by transgender related to the bad treatment from society.

The writer tries to analyze the transgenders issue and how do they struggle in dealing with the negative treatments toward them by using sociological approach so the readers are aware of this transgenders matters. The function of sociological approach here is to criticize the social issue, which are the negative treatments, presented in the novel. This approach is also supported by queer theory to understand more about transgender. The writer then also uses psychological approach and mood disorder concept to analyze the effects of society negative treatments by society toward transgender's psychological condition, represented by Luna. Therefore, the title of this thesis is "The Struggle and The Effects of Being Transgender as Depicted in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna*" which covers the problem the writer will analyze.

1.2 Problem of The Study

The writer tries to find the struggle of transgender in dealing with society negative treatments and psychological effects due to those negative treatments as represented by Luna, in novel *Luna* by Julie Anne Peters.

1.3 Objectives of The Study

The purpose of this study is to reveal how is the struggle of transgender in dealing with negative treatments that are conducted by the society and what psychological condition that are suffered by Luna as the result of those negative treatments in novel *Luna* by Julie Anne Peters. Thus, it can be seen how the transgender struggle to deal with society negative treatments and surely the psychological effects suffered by transgender as the effects of the treatments.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter, the writer will show the review of related literature to have better understanding about the concepts related to the topic that is discussed and the research method used for this thesis.

2.1 Sociological Approach

A lot of literary works serve the phenomena that happen in society or in human nature as DeVoto says, cited in Albrecht (1954, p. 426), that “literature is a record of social experience, an embodiment of social myths and ideals and aims, and an organization of social beliefs and sanctions.” Literary works are also known as reflection of the society, as a phrase from De Bonald, cited from Wellek and Warren (1993, p. 110), that “literature is an expression of the society” because literature mostly serves as a story of life and a life comes from the society. Society itself is a place where people live so there will be so many phenomena to be captured, such as slavery, social deviation, rebellion, gender bias, poverty, etc. To capture and to analyze these social phenomena, according to Guerin *et. al.*, literary critics use sociological approach or criticism that has emerged since 19th century (1979, p. 272). Sociology of literature focuses on human nature and its problem in society. It examines the relation between literature and its larger social, cultural, economic and political context. It is also aimed to the author’s society to understand his/her literary works better and sometimes examines the representation of social elements within the literature itself. Literary critics or

artists do so because “they are conscious of the effect of society on individuals” (Guerin *et. al.* 1979, p. 273). They are trying to make the society to be aware of something around them by presenting their ideas in literature because most of literary works are easily understood and accepted by the audiences as it is performed beautifully or simply. It will also give an impression toward its audiences. According to Adams, cited in Guerin *et. al.* (1979, p. 274), works of art, including literature, “are strategic naming of situations that allows the reader to better understand, and gain a sort of control over societal happenings through the work of art.” Thus by conducting this approach, all the literary works related to the social issues can be analyzed and criticized.

Since this research focuses on one of the social issues, which is transgender issue, the writer will use queer theory as a supporting theory because it scrutinizes the problem of the study.

2.1.1 Queer Theory

The word ‘queer’ is defined as ‘odd’ or against the ‘normal’. According to Fuss, cited in Stein & Plummer (1994, p. 181) queer theory “emerged in the late 1980s,...in which scholars, primarily from history and the humanities presented their work on lesbian/gay subjects.” It studies “readings of the representation of same-sex desire in literary texts, films, music, images; analyses of the social and political power relations of sexuality; critiques of the sex-gender system; studies of transsexual and transgender identification, of sadomasochism and of transgressive desires” (Spargo 1999, p. 9). In short, queer theory is a study that concerns with the relations between sex, gender and sexual desire that are

queer or odd in comparison with what is decided as the normal by the society or the social norm. The concept whether this sexual desire is normal or not depends on socio-cultural factors. When a society has agreed social norms and runs the same culture, then someone who crosses the line will be defined as the others, the different or the “abnormal”. Nevid, *et. al.* says that along with this socio-cultural factors, this sexual desire is called abnormal if it is self defeating, hurting or annoying someone, causing personal distress and affecting someone to do something normally (2003, p. 74). In this sense, gay, lesbian, sadomasochism, pedophilia and bisexual are included. Queer theory then expands the scope of its analysis to all kinds of behaviors, including the people who are gender-bending or transgender.

Transgender is a gender identity disorder, which means that there is a conflict between gender anatomy and gender identity of someone. According to DSM-IV-TR, cited in Fenway Institute (2010, p. 8)

Gender identity disorder is the diagnosis used when a person has a strong and persistent cross-gender identification and persistent discomfort with his or her sex or sense of inappropriateness in the gender role of that sex, and the disturbance is not concurrent with physical intersex condition and causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.

Gender identity itself is a person’s innate identification as a man, woman or something else that may or may not correspond to the person’s external body or assigned sex at birth. Normally gender identity is based on gender anatomy. If someone was born as a male then he must be having a masculinity and when she was born as a female, then she must be having a femininity. However transgender

is different; it is when the masculinity changes to femininity or vice versa. For instance, when he was born as a male, he feels feminine instead of masculine.

Transgender also means “gender identity or expression that does not conform to the social expectations for their sex assigned at birth” (The Fenway Institute: 2010, p. 3). The *ICD-10 Classification Of Mental and Behavioral Disorders* (1992, p. 215) defines transgender as “a desire to live and be accepted as a member of the opposite sex, usually accompanied by the wish to make his or her body as congruent as possible with the preferred sex through surgery and hormone treatment”. These definitions of transgender clearly explain that transgender does not feel comfort with his or her sex and has a desire to be their opposite sex.

This gender identity disorder can be happened since childhood. Children who suffer this disorder show some symptoms. Some researchs find that the behaviours of children who then grow up as transgender are rejecting their anatomy gender, focusing in wearing clothes and doing something that is stereotyped for the opposite gender. People know that children are related to the games and toys. Thus the other symptoms can be seen from how, what and with whom they are playing. *DSM-IV-TR* (APA, 2000 cited in Nevid, *et. al.* 2003 p. 75) states that

symptoms of gender identity disorder on children are showing repeated expressions of a desire to be the opposite gender, having preference to wear clothings of the opposite gender, interested in playing an opposite gender's game or playing role that should be played by the opposite gender in a game and having a strong preference to have friends in opposite gender.

Transgender also shows a symptom which is that he or she has a strong uncomfortable feeling with his or her anatomy gender and with all the behaviours that are done by his or her gender.

On teenager or adult, most of transgender emphasizes their cross-gender identity by cross-dressing and changing name. In further step, they will decide themselves to be transsexual by doing transition. Transition is the process that transgender go through as they change their gender expression and physical appearance through hormones and/or surgery to align with their gender identity.

A transition may occur over a period of time and may involve coming out to family, friends, and others. The process is also changing name and sex designation on legal documents such as drivers' licenses and birth certificates and finally passing in public, to become more independent from parental supervision and control.

The main difference between transgender and transsexual is that transsexual person starts to change his / her gender anatomy completely by surgery to make it related with the gender identity he / she feels. On female-to-male transgender, she will take methyltestosterone injections to suppress menstruation and induce masculine sex characteristics. Further, she will do hysterectomy surgery. On male-to-female transgender, the estrogen hormone therapy is taken and then he will take the surgery that creates a neovagina. All these processes is known as Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) that will create an external genital organ as similar as possible with the preferred one. In some countries which have a strong cultural beliefs, doing it is still controversial as it is seen as ungrateful

feeling to God's giving. But in an observation, "no one of the teenagers who do sex reassignment surgery feels regret at their decision" (Smith, *et. al.* 2001, cited in Nevid, *et. al.* 2003 p. 75). It is comprehensible if transgenders do not feel regret after doing sex reassignment surgery because it will change them to be a new someone in preferred gender. It also helps them to express their feeling more freely.

However, being different from the social standard, surely there will be so many problems that are faced by transgenders when they are exposing themselves.

Most research on the subject of transgender has reported high levels of victimization including harassment by strangers on the street, verbal abuse, assault with a weapon, and/or sexual assault (Gagne *et al.* cited in Whittle *et. al.* 2007, p. 7). Transgender also faces some problems in many sectors such as in public or private area, healthcare, leisure place, education and public services. They get discrimination, a verbal abuse like in what toilet they will go. It often happens in their work place. Accessing goods and services also a problem that are faced by transgenders; they do not use public, social or leisure facilities because they are fear of discriminatory treatment. Beside the social discriminations, the main problem that is often faced by transgender is that they get a refusal from their family, in their early transition. It is in contrast with the fact that most transgenders need a blessing from their family as they need support from them first.

All those verbal abuse, assault, harassment and refusal surely will affect the psychological aspects of the transgenders. For instance, there is research

showing a transgender respondent who had first sought support in her early teens but had received a very hostile. This led to a period of a severe depression resulting in her leaving school early and an attempt at suicide” (Collins and Sheehan 2004, p. 38). The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist (2011, para. 1) also states that gender identity disorder can result in psychological dysfunction, depression, suicidal ideation and even death. Based on that research and the definition, it can be seen that a depressed feeling and thought of attempting suicide happens in some transgenders.

2.2 Psychological Approach

Psychology is a scientific study of the way the human mind works and how it influences behaviour, or the influence of a particular person's character on their behaviour. There are many literary works that take psychology of someone as a theme. Thus, psychological literary criticism then is used in literature criticism.

According to Wellek and Warren (1993, p. 90) it can be summarized that psychological literary criticism has four definitions. First, it is as a study of psychology of the writer. The researcher tries to find the author's psychology that creates the literary works. Second, it is as a study of a creative process. The researcher will focus on psychology in creative process; how the psychological process of expressing the literary works. Third, it is as an application of psychology theories. The researcher will focus on the psychology theories that are applied in the literary works. The assumption is that the writer of the literary works is applying a psychology theory in his/her works. Fourth, it is as a study of

the effects created by literary works toward the readers. This study will focus more on psychological pragmatic aspects of literary texts toward the readers.

Based on the above explanation, this thesis will follow the third definition: psychological approach as an application of psychology theories. Here, the writer will use a theory in psychology, which is called Mood Disorder concept to analyze the psychology of the main character, Luna, as the effect of society's perception toward transgender as depicted in the novel *Luna* by Julie Anne Peters.

The writer will focus on how that social perception and treatment influence Luna's mood.

2.2.1 Mood Disorder Concept

Mood is the way people feel at a particular time. Mood disorder itself is related to mood that happens in human in negative way. It is caused by the very hard problem of life that cannot be handled by the individuals. There are two kinds of mood disorders, namely depression and suicide. The depression is divided into unipolar and bipolar depression. The difference is that "unipolar depression is characterized by depressive feeling, lacked motivation and decreased interest, whereas bipolar depression is characterized by mood shifts between extreme highs (mania) and lows (depression)" (Wilson *et. al.*1992, p. 146). Depressed individuals are very self-critical. They talk about past failures and focus on negative events that occur to them and to others.

Next mood disorder is suicide, which has a strong relation with the previous disorder as Wilson *et. al.* (1992, p. 169) wrote, "depression is by far the most common precipitant of suicide." Suicidal thoughts are common in depressed

people. There are two most common reasons that make people commit suicide: surcease and manipulation. Surcease is the desire to give up because life seems no longer tolerable. When life gives so many problems and the individual cannot handle it, mostly will get depressed and give up by attempting suicide. Second is manipulation, for example the girl attempts to suicide to prevent her lover from leaving her. Here, although she does not really suicide herself but she may die because she gets a late helping to her emergency condition.

2.3 Synopsis

Luna, by Julie Anne Peters, is a novel that is told from a fifteen-year-old-girl's point of view named Regan who has spent her entire life keeping Liam's, her brother, secret. The secret is that Liam, who was born sexually as a boy, shows a symptom as a transgender since he was a child and then realizes that he should be a transgender; from male to female. Liam lives a difficult life for being the real him because what he likes to do most should be done by a girl, such as wanting a Barbie doll as a birthday present when he was child, wearing bra, dancing hyperactively or even cross-dressing. These behaviors make the people around him feel curious toward him, but Regan then tries to hide the fact that Liam is transgender. Though she has known the strange behavior of her brother, she still accepts and understands him by supporting and lending him her dresses. In contrast, their parents are not doing the same. Their father forces Liam to join school baseball team on purpose to make his son becomes more masculine. Their mother pretends as she does not know that Liam has symptoms as transgender.

These kind of treatments often hurts Liam's feeling so that Regan wants to protect her brother more, moreover when the people around them start to mock at Liam's strange behaviors. Liam as the center of the story cannot avoid this bad condition.

Thus to be accepted, he tries to be what he is expected to be by joining the baseball team. Then he does not like it and gets out of it. On nights, Liam as transgender starts wearing girl dresses, taking a make-up and girl accessories from his own stuff and Regan's and going outside. It makes him become a female at night and named himself, as a transgender, 'Luna' means someone who is only coming out and visible at night. As the story goes, all Liam has done then disturb Regan's life. Liam realizes that he is only a burden for Regan, that is why Liam tries to fight his cross-gender identity to be what he should be: a male, so he will not disturb his sister. Unfortunately, he failed in fighting his gender expression; he finally decides himself to be a transgender. At the end of the story, he leaves his family, his old life, to be someone new: Luna, a transgender.

2.4 Previous Studies

In writing this research, the writer is helped by two previous studies to analyze her thesis. They are "*Transgender: Manusia Keragaman dan Kesetaraannya*" by Juwilda, a college of Biology Studies of FKIP UNSR and "*The Attempts of Transsexual to Fight for The Desired Identity as Reflected by Brandon Teena, The Main Character of Boys Don't Cry The Movie*" a thesis by Prasasti Rahma Nila, a college student of Universitas Brawijaya.

Juwilda's thesis entitled "*Transgender: Manusia Keragaman dan Kesetaraannya.*" writes a description of transgender, the factors that create transgender, a perspective of society toward transgender and the effect of that toward both of the transgender and the society. Although Juwilda's thesis helps the writer to analyze the data from the novel and gives some information about transgender, it is far different from this thesis because this thesis studies about the literary work which tells about transgender as an object and use queer theory to analyze the collected data. The writer of this thesis also wants the reader know more about how negative treatment given toward transgender is in society and its psychological effect as depicted in *Luna* novel as its story represents a life of transgender completely.

Next, a thesis "*The Attempts of Transsexual to Fight for The Desired Identity as Reflected by Brandon Teena, The Main Character of Boys Don't Cry The Movie*" by Prasasti Rahma Nila which explores how Brandon Teena as the transsexual acts and the main character of the movie runs his life and fights for his identity as a man in a society. Her thesis helps the writer to analyze her writing about transgender. Whereas the differences between Nila's thesis and this thesis is first, the object material for thesis. Nila uses movie as object analysis, but the writer uses a novel. Second, Nila's does not analyze the psychological effect of the character as the effect of society's perception.

2.5 Research Method

This research uses qualitative method because it is aimed to analyze and explain elaboratively the meaning of the message inside the novel entitled *Luna* by Julie Anne Peters. Therefore, by using qualitative design of research, the writer will follow the steps, as follows:

1. Deciding a material object of analysis, a novel entitled *Luna* by Julie Anne Peters.
2. Reading the novel *Luna* several times to know and understand the plot structure of the story.
3. Collecting and sorting the data related to negative treatment and its effects toward transgender in novel *Luna*.
4. Analyzing the data by using sociological approach and queer theory.

The function of sociological approach here is to criticize the social issue related to negative treatments from society undergone by transgender named Luna, presented in the novel. Next, queer theory is used to help the writer understand more about transgender: definition, the symptoms, the efforts in changing the appearance, the treatments transgender get, the discrimination and its effects toward transgender. As the thesis also focuses on the psychological effects of the negative treatments toward transgender, the writer uses psychological approach and mood disorder concept to analyze it.

The use of psychological approach here is to analyze the psychological effects of society negative treatments toward

transgender's psychology, represented by Luna. As this effect is related to Luna's mood, thus mood disorder concept which studies mood that happens in human in negative way is used to analyze it.

5. Drawing conclusion.



CHAPTER III

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Transgender is one of the differences in gender or sex. In psychology, it is concluded as gender identity disorder. Gender identity is how someone feels whether he or she is a man or woman (Nevid, *et. al.* 2003 p. 74). This gender identity is normally based on gender anatomy. Furthermore, gender identity disorder happens due to the conflict between gender identity and gender anatomy.

This kind of condition is called a transgender. According to Wilson *et.al.* (1992, p. 225), transgender “for males is marked by a persistent distress at being a male, coupled with a desire to be a female and for female, it is marked by a comparable unhappiness about their anatomy and desire to possess a penis and be a male.”

Related to the society, transgender has different choice in gender stereotypes that are believed by the society. Brannon (2004, p. 159) says that “gender stereotypes consist of beliefs about the psychological traits and characteristics of man or woman.” These beliefs are defined by beliefs and attitudes about masculinity and femininity. It tends to be related with the concepts of gender role which defines about behaviors of both gender. When the gender stereotypes mention man and woman as granted gender, then transgenders are in between. They are neither man or woman. They are female in male body and vice versa. Surely this difference will be hardly understood or accepted by society that believes in gender stereotypes, as gender stereotypes are very affecting conceptualizations of woman and man. It can be very judging toward transgender. Then, to be accepted by the

society, transgenders change their gender to be the opposite one by changing their appearance, in dressing, changing their name, taking hormone and doing sex reassignment surgery. However, those efforts do not guarantee that they will be accepted. In some case they are still alienated and mocked. These treatments surely affect transgender's psychology, such as feeling depressed, then committing suicide.

This kind of issue happens to the character in *Luna*, Liam. Liam's life represents transgender life. He was born sexually as a male, but he has a female sense inside himself. When he expresses himself as transgender, the people around can hardly accept him. It makes him feel rejected and depressed. Though, Liam struggles against his sex deviation and society. Liam's transgender life will be discussed in this chapter. It contains analysis of findings and discussion which are found in *Luna* by Julie Anne Peters according to the theories used. It consists of two main subchapters: Liam's struggle within transgender identity and psychological effect of being rejected as a transgender.

3.1. Luna's Struggle within Transgender Identity

Liam, the center of the story is a male-to-female transgender. Since his female sense lives in his male body, Liam feels like it is hard to live his life. It is caused that he is a 'girl'. He feels like a girl, but in male body, in a wrong body. It suppresses him in expressing his female sense. However after unconsciously showing the symptoms as transgender and then realizing it, he slowly tries to come out as Luna and is ready to take the risk as transgender. To show further

about Liam’s struggle, the writer will divide this subchapter into three sub-chapters; they are: (1) the symptoms of being transgender, (2) realization and exposition of Liam as transgender and (3) society’s rejection toward Liam as transgender.

3.1.1 The Symptoms of Being Transgender

It has been discussed that transgender has a desire to live and be accepted as a member of the opposite sex. This desire can be recognized since childhood as this gender identity disorder shows some symptoms. Nevid *et. al.* (2003, p. 75) says that someone who has gender identity disorder shows the symptom of transgender since his or her childhood on game, toys and dress.

According to *DSM-IV-TR* (APA, 2000 cited in Nevid, *et. al.* 2003 p. 75),

symptoms of gender identity disorder on children are showing repeated expressions of a desire to be the opposite gender, having preference to wear clothings of the opposite gender, interested in playing an opposite gender’s game or playing role that should be played by the opposite gender in a game and having a strong preference to have friends in opposite gender.

It is also stated that transgender has a strong uncomfortable feeling with his or her anatomy gender and with all the behaviours that are done by his or her gender.

Little Liam, who then grows up as transgender, showed symptoms that has been explained before. Liam who was born as a boy, in his childhood started to act and to play like a girl. In addition, he also had a symptom that is having a strong preference to have friends in opposite gender.

Liam and Alyson are jumping around, hyper about opening presents. They invited a bunch of kids from school to their party. All girls, Dad notices. I hear him say to Mom in the Walshes’

kitchen, **‘How come there aren’t any boys at this party? Doesn’t Liam have any of his own friends?’** (Peters, 2004, p. 12)

From the quotation above, it can be inferred that Liam’s friends were all girls. In childhood, a child normally has friends from his or her own gender (Nevid *et. al.* 2003, p. 75). Whereas, Liam had not. It seems that he felt more comfortable to play with girls because he likes doing girl’s activity, such as dressing, wearing make-up and playing doll. It also can be seen from how he behaved toward opening presents. He was jumping around. Commonly, a boy will not behave like that, moreover with girl. However Liam seems to be different for he had the symptoms of a transgender.

Some of the stories in this novel show Liam’s childhood that is related to another symptom of transgender; he was interested in playing an opposite gender’s game or playing role that should be played by the opposite gender in a game. One of the evidence is that Liam likes to play doll with Regan, his sister. It is written “On my way past, he takes my Samantha doll from me and cradles her in his arms. Smiling sweetly down on her, he informs me, ‘I’m the mommy’” (Peters, 2004, p. 5). This part of the story shows that Liam did not only play doll with Regan, but he also imitated behaviour that should be done by girl. He cradled that Samantha doll just like what is done by a mother to her baby. Moreover he was smiling sweetly down on Samantha doll. Common little boys would not do that. Furthermore, he claimed himself as the mommy. He took the role as a mommy that normally should be done by a girl. It is clear that little Liam is different, because there is unusual for boys to play doll. Though the boy plays doll, he will take a role in playing it as father instead of mother.

In *DSM-IV-TR* it is also stated that another symptom of transgender is, in a boy, he will show refusal to boy's stuff or toys. Again, it happens to little Liam when he celebrated his ninth birthday.

Dad bends over and grabs Liam's new basketball. 'Let's go hang the hoop and I'll show you the O'Neill oopsy-daisy drop shot.' He tosses the ball to Liam.

Liam catches it, but throws it on the ground. **'That's not what I asked for. Where's my bra?'** (Peters, 2004, p. 16)

The story tells what Liam got in his ninth birthday. He got a new basketball for his birthday present from his father. He did not like the birthday present as he caught and threw it on the ground and asked for a bra instead. Bra is the shorten form of *brassiere*. It is woman's close-fitting support for the breasts, not man's. Thus it is not appropriate for little Liam to ask for bra. In this case, it can be seen that little Liam started to have a preference to be his opposite gender, a girl. He chose to have a girl's stuff rather than boy's.

Not only asking for a girl's stuff for his birthday gift, Liam also started wearing girl's clothings since he was a child. It has been explained that wearing clothings of the opposite gender is one of the symptom of transgender because it shows that the boy or girl starts having a desire to look like the opposite gender. It can be seen from the quotation below.

'Regan.' My name escapes **his painted lips** like a whisper in the woods.

(...)

Liam surges forward. **Not only is he wearing Mom's sweater, he has on her pearls and my black stretch pants and a pair of Mom's summer sandals. I don't know where he got the wig.**

'Re, please.' He catches my arm as I'm whirling to flee. 'Don't tell Mom you saw me in here. Don't tell Dad. Please. Pleeese.' He grips my arm. 'Don't tell Dad.'

At once I relax and turn around. 'I won't.'

He smiles, tentatively. ‘You can never tell anyone. Ever.’

I look deep into his eyes — deep inside his eyes — and ask, ‘Who are you?’

He mimics this gesture of Mom’s, where she runs her hand down the back of her hair, stopping at her neck. His head tilts to the left and he rests his cheek on his arm, his elbow on his breast. His... breast?

He’s wearing a bra.

‘I’m Lia.’ He smiles shyly, dropping his eyes to the floor. ‘Lia Marie.’

‘Okaaaay,’ I say slowly.

She lifts her eyes and adds, ‘**I’m a girl.**’ (Peters, 2004, p. 193)

Most of transgenders emphasize their cross-gender identity by cross-dressing and changing name on purpose to be the opposite gender. The evidence above shows

clearly that little Liam had transgender symptoms since he wore girl’s stuff when

Regan found him: his mother’s sweater, her pearls, her pair of summer sandals

and Regan’s black stretch pants. The things mentioned are made for women and

not appropriate for men. Next, he also got his lips painted and wore wig and bra.

Colouring lips and wearing bra is normally done by woman. Moreover he was

wearing wig which means he tries to imitate a woman appearance as woman

mostly has longer hair than man. Little Liam also started to create his girl identity

by changing his name into Lia Marie, a female name he created before Luna. At

the end, he strengthened a female sense inside him by saying that he is a girl. It

shows that little Liam already started seeing himself as a girl. Deep down in his

heart, he has a desire to be a girl.

All these symptoms of transgender on Liam clearly shows that Liam is different. He has a gender identity disorder. Psychodynamic theorist stated that one

of the causes of this disorder is a very close relationship between mother and her

son (Stoller, 1969 *cited in* Nevid *et. al.* 2003, p. 75). In this novel it is hard to see

whether Liam is close to his mother or not, as his mother is a busy career woman that has a few times for her family. However, it is true that Liam idolize his mother. It is shown in previous evidence that ‘He mimics this gesture of Mom’s’.

He starts to imitate his mother. It is also shown in another paragraph, on how Liam gives compliment about their mother to Regan:

‘Mom’s smart, in case you hadn’t noticed. She has a brain. She could’ve accomplished something if she’d finished college, chosen a career path instead of full-time motherhood. I think she feels her talents are wasted on perfecting the art of homemaking.’ (Peters, 2004, p. 59)

Surprisingly, all these symptoms of transgender on Liam is also ‘supported’ by his mother herself. This secret is revealed when Liam has grown up as teenager. Liam tells the secret to Regan that their mother had already known that little Liam has symptoms as a transgender. It happened when Liam was a young boy:

‘That’s been the hardest part,’ Luna went on. ‘Having this unspoken truth between Mom and me. Knowing it was “unspeakable”.’ She shook her head slowly. ‘Yes, Mom’s always known. She just hasn’t known how to cope with it. Or me.’ A slight smile creased Luna’s lips. ‘Well, she did give me her favorite tapestry bag for my fourteenth birthday.’ Luna chuckled into her chest. (Peters, 2004, p. 238)

From Liam’s story it can be seen that the symptoms of transgender he had, had already known by his mother. Instead of accusing Liam, she accepted it even gave him tapestry bag for his fourteenth birthday. However, she warned Liam for not telling everybody and made it as unspoken truth between them. The symptoms he had and the acceptance of his favorite person, his mother, makes Liam realize his being transgender and gradually expose his true self of being transgender as he grows up.

3.1.2. Realization and Exposition of Liam as Transgender

As he grows as a teenager, Liam starts realizing and knowing that he is a transgender. However at the beginning, he is still in phase of realizing. It is that Liam is still afraid to expose his transgender identity. He is afraid of refusal from the people around him as transgender is seen as a difference. He just shares all his female needs and secret to Regan. In daily life, he still acts as Liam and he only dares to come out as transgender around midnight by cross-dressing as he knows that no one will know him if he goes out as a transgender around midnight. It is the reason why he names himself Luna, which means that he is “a girl who can only be seen by moonlight” (Peters, 2004, p. 2).

In his daily life, Liam tries to control himself so everyone does not know that he is transgender. However sometimes the situation makes him lose control. It can be seen from the following quotation.

She’s singing now, too, in a falsetto to match Madonna. Her eyes are closed and she’s obviously off in another world. Her world.

Everybody stops dancing. Even Aly. We all step back to make room for Lia Marie. Her elbows are lethal weapons.

Oh God. Oh God. What should I do?

Carmen leans over and whispers in my ear, ‘Is he tripping out or something?’

Shannon snickers behind us.

I charge over to the CD player and punch it off. It takes a moment for Lia Marie to acknowledge the silence. React. She lowers her arms and shrinks into herself, morphing back into Liam. (Peters, 2004, p. 46)

The situation shows that Liam is dancing with the girls. He enjoys dancing very much until he loses his self control. He becomes Lia Marie. In this case, Liam as a transgender can clearly be seen. He, which is in a male body, dances and sings

energetically like a girl. It makes the girls feeling weird toward what Liam did.

Liam then realizes that he loses control and stops dancing. This kind of situation happens many times in the novel; Liam loses control by behaving like a girl and the girls mocks and laughs at him. After getting such responses, frequently the character Lia Marie or Luna returns to Liam.

It makes Liam feel tired and tortured in hiding his female sense. He really wants to behave just like a common girl but physically he is a male. So then he decides to come out as 'she' truly is, a transgender. One of the evidence is as follows:

I tucked a leg under me and took a deep breath. 'I know this is hard to understand. It's even harder to explain, but Liam feels like a girl. **He is a girl, really. Problem is, she's a girl who was born with a boy's body.** I don't know how it happens, or why. Luna says it's hard-wired into her brain to be female. It's who she knows she is, same way you and I know. It's instinctive. Natural.' (Peters, 2004, p. 187)

From the quotation it can be seen that Regan starts to help Liam to expose himself that he is a transgender to people by explaining about Liam's condition to their best friend, Aly, first. Regan says that Liam is a girl who was born with a male body. Liam is a transgender. He has desire to live and be accepted as a member of the opposite sex. Liam was born as a boy and he wants everybody around accepts him as a girl. This desire is natural, he cannot refuse the fact that he has a female sense inside him. From the quotation above it also can be seen the using *she* and *he* as pronouns to describe Liam. Regan uses the word *he*, pronoun for male, when she describes Liam and the word *she*, pronoun for female, for describing Luna, though actually it is for the same person. By using both pronouns, it is clear that

Regan tries to explain that Liam is a transgender. Unfortunately in the story, Aly who falls in love with Liam cannot accept Regan's explanation.

In addition to Regan's verbal explanation, Luna starts exposing herself on her appearance by doing cross-dressing. Cross-dressing is one of the steps that is done by transgenders during the process to get their real identity. It helps transgender to satisfy his or her desire to be the opposite gender, so does with Liam. He likes to go out and becomes Luna by cross-dressing. It can be seen from the quotation "'I'm not gay.' Liam spins away. 'It's not the same. I'm a girl.' 'Whoohoo. Faggy boy.' They were coming after us" (Peters, 2004, p. 94). From this quotation, Liam takes a walk to the mall with Regan and comes out as herself, Luna. She wears girl dresses and wig. As a consequent, she attracts some people's attention. Her strange appearance makes her called 'fag' which means homosexual. Both terms fag and transgender is far different. According to Nevid *et. al.* (2003), fag or gay is a boy who is interested to his similar gender, but his gender identity is consistent with his sex anatomy. He still behaves like normal boy but he is in love to another boy. Transgender is different, he or she does not feel comfortable with his or her sex anatomy and has desire to be their opposite sex. On male-to-female transgender, if he falls in love with someone who is in the same sex like him, he does not think that it is wrong because he thinks he is actually the opposites sex. For clarity, if male-to-female transgender loves a man, he does not think it is wrong because he thinks that he is a girl. Wilson *et. al.* (1992 p. 224) says, that "transgender wants to be a woman before they want to have sexual relations with a man". Liam is interested in a man, Chris, as it is seen

on the way he thinks about Regan's date. It is written that "Liam smiled. 'Just have fun.' Leaning closer so Chris wouldn't hear, he added, 'He is a hottie.' Liam shut the door in my face" (Peters, 2004, p. 148). Liam shows that he has fascination toward a male by saying that Chris is a hottie, an informal word to describe someone who is very sexually attractive. But as explained before, he thinks he should be born as a female. So transgender and fag / gay are different. In this case Luna is transgender, not a fag or a gay since he does not feel comfortable with his sex anatomy, his male body. Liam, as Luna, straightens it by saying, "It's not the same. I'm a girl" (Peters, 2004, p. 93). From Luna's statement, she starts to tell everyone who she really is, come out as her true self.

After exposing his transgender identity by verbal and actions often, Liam then realizes that ones who should know first about the decision to be a transgender are the closest ones: family. Liam realizes the most should-know persons are his parents. So one night, when the family have a dinner, Liam as Luna, tells her secret.

Luna licked her lips. Her cranberry-colored lips. Clasping her hands in her lap, she said, **'Dad, I'm a transsexual.'**

My breath caught. I'd never heard her say that word. It was always transgender. TG or trans. Transsexual. It took it to another level. More of an official declaration. (Peters, 2004, p. 217)

From the quotation above, with the girl's make up and cranberry-colored lips, she tells her parents, especially her dad, about who she truly is. She tells that she is a transsexual, a further step of transgender. From the situation, Luna is not only just telling that she is transsexual but also telling it in a female appearance. In this

case, Luna dares to expose herself by cross-dressing in front of her dad. It is like a total confession of her.

Telling everyone about his or her true self and doing cross-dressing are not enough for transgenders. Some of them then are trying to change their physical appearance on purpose to be their opposite sex completely. It is not only about an identity or a name, but also physical changes that makes them express themselves freely. When the transgender starts to change their physical appearance, it means that he or she is going to the higher level: transsexual. So does with Luna. She tells her father in dinner that she is a transsexual. Her statement shows that she has decided to be female, as Regan says “Transsexual. It took it to another level. More of an official declaration.” Transsexual is more than declaration; it needs an action called *Sex Reassignment Surgery* (SRS). They do it to create external genital organ that looks almost similar with the preferred genital organ (Nevid *et. al.* 2003 p.74). By changing his genital organ or his sex, Liam hopes he will be a new person and will be able to live a new life as a female.

Indeed, Liam wants to change his sex. He names the process of changing his sex, transition. The meaning of transition itself is a change from one form to another. In transgender world, it means a change from a male to be a female or vice versa. Liam has talked to Regan the idea to do transition as follows.

‘Oh, Re,’ Luna breathed audibly, holding my eyes. **‘I have to transition. I don’t care how much it costs. I have to transition now.’**

I dropped my arm behind her back. ‘How much does it cost?’

She shook her head. ‘I don’t mean money.’ (Peters, 2004, p. 76)

Transition is the final step to be a transgender. When a transgender does it, he or she really wants to be the opposite sex because he or she has done the sex reassignment surgery which is changing the genital organ and becomes the opposite sex. It is a hard decision to do. As Liam says “I don’t mean money”.

Therefore the problem of doing transition is not money. It is about a great decision for his or her true identity and a preparation to come out as the true self which sometimes will be hardly accepted by the people around. It will be a controversy when the people in the society see the old and the new mould of someone and there is a sex difference on both. However, Liam is ready to take the risk as he says “This is life or death for me, Re. If I don’t transition, I don’t want to live” (Peters, 2004, p. 209). From his statement above, indeed that transition or sex reassignment surgery is a great deal for transgenders. It is hard to decide and to be accepted after doing it, but it is worth to be done because it will give them the chances to express their true selves. Cohen-Kettenis & Van Goozen (1997), cited in Nevid *et. al.* (2003 p. 75), says that transgenders who have done sex reassignment surgery are doing better in social and psychological area and no ones regret their decision.

3.1.3 Society’s Rejection toward Liam as Transgender

Most research on the subject of transgender have reported high levels of victimization including harassment by strangers on the street, verbal abuse, assault with a weapon, and/or sexual assault (Gagne *et al.* cited in Whittle *et. al.* 2007, p. 7). By showing up that she is a transgender that is different from the social standard, Luna will surely get some negative treatments from the society as

transgender is decided as a gender-identity disorder or a deviance. Luna has mostly got harassment such as verbal abuse and assault from her friends, her family, the society and even Regan when Luna accidentally makes mistake toward Regan. The following are quotations that show people rejection toward Liam's new identity, Luna, a transgender. It happens when Luna comes to Regan's school. It is written "A voice ricocheted in the hall, 'Freaking pervert.' I skidded to a stop. I knew that voice. Hoyt Doucet. 'Freaking fag pervert.' I turned to see Hoyt reach out and smack Luna's shoulder. He slammed her into the railing." (Peters, 2004, p. 203). The story shows that Luna comes to Regan's school to give Regan's purse and when she meets Hoyt Doucet, Regan's schoolmate, she starts to be mocked. Hoyt calls her 'Freaking fag pervert' which is included as a verbal abuse. Freak means a person that is extremely unusual or not like any other. Fag is offensive word for a homosexual man and pervert describes person whose sexual behaviour is considered strange by most people. From those three words it can be seen how Hoyt sees Luna, a transgender. He thinks that transgender is a strange person. Not only verbal abuse that is accepted by transgender, but also harassment and bullying. From the previous evidence it can be seen from how Hoyt smacks Luna's shoulder and slammes her which are included to harassment.

The other harassment often happens to Luna. The next quotation explains the worse harassment since it treats Luna like she is a threat. The story tells that Liam exchanges Regan's job in babysitting in David's family because Regan is dating with Chris. Liam loses control in running his job, he changes himself as Luna after seeing David's wife clothings. When David and his wife come back

home, they are surprised knowing that the babysitter is Luna instead of Regan.

Moreover when they see how Luna looks: a boy with girl dress and make up. It makes them startled. Thus David starts raising a butcher knife to Luna as Regan is coming.

David, who was poised at his nightstand with a butcher knife raised in his hand.

‘Don’t!’ I charged into the room and threw myself against Luna. She stumbled backward. ‘It’s my brother. Please. She was just fooling around.’

(...)

Removing a ten dollar bill, he threw it at me and added, ‘You’re not welcome in our home anymore, Regan. And your brother ... My God, he needs help.’ (Peters, 2004, p. 167)

From David’s response, it can be concluded that being transgender is hardly accepted. He is not only raising butcher knife to Luna but also suggests Luna to get some help which means that according to David there is something wrong with Liam as a transgender. Someone has to help him for his cross-gender identity. As this happening is so weird for David, it makes him refuse Regan in his home again. It means that Regan loses her job. Surely it affects the relation between Regan and Liam. From the night it happens until a day after, Regan gets furious toward Liam. She thinks that Liam or Luna is a freak and only a burden in her life. It shows how well Regan treat Liam, there is still a negative feeling toward him as transgender.

Another evidence of the bad treatment that is accepted by Luna can be seen in the story which Luna tells Regan in the way back home from David’s home about what happened when she went alone to the mall the day before.

That shocked me. ‘How’d it go?’ Don’t ask me why I cared. He didn’t reply. Yes, he did. His face told the story.

‘Oh God. What happened?’

He exhaled a long breath. ‘You don’t want to know.’

‘You’re right. I don’t.’ Go ahead, freeze me out. I grabbed the door handle.

‘I only wanted to try on a dress.’ His voice went flat. **‘They didn’t need to call security.’** (Peters, 2004, p. 177)

The sentence “I only wanted to try on a dress. They didn’t need to call security.” above, implicitly Luna tells that when she went to the mall yesterday and wanted to try on a dress, people there called security for her. Usually in a public place, when security is called, it is for solving the criminal problem, like chasing the robber. In Luna’s case it is for asking her to go away from the mall so she will not annoy the other visitors that feel weird and annoyed with Luna’s appearance. The feeling of annoyed when seeing transgender is called transphobia. It is a fear, disgust, stereotyping, or hatred of transgender, transsexual and other gender non-traditional individuals because of their perceived gender identity, expression, or status (Whittle, 2006, p.54). According to Whittle (2006, p. 54), “transphobia can be direct or indirect.” If it is indirect, it is an action based on ignorance or advertence of the trans person’s identity, such as referring a transgender woman to a man’s clinic, whereas the direct one is an action that causes harm to trans people such as discriminatory actions, insulting behaviour, physical and emotional harrasment and violence. In Luna’s case, the non – transgender people in the mall are having transphobia; the most happened abuse toward transgender.

Another bad treatment that is suffered by Luna is when she is in airport to buy ticket to Seattle with the purpose to have sex reassignment surgery.

She was standing at the ticket counter, to the side, being questioned by a security guard. Oh God, She was nodding her head at him, looking freaked. As I hurried toward her, the guard motioned

another official over and talked to him a moment. They both turned away from Luna and sniggered into their chests. An arrow pierced my heart. (Peters, 2004, p. 235)

This quotation shows that when Luna wants to buy a ticket and gives her driver's license as her identity. In this case, Luna buys a ticket with a female appearance but the driver's license shows that she is a male. It makes the guards turn away from Luna and snigger into their chests. This unkind treatment shows that the guards are mocking the fact that Luna's gender is not like what is written in the driver's license.

Then the story tells that after the guards turn away to discuss whether she is let to airport or not, one of the guards comes back and says that Luna is not let in airport. It makes Luna go to toilet to change her appearance, back to be Liam. When he comes back to the guards as Liam, they then let him in. This story shows that there is a difficulty that is faced by transgender in exposing his or her transgender. It can be hard acceptance, mockery, rejection abuse and discrimination that is showed by the people in society. In this case, it is when the guards snigger into their chests.

Meanwhile, the most frightening for transgenders is not how bad the society treat them but what response that they will get from the family. Family is one of the most important things in everyone's life. Family lives with us from the beginning, especially parents. Parents are influential persons in everyone's life. So when Luna decides to be she truly is, she asks a permission or a blessing to her parents to be a female, then to be accepted. It is when they have a dinner.

Luna swallowed hard. **‘Like I said, I’m a transsexual. TS, if you prefer. I was supposed to be a girl, and I am, but I was born in the wrong body.** Think of it as a birth anomaly.’

‘A what?’ Dad shrilled.

Dad’s lips receded over his teeth like a snarling dog. ‘You’re sick,’ he hissed. **‘You are sick.’** (Peters, 2004, p. 218)

Here her father does not seem easily understand what Luna said because he expects his only son grow up as a real man. He asks “What. Are. You.” (Peters, 2004, p. 218) to Luna with a fullstop between each words to emphasize that he wants a serious answer from Luna. Moreover from Regan’s point of view, she says “His tone of voice made me shrink in fear” (Peters, 2004, p. 218). It is a tone of voice of anger expression that will frighten everyone. Their father is furious with Luna’s statement that she is a transexual. After hearing the explanation from Luna, it can be seen a denial from her father when he says “You’re sick”. He thinks Luna is sick, just like what David said that Luna needs help. Sometimes in English conversation, the word sick also means crazy. The confession of Luna, or Liam the beloved only son, is really out of Liam’s father’s mind as it continues.

‘Stay where you are, Regan. This is between Liam and me.’

‘It’s Luna,’ she said.

Dad’s fist balled tighter. Hard, white-knuckled. His elbow extended farther back, arm vibrating.

Luna held her head high, waiting. Almost daring him to do it.

Seconds ticked away. Years.

Then, slowly, Dad released his fist.

My lungs collapsed.

Luna reached around him for the door knob. ‘Excuse me,’ she said.

Right in her ear, Dad said, **‘If you walk out that door, don’t bother coming back.’** (Peters, 2004, p. 219)

The dialogue portrays what happen after Luna’s confession about herself. Her father gets furious as it is seen from “Dad’s fist balled tighter. Hard, white-knuckled. His elbow extended farther back, arm vibrating”. It looks like as if he

tries to not hit Luna. It is understood that Luna's father feels angry and upset because so far he expects a real son. In fact he finds his beloved son decides himself as a female. With those kinds of feeling, he then says to Luna "If you walk out that door, don't bother coming back". Once again, it shows a rejection toward transgender that her father does not want a transgender son.

All these confessions and expose of being a transgender whether by verbal or action are hardly done by the transgender. It needs a big nerve to confess his being transgender because transgender knows that it will be hardly accepted by the ones who are not. However to keep hiding it is more torturing for transgender. In Luna's story, after exposing her being transgender she gets some victimization such as harassment, verbal abuse and discrimination in public place. She also gets a denial from the people around, moreover her father. All the negative treatments suffered by transgender that have been discussed indeed affect the psychology of transgender herself, Luna. She feels sad because she makes several people in her life upset when she exposes her being transgender. She also feels depressed of being unaccepted by some people, but for hiding her being transgender is more difficult for Luna. Thus, sometimes it makes her think of committing suicide.

3.2 Psychological Effect of Being Rejected as a Transgender.

We have discussed about the negative or bad treatments Luna gets. Naturally those bad treatments from people around will affect psychological condition of someone. Wilson *et. al.* (1992, p. 163) writes that social stressors

may cause changes in brain functioning, which in turn seem to reproduce depression. Siegel (1986, cited in Wilson *et. al.* 1992, p.163) writes that the common denominator in all depression is a lack of love or a loss of meaning in life, at least as perceived from the depressed person's point of view. According to *American Psychological Association* (2006, p.2) the stigma, discrimination, and internal conflict that many transgender people experience may place them at increased risk for certain mental health problems such as depression. Discrimination, lack of social support, and inadequate access to care can make worse mental health problems in transgender people.

In this novel, those bad treatments which are included to social stressors that sometimes force her to hide her female sense affect Liam as a transgender in a negative way; it makes Liam feel depressed and think of committing suicide. Depression itself is a kind of mood disorders or mental illness. It is divided into unipolar and bipolar depression. The difference is that "unipolar depression is characterized by depressive feeling, lacked motivation and decreased interest, whereas bipolar depression is characterized by mood shifts between extreme highs (mania) and lows (depression)" (Wilson *et. al.* 1992, p. 146). In Liam's case, as a transgender, he suffers the unipolar depression. It is explained that depressed individuals show a lack of interest in life, feel worthless and occasionally think of committing suicide, they may also attempt suicide. Suicide is another mood disorder too. It has a relation toward depressed feeling as it is found that "depression is by far the most common precipitant of suicide" (Wilson *et. al.* 1992, p. 169).

It can be seen how being a transgender affects Liam's psychology in the story after Liam and Regan have a problem with David's family. As Liam has made Regan loses her job, it makes her angry toward Liam. So that night Regan stops talking to Liam. She gets mad at him. At the midnight, Regan wakes up from her sleep and hears a sound.

Liam, crying.

Gut-wrenching sobs. Hiccuping. Keening into his pillow. He used to cry almost every night. If Mom or Dad had ever heard, they'd never let on. I tried to comfort him once, years ago, by holding him and soothing him, but he either wanted, or needed, to suffer alone. (Peters, 2004, p. 171)

After she lost her job in David's family because of Liam, Regan says that Liam is just a burden for her. She also says that Liam disturbs her life by his being transgender. She burst out her upset feeling toward Liam. It is the cause why Liam cries in such a severe way at the midnight. He is hurt. From Regan's point of view it is also said that "He used to cry almost every night." It means that Liam really feels depressed with his life. He cries almost every night. He feels pain almost everyday. It is the conflicts between him and herself and between him with the people around that surely makes him depressed.

In addition to feeling depressed, in some cases there are transgenders who then attempts suicide. A research found that a male-to-female transgender respondent who had first sought support in her early teens but had received a very hostile response describes that she is "being out by the scruff of the neck" and led to a period of a severe depression resulting in her leaving school early and an attempt at suicide (Collins and Sheehan, 2004, p. 38). Based on that research, it can be seen that a depressed feeling and thought of attempting suicide happens in

some transgenders, so does with Liam. He also often thinks of committing suicide as there is a day that he wants to kill himself by drinking so much pills.

Fortunately Regan comes for helping on time.

His left hand reaches out and snags the football helmet beside him.

He holds it up to me by the faceguard. Inside is a mound of pills.

Blue, purple, orange, white.

‘I can’t do it,’ Liam says. ‘I can’t even do it. I can’t do anything right. I’m wrong. All wrong.’

‘No, you’re not.’ I feel so relieved I throw my arms around him.

‘Please, Re.’ He clasps my wrists and pulls me away. ‘I wasn’t meant to be born.’ He transfers the helmet to my right hand. ‘Help me die. Pour these down my throat, okay?’ (Peters, 2004, p. 67)

Liam asks for Regan to throw the pills to his throat. He thinks he is all wrong. He

is a female in a wrong body, a male body. That is why, because of the denials

from the people around him, he thinks he should not be born. No one likes denial.

Commonly when someone gets denied by something, his or her feeling will get

hurt, so does Liam. It hurts him that his trans identity is not easily accepted.

Moreover with such a serious case like cross gender identity and lack of supports

from others, he will not be able to solve the problem easily. Thus, feeling

depressed and having thought of committing suicide are the effects that occur.

However, not all of the transgenders then attempt suicide. Some of them

eager to think about fulfilling their desire, to be the new someone in their

preferred gender. They look for supports from people around them, especially

their family. But since most transgenders are rejected from their family, they may

therefore find and define family by those who perform the roles of family. In this

case they start to look for and find some supports from certain people so it makes

them feel optimistic about their changes. Transgender usually takes some ways

like seeing psychiatrists, psychologists or other health professionals who have specialised knowledge of the issue. These kind of people will help transgender to help the feeling 'different' by doing counseling. The others meets medical or mental health professionals known to have knowledge and understanding of gender identity issues. For a number of transgenders, contact with other transsexual people through different networks was found to be a very important form of emotional support as well as a source of information on treatments available (Collins and Sheehan, 2004, p. 40). It happens on Liam. He starts collecting supports to be a transgender by searching some information relates to transgender. He reads the history of transgender, studies about transgender role models and what they have done. Finally he finds a transgender friend named Teri Lynn who then will support him to take a decision to be a transgender.

Liam said, 'We're not all so gifted. I just want to blend in. And look.' Liam got all excited. 'I found these testimonials from TG's who're transitioning. What they're going through. It's me, exactly me, same as me.'

(...)

'There's this one T-girl, Teri Lynn, who transitioned a couple of years ago. She calls it 'remaking herself. (Peters, 2004, p. 70)

Teri Lynn is the same as Liam. She is a male-to-female transsexual. She is the one who shares her experience to Liam and shows him the steps that should be done to be a transsexual. In this novel, Liam as transgender meets Teri Lynn and they then share their experiences. It is Teri Lynn who makes Luna feel sure to change her female identity so Luna buys a ticket to Seattle to meet Teri Lynn who is ready to help Luna to do *Sex Reassignment Surgery* (SRS).

Most of transgenders do the almost same things. After getting some supports and information about transgender or transsexual, they will take some steps to be the opposite gender completely such as removing body hair, taking hormonal therapy and the last, doing reassignment surgery. After that, they can find their new identity in their preferred gender developed.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After analyzing the data, in this chapter the writer presents conclusion of the discussion about Luna, the main character in *Luna* by Julie Anne Peters who reflects the life of transgender, seen from how he seeks an acceptance from the society and what psychological effect he gets. In addition, the writer also gives suggestions for the next researchers who have the similar study.

4.1 Conclusion

Luna is a male-to-female transgender, who was born as a male named Liam. It can be seen that he is a transgender as the novel tells the stories that shows the symptoms of transgender when he was a child. As the time goes by, Liam grows up as a transgender. Then, just like the common transgender, Luna as transgender tries to get the acceptance from the society.

It is difficult for society to understand transgender as they are seen as “the different”, so it makes Liam changes his appearance to look like a girl on purpose the society accepts him in his being transgender. He starts to come out as a female, a transgender. She introduces herself as Luna, a girl. She wears a girl clothing, behaves like a girl and starts having idea to do sex reassignment surgery.

In fact, those efforts in changing do not guarantee that Luna will be accepted. The story tells that she gets verbal abuse, harassment and experiences transphobia. She also gets refusal from her father. These kinds of negative

treatments surely affect Liam's psychology. It then makes him feel depressed and further, think of committing suicide. However, at the end he finds another male-to-female transgender who encourages him confidence to be transgender and helps him to be a transsexual by doing sex reassignment surgery to be a female. Gradually he transforms into Luna by changing his appearance.

4.2 Suggestion

The writer suggests that psychological approach can be used to analyze the psychology of another character in this novel which is Regan in how she deals with Liam as being transgender.

The writer also suggests that the transgender theme and queer theory as an approach can be applied in another novel such as *Orlando* by Virginia Woolf. *Orlando* has been a standard of gender studies courses and is in many ways one of the pioneer texts of an entire genre. In addition, there are stunning passages where *Orlando* explores what it means to be a man and what it means to be a woman and how power and identity and all that good stuff fits in.

The research about transgender also can be applied in the other genres of literary works, such as poem of Michelle Sanders' *There Once was a Girl* which tells about transgender and how society treats him, or plays such as *Looking for Normal* which is a play about a Dad's struggle with changing genders to be a female, and various form of prose, to enrich the study of queer gender and sexuality in the literature.

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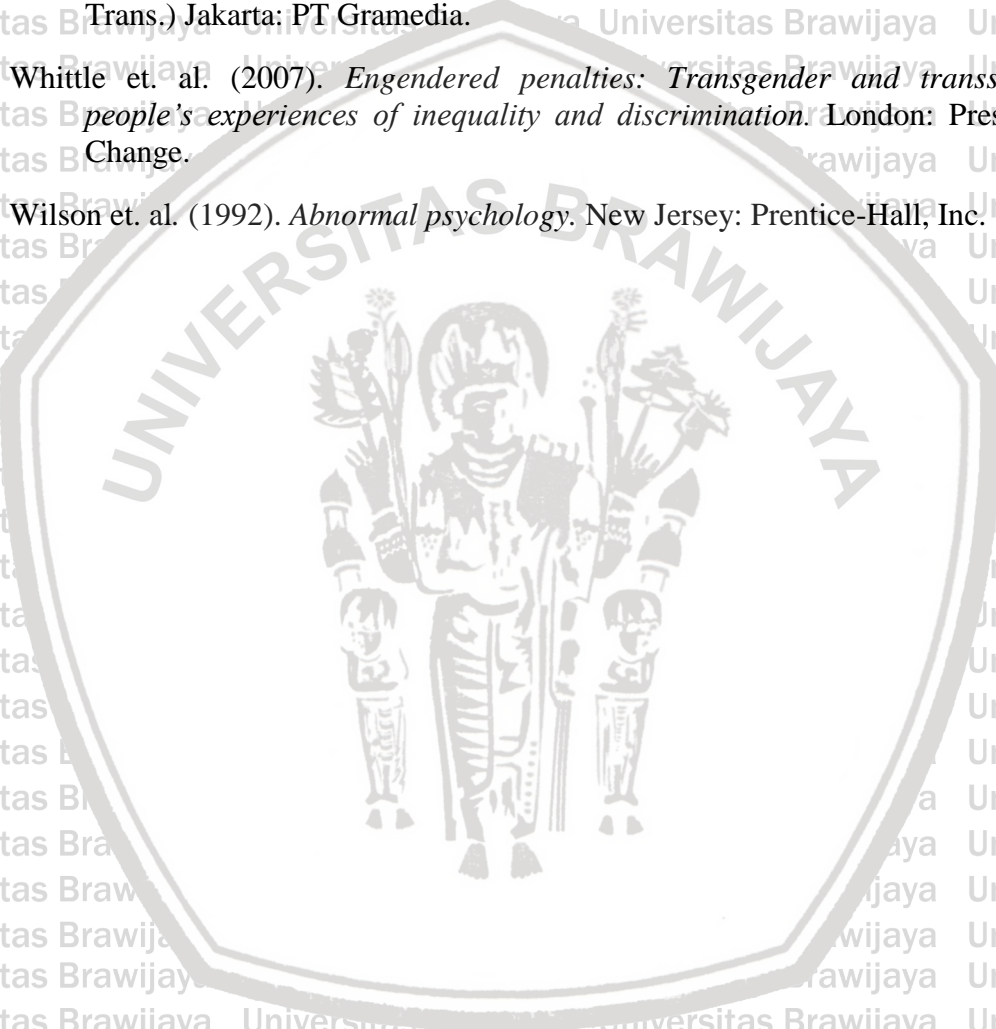
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APPENDIX



Appendix: Berita Acara Bimbingan Skripsi

1. Nama : Alvita Abidati
2. NIM : 0911110112
3. Program studi : Sastra Inggris
4. Topik Skripsi : Transgender
5. Judul Skripsi : The Struggle and The Effects of Being Transgender as Depicted in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna*
6. Tanggal Mengajukan : 26 Februari 2013
7. Tanggal Selesai : 18 Januari 2014
8. Nama Pembimbing : I. M. Andhy Nurmansyah, M.Hum
II. Fredy Nugroho Setiawan, S.S., M.Hum
9. Keterangan Konsultasi :

No	Tanggal	Materi	Pembimbing	Paraf
1	26 Februari 2013	Konsultasi Judul	Pembimbing I	
2	11 Maret 2013	Konsultasi Bab I dan Bab II	Pembimbing I	
3	18 Maret 2013	Revisi Bab II	Pembimbing I	
4	21 Maret 2013	ACC Seminar Proposal	Pembimbing I	
5	28 Maret 2013	Konsultasi Bab I dan Bab II	Pembimbing II	
6	3 April 2013	Revisi Bab I dan Bab II	Pembimbing II	
7	16 April 2013	Revisi Bab I dan Bab II	Pembimbing II	
8	22 April 2013	Revisi Bab I dan Bab II	Pembimbing II	
9	30 April 2013	Revisi Bab I dan Bab II	Pembimbing II	
10	7 Mei 2013	ACC Seminar Proposal	Pembimbing II	
11	14 Juni 2013	Revisi Seminar Proposal	Pembimbing II	
12	17 Juni 2013	Konsultasi Bab III	Pembimbing I	
13	17 Juni 2013	Revisi Seminar Proposal	Pembimbing II	
14	8 Juli 2013	Konsultasi Bab III	Pembimbing I	
15	15 Juli 2013	Konsultasi Bab III	Pembimbing I	
16	23 September 2013	Revisi Bab III	Pembimbing I	
17	3 Oktober 2013	Revisi Bab III	Pembimbing I	
18	8 Oktober 2013	Konsultasi Bab III	Pembimbing II	
19	18 Oktober 2013	Konsultasi Bab III dan Bab IV	Pembimbing II	
20	6 November 2013	Revisi Bab IV dan Konsultasi Abstrak	Pembimbing II	
21	13 November 2013	Revisi Bab IV dan Revisi Abstrak	Pembimbing II	
22	29 November 2013	Konsultasi Skripsi Keseluruhan	Pembimbing II	

23	29 November 2013	Revisi Bab IV	Pembimbing I	
23	2 Desember 2013	ACC Seminar Hasil	Pembimbing I	
24	5 Desember 2013	ACC Seminar Hasil	Pembimbing II	
25	20 Desember 2013	Revisi Seminar Hasil	Pembimbing I	
26	20 Desember 2013	Revisi Seminar Hasil	Pembimbing II	
26	23 Desember 2013	Revisi Seminar Hasil	Pembimbing I	
27	27 Desember 2013	Revisi Seminar Hasil	Pembimbing II	
28	9 Januari 2014	Revisi Ujian Skripsi	Pembimbing I	
29	16 Januari 2014	Revisi Ujian Skripsi	Pembimbing I	
30	18 Januari 2014	ACC Penjilidan	Pembimbing I	
31	18 Januari 2014	ACC Penjilidan	Pembimbing II	

10. Telah dievaluasi dan diuji dengan nilai :

Malang, 18 Januari 2014

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