

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Literature is the art of form that uses words as a medium to express our ideas, feeling from our experiences in our daily life. In its broadest sense, literature includes all written materials such as: magazine, newspaper, dictionary and so on. In its narrow sense, literature only includes novel, drama, short stories, and poems.

Novel is one of the kinds of literature. It is used as a medium to entertain and to share ideas or experiences in life. In *The Encyclopedia Americana*, Carene (1972:510) explains as follows:

The word novel is derived ultimately from the Latin adjective "Novellous" diminutive of "News" meaning "new", Hence when applied to fiction it means a new tale or story. It was adapted in the 16th century by the English language from "Novella", an Italian word used to describe a short tale portraying the incidents and often-amorous intrigues of everyday living.

Reading the novel *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin, the writer is interested in his ideas. It is such a fantastic novel which describes universal problems, emotions, spirit and, personalities. The novel also talks about homosexuality. The homosexuality is interesting point to be discussed; it has been a complex phenomenon, of which the existence provokes different attitudes within society.

Homosexuality has been a complex phenomenon, of which the existence provokes different attitudes within society. According to *The Encyclopedia Americana*, (1960:333) "some pursue it because of an intense erotic attention to members of their own sex, for money, adventure, from need to please, curiosity, or rebelliousness." Some groups give their tolerance of homosexuality while others have strict prohibition about this. The debates about homosexuality, in part because they often involve public policy and legal issues, tend to be sharply polarized. Sandel (1995:123) takes *An Aristotelian Approach* from which he argues that gay and lesbian relationships can realize the same goods and feel legal equality for gays and lesbians, including marriage rights. In contrast, Cicero (1966:407) in *A Later Stoic*, was dismissive about homosexual in general, with some harsher remarks towards same sex pursuits.

From the explanation above, there are two different reactions concerning this phenomenon. The most possible reason why they think differently is that probably they do not really know about the homosexual life and its causes. *Giovanni's Room* presents a story of a homosexual clearly. The main character, David, has been a homosexual since he was a child. This condition makes him face conflict of his sexual identity. On the one side, he wants to have relationship with a woman like normal human. On the other side, he is driven to have sex relation with a man.

The writer is interested in studying James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room* because it provides a unique aspect of life and a different point of view in which the whole story is seen from the homosexual aspect.

1.2 The Statement of the Problems

To make a good framework in the way of finding the purpose of analysis.

The problems are formulated as follows:

1. How is David's character as a homosexual?
2. What are the causes of David's homosexuality?
3. How does David's character develop as a homosexual?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems above, this study is purposed:

1. To elaborate David's character as a homosexual.
2. To describe the causes of David's homosexuality.
3. To analyze David's character development as a homosexual.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

Based on the title of this thesis "An Analysis of Sexual Behaviour of Main Character in James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*", this study is limited to analyze David as the main character. It will focus on the background of David's homosexuality, the causes of David's homosexuality, and the David's character development as a homosexual.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The writer hopes this thesis will be useful as a model in studying novels and as a contribution to those who want to study the psychological analysis of the

main character. Furthermore, hopefully the result of this thesis will contribute a new understanding about homosexual and its can change people's wrong perception so far.