

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Heteronormativity holds norms that people are divided into distinct genders, which are men and women, with their natural roles in life. This simply tells us that the most natural sexual orientation is heterosexuality. According to Emily Gray, “Heteronormativity is a term used by social theorists in order to discuss the way in which gender and sexuality are separated into hierarchically organised categories” (Gray). Moreover, she says that the heteronormative society marginalizes the homosexuals from social life (Gray). That means the homosexuals are always discriminated against and denied in the society.

Considering these facts, I found two novels describing the issue of homosexuality in the heteronormative society. These novels are *Brokeback Mountain* and *Maurice*. *Brokeback Mountain* is written by an American writer, Annie Proulx, while *Maurice* is written by an English writer, Edward Morgan

Forster. Proulx is a well-known American writer whose works have won several book prizes. Besides, she is considered a successful writer because her story of *Brokeback Mountain* is adapted into a film. Steve William states that, “*Brokeback Mountain* stands chief amongst them as a story of note,” which shows that *Brokeback Mountain* is a great novel. Moreover, *Brokeback Mountain* is “lauded as her best work, *Brokeback Mountain* is a master-piece and it is a story in which all the elements that make Annie Proulx an exceptional writer...” (William). These statements prove that Annie Proulx is successful in her writing career.

Edward Morgan Forster is also a famous writer who has written some well-written books. There is no doubt that Forster has written his works brilliantly, as stated by Malcom Bradbury, “Forster is a major English author of the twentieth century, a writer of great technical and intellectual significance whose work is sufficiently complicated and dense to deserve close study and analysis” (Bradbury 1). In addition, he also wrote novels about homosexual people, which, in his era, was rejected.

By using formalism in my analysis, I will focus on discussing the social and inner conflicts of the major characters. According to Sylvan Barnet, conflicts are difficulties, problems or complexities which arise. She also says that conflicts are usually of two opposed wills or forces (Barnet 111). Social conflict is one type of conflict, which means a struggle between man and man or man against society (Shaw 91-92). Another type of conflict is internal, also known as psychological conflict, which means a struggle between desires within a person (Shaw 92).

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

1. What social and inner conflicts are experienced by the major characters of the novels *Brokeback Mountain* and *Maurice*?
2. What are the causes of the social and inner conflicts?
3. What are the resolutions of the social and inner conflicts?

## **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

1. To show the social and inner conflicts experienced by the major characters in the novels of *Brokeback Mountain* and *Maurice*.
2. To show the causes of the social and inner conflicts.
3. To show the resolutions of the social and inner conflicts.

## **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

In writing this thesis, I use the method of library research. First, I read Proulx's and Forster's novels as the primary texts. Then I read several reference books and the Internet sources that are relevant to the topic to support my analysis for additional information. Finally, I draw some conclusions of what is discussed.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

I divide the thesis into four chapters, preceded by the Acknowledgements, the Table of Contents and the Abstract. In Chapter One, I present the Introduction, consisting of the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. In Chapter Two, I analyze the social and inner conflicts in Proulx's *Brokeback*

*Mountain*. In Chapter Three, I analyze the social and inner conflicts in Forster's *Maurice*. Chapter Four is the Conclusion. And the thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendixes, consisting of the summary of the novels and the biography of the authors.