

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing the conflicts of the two novels of Proulx's *Brokeback Mountain* and Forster's *Maurice*, I would like to draw a conclusion. The social and inner conflicts in the two novels are related to the issue of homosexuality in a heteronormative society. The social conflicts happen between people having two opposing ideas, which are heteronormativity and homosexuality. The first is presented by the society or the representative of the society, or it can be people who are merely under the influence of heteronormativity. The second is only presented by the homosexuals. In addition to the social conflicts, the inner conflicts happen to the homosexuals in both novels. The inner conflicts are all about their sexual orientation.

In Proulx's *Brokeback Mountain*, I found four social conflicts and four inner conflicts. The first social conflict happens between the homosexual couple and the society. This is about the couple's being a homosexual. At the end, the

society kills one of the homosexuals. The second one happens between Ennis del Mar and Jack's father. This is about Jack's will to be buried in Brokeback Mountain after his death. This social conflict also shows implicitly the issue of the acceptance of homosexuality in the heteronormative society. The third social conflict happens between Ennis and Alma Beers. This is about Ennis being a homosexual. The last social conflict happens between Jack and Ennis and is about their living together. In addition to the social conflicts, there are also inner conflicts which happen to the homosexuals. They are Jack Twist and Ennis del Mar. Both of them experience the same inner conflicts twice about their sexual orientation. This is because they believe in heteronormativity, but this is totally different than their homosexual experiences.

In Forster's *Maurice*, I found five social conflicts and three inner conflicts. The first social conflict is between Maurice Hall and Clive Durham. This is about their homosexuality. The second one is also between Maurice and Clive, showing they have different ideas about the nature of homosexuality. The third social conflict happens between Maurice and Dr. Barry. This is also about the existence of homosexuality. The next social conflict happens between Maurice and Mr. Borenus and is about the acceptance of homosexuality. The last social conflict happens between Maurice and Alec Scudder. This is about their living together as the homosexuals. Furthermore, the inner conflicts happen within the homosexuals, who are Maurice Hall and Clive Durham. They are all about their sexual orientation.

After analyzing the two novels, I find some similarities and differences between them. The setting of time and place of the two novels are different.

*Brokeback Mountain* is set in the mid twentieth century, the 1960s, in America, while *Maurice* has a setting of time in the early twentieth century, 1913, in England. However, these different settings do not change the ideas of heteronormativity at that time and place in the society. The society refuses any other sexual orientation except heterosexuality. Consequently, they disagree with the idea of homosexuality and always discriminate against the homosexuals. In America in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, homosexuality was considered immoral (Dancing). In addition, in 1978, Harvey Milk was the first openly gay elected official in the States; however, he was assassinated (Roney). This proves that the heteronormative society could not give any tolerance towards homosexuality. This also happened in England in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. According to Levy, by 1900s, gays would have been prosecuted by law (Levy). The society thought that homosexual relationships were punishable; therefore, this shows how homosexuality could not be accepted (Levy).

In both novels, the heteronormative society does not agree with the idea of homosexuality, expressing it as something different and negative. In *Brokeback Mountain*, the heteronormative society considers homosexuality only as an abnormality; however, in *Maurice*, the heteronormative society thinks that homosexuality is not only a disgrace but also an evil hallucination or a damnation. This is because Forster relates his ideas of heteronormativity with Christianity. Besides, Forster speaks through the character of Clive Durham, as the representative of the society, that homosexuality is a disadvantageous choice, for the homosexuals will get social punishment.

Both of the societies in the novels show certain social punishment of homosexuals. In *Brokeback Mountain*, the social punishment is presented clearly as an actual punishment action against the homosexuals. They are mocked and killed by the society. In *Maurice*, the social punishment is only spoken; the author does not show that it actually befalls any of the characters.

The homosexuals in *Brokeback Mountain*, who are Jack Twist and Ennis del Mar, are unable to decide whether to live together or not. This leads them to a sad ending. They meet in several places over twenty years but never plan how to stay together; later, the society finds out and kills one of them. The homosexuals in *Maurice*, who are Maurice Hall and Alec Scudder, decide with confidence to live together and leave the neighbourhood; therefore, it leads them to a happy ending. This is because they finally have life that is in accordance with what they expect.

After analyzing Proulx's *Brokeback Mountain* and Forster's *Maurice*, I found that the social conflicts in the two novels indicate that the society cannot accept homosexuals in their neighbourhood in any way. The social conflicts also show that the homosexuals get social punishment and discrimination. In addition, both novels describe the same social conflicts about the homosexuals who are going to live together. The social conflicts tell us that the society does not accept the homosexuals in the neighbourhood; therefore, they must either convert to the society's norms or leave the neighbourhood. Moreover, the inner conflicts happen within the major characters concerning their sexual orientation. The inner conflicts appear because the homosexuals are influenced by the idea of heteronormativity, yet they experience a different sexual orientation.

I conclude that the value of heteronormativity, which the society believes in, restricts them to accept the other sexual orientation. This causes the homosexuals to be discriminated against. Moreover, they will be punished mentally and physically if they do not change or convert to the society. In fact, the society can murder the homosexuals. I think this social gap between the society and the homosexuals happens because the society considers homosexuality as sexual immorality and as an orientation that harms their comfort zone, yet the homosexuals think that the society does not understand homosexuality if they simply discriminate against them. Nevertheless, homosexuality is something different which needs a process to find acceptance by the society, as can be concluded from the different settings in the novels.

In my opinion, Forster explains homosexuality in the novel of *Maurice* more clearly than Proulx does in *Brokeback Mountain*. Furthermore, Forster relates the idea of heteronormativity to the Holy Bible. Nonetheless, I personally like the way Proulx presents her ideas through her writing. I think she creates strong images of the homosexual relationship between two men, and this becomes the most powerful attraction to readers. I believe both of the authors write their masterpieces in order to convey awareness of the issue of homosexuality in the heteronormative society.