Abstract

A person will always be a part of society and each and every societies have its own set of rules and norms, and it is expected of the member of the societies to abide by those rules and norms. For example, a heteronormative society would promote heterosexuality as the correct way for people to be. In the novel *The Forever War* by Joe Haldeman, the main character William Mandella went through the process of marginalization due to his sexual orientation, which contradicts the accepted norms in the society he lives in. There is a shift in the norm of sexuality, from a heteronormative one into one that encourages homosexuality. This thesis aims to analyze Mandella’s marginalization regarding his sexuality. This thesis uses heteronormativity theory by Gayle Rubin to analyze the issue in the novel. The writer uses qualitative method by using close reading. After analyzing the issue that is being discussed in the article about how Mandella’s marginalization is depicted and what are the effects of it to him, the writer finds out that the marginalization of William Mandella is a result of the shift of societal norms regarding sexuality in the book which reinforce the idea that gender and sexuality is socially constructed, rather than being innate on each individual.

Keywords: Marginalization; social construction; heteronormativity; homosexuality