ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the theme of intersex in dealing with the heteronormativity of sex, gender and sexuality (male-female, masculine-feminine, heterosexuality) which is describe in the novel of Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides. Intersex person refers to those whose sex is ambiguous or between male and female. The ambiguity of sex eventually triggers and raises the conflict of gender and sexuality as society keeps insisting on the strong compatibility between sex, gender and sexual identity. Intersex person in this novel is represented by Calliope the main character. Calliope is born and raised as a girl but then discovers the ambiguity of her sex during her teen age. This makes Calliope must deal with the struggle of her gender and sexual identity. This is a qualitative study which applies Queer theory as an approach to oppose the hegemony of cultural trend that associates sex with a certain gender and sexuality. The result of this study reveals that Calliope as an intersex person must pass some stages in order to identify. This process start with her life as a feminine intersex and followed by her refusal to undergo anatomical sex surgery and hormonal treatment before she decides to cross dressing and fully lives as a masculine intersex in society. Sexually Calliope is a lesbian who takes a heterosexual man’s role therefore she is classified as a butch. The portrayal of Calliope describes that society still rejects the existence of intersex person as seen in medication and language.

Keywords: Intersex person, gender, sex heteronormativity, sexuality.