

ABSTRACT

The study examines the main character, David in *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin. The focus of the study is David's sexual ambiguity which is associated by his childhood Oedipus complex and fixation. The analysis is conducted by using Sigmund Freud's theory of Psychoanalysis especially the discussion about sexual ambiguity. This research is a qualitative research where the data is taken from the James Baldwin novel *Giovanni's Room*. Close reading, data information collection and the applications of Freudian Psychoanalysis theory are about the related issues which is appropriate in conducting the analysis. Based on the novel setting in 1948 where the United States experienced homophobic era, David negotiates his sexual ambiguity through defense mechanism such as repression, denial, displacement for preventing his anxiety. This study finds that David mother's death and the condition of his family, his first sexual experience with a boy, Joey, in his teens, and his new life style in Paris as the factors that influence his sexual ambiguity. In order to negotiate the homophobic society, David maintains his homosexual love with Giovanni and his heterosexual love with Hella. In addition, to overcome his unharmonious family and his loneliness, he decides to "stay in the closet" and finds same-sex community as his extended family.

Key words: *Oedipus complex, Fixation, Defense mechanism, Sexual desire, Sexualit, Stay in the closet*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION