

### Abstract

The study aimed to examine the linguistic markers presented on *Coming-Out* stories produced by young homosexuals, and how the markers functioned to construct the writers' sexual identity in the context of heteronormative society. As one of the most established website in Indonesia for young homosexuals to publish their *coming-out* stories, *Melela.org* was utilized as the source of data in this study. By adopting qualitative method and purposive sampling, there were two articles which were identified and classified based on the Appraisal theory i.e. *Attitude*, *Engagement*, and *Graduation* systems in reference to the theory proposed by Martin & White. As the results of the study, there were 299 Attitude markers identified through-out the four articles with the composition of Judgment (50.4%) as the most frequent, followed by Appreciation (19.6%) and Affect (30%). Further, there were 295 occurrences of Engagement system, while Graduation system contributes a number of 207. These systems were correlated to one another to explore the complexity of the notion of homosexuality. In reference to the context of the articles in the discussion, it is revealed that the Appraisal devices had managed to contribute in the way young homosexuals as the minority group construct their sexual identity by presenting both positive and negative stances through their stories. The study revealed the way young homosexuals pointed out their social position, signifying their involvement and engagement with people surround them and reflecting their social relationship. In addition, the struggles they experienced and the process of self-acceptance both by themselves and their surroundings were also exposed as the positive outcome of *Coming-Out* process, which is represented by the dominance of positive markers.

**Keywords:** appraisal; *coming-out*; discourse and identity, homosexuality; sexuality