

**SEXUALITY DISGUISE PORTRAYED IN
BRENT HARTINGER'S *GEOGRAPHY CLUB***

A THESIS

**Presented in a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
Completing the Sarjana Degree in Department of English Literature**



By

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2021**

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This is to certify that the Sarjana Thesis of BILLY PUTRA ADJI entitled “SEXUALITY DISGUISE PORTRAYED IN BRENT HARTINGER’S *GEOGRAPHY CLUB*” has been approved by the thesis advisor for further approval by the Examining Committee.

Surabaya, 16th July 2021

Advisor,

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All I want to say about my thesis is that challenging heteronormativity does not mean challenging heterosexuality. Heterosexuality is part of the diversity of sexuality, in contrast with heteronormativity, it is a product of patriarchy. Patriarchy is a system that does not only harm women and minorities such as the LGBTQ+ community, but also harms men in general. People should be aware that patriarchy harms many parties. Therefore, it is appropriate that this system should be abandoned.

I am aware that in writing this thesis there are still many shortcomings and it is far from flawlessness. Therefore, the writer is open for constructive criticism and suggestions for the perfection of this thesis. Hopefully this thesis will be useful for writer and readers. Thank you. An it harm none, do what thou wilt.

Surabaya, 5th July 2021

Billy Putra Adji

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ABSTRACT

This research discusses about sexuality disguise experienced by Russell in Brent Hartinger's *Geography Club*. Russel Middlebrook, the main character, is portrayed as a sophomore High School student in the novel. The research aims to describe the heteronormative pressure experienced by Russell throughout his High School era as a gay student. The research utilizes qualitative research due to the fact that it provides understanding into the problem being studied by deriving meanings from the data of the research. Moreover, this research applies extrinsic approach. The extrinsic approach applied is queer criticism. The data source of this research is *Geography Club* novel by Brent Hartinger. The research shows that heteronormative pressure experienced by Russell makes him decide to hide his true sexual identity. He has several reasons why he has to hide his true sexual identity i.e. afraid of being rejected by his pareents, close friends, and school friends, heteronormative pressure, and afraid of bullying and harrasment. Russel hides his true sexual identity by joining a baseball team and dating a girl. To be able to express his gay identity, Russels looks for other non-heterosexual people to find a support system and create a secret gay club called Geography Club.

Keywords: *sexuality, disguise, queer criticism*