

HETERONORMATIVE PRESSURE AGAINST GAY STUDENT IN BRENT HARTINGER'S GEOGRAPHY CLUB

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HETERONORMATIVE PRESSURE AGAINST GAY STUDENT IN BRENT HARTINGER'S *GEOGRAPHY CLUB*

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32 **ABSTRACT:** This study discusses about heteronormative pressure experienced by Russell in Brent Hartinger's *Geography Club*. Russel Middlebrook is the main character as well a sophomore High School student in the novel. The study aims to answer heteronormative pressure experienced by Russell throughout his High School era as gay student. The study utilizes qualitative research due to providing understanding into the problem and deriving meanings from the quotations. This study applies extrinsic approach. The extrinsic approach used is sociological approach as the literary approach. Particularly, sociological approach used is Queer Theory as a means for doing queer criticism. The data source of this study is *Geography Club* novel by Brent Hartinger. The study shows that heteronormative pressure experienced by Russell comes from his close environments such as parents, friends and school. Therefore, Russel needs to keep silent about his authentic sexual identity in order to secure his life from rejection and bullying.

Keywords: *heteronormative, pressure, queer criticism*

ABSTRAK: Penelitian ini membahas tentang tekanan heteronormatif yang dialami Russel di novel *Geography Club* karya Brent Hartinger. Russel Middlebrook adalah karakter utama sekaligus siswa SMA tahun kedua dalam novel tersebut. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjawab tekanan heteronormatif yang dialami Russel selama masa SMA-nya sebagai siswa gay. Penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian kualitatif karena memberikan pemahaman tentang masalah dan mendapatkan makna dari kutipan. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan ekstrinsik. Pendekatan ekstrinsik yang digunakan adalah pendekatan sosiologis sebagai pendekatan sastra. Secara khusus, pendekatan sosiologis yang digunakan adalah Teori Queer sebagai sarana untuk melakukan kritik queer. Sumber data penelitian ini adalah novel *Geography Club* karya Brent Hartinger. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tekanan heteronormatif yang dialami Russell berasal dari lingkungan dekatnya seperti orang tua, teman dan sekolah. Sehingga, Russel perlu merahasiakan identitas seksual aslinya untuk mengamankan hidupnya dari penolakan dan perundungan.

Kata kunci: *heteronormatif, tekanan, kritik queer*

INTRODUCTION

Anima and Animus are the archetypes in which human beings generally communicate to their collective unconscious. Furthermore, it is also responsible for someone's love life.²¹ Anima is a female characteristic present in the collective unconscious of every man, while Animus is a male characteristic present in the collective unconscious of every woman. Jung (1957: 1) states that Anima is the feminine unconscious aspect of a man, whereas Animus is the masculine unconscious aspect of a woman. Hence, Anima frequently appears in moods or erotic fantasy forms in men, conversely, Animus tends to appear in the form of confidence in women. However, even though Anima and Animus are part of human nature, they are incredibly different in the meaning of gender itself.

Gender is man and woman characteristics formed in society, which then is applied in families and unconsciously becomes part of the culture. Hence, gender ordinarily reflects to men, women, boys and girls socially constructed including roles, norms and behaviors related to being a man, woman, boy or girl along with their relationship

with one another. Moreover, gender diverges from one society to another one and gradually can change at any time. Money and Ehrhardt (1996: 220) argue that gender is a psychological transformation of inner self, which influences one's internal belief that male needs to be masculine and female needs to be feminine. Therefore, due to the fact that gender is socially shaped when a person grows and thrives, gender and sex are completely disparate.

Sex anatomically and physiologically points to the differences between male and female body. Normally, sex refers to human genitals, either penis or vagina, carried since the first day of human life. A person who has penis will be automatically identified as male, as well as a person who has vagina will be automatically identified as female. Peases (2001: 72) believe that human sex is determined at the time of fertilization, but it can differently develop only when the fetus is six to eight weeks old. In addition, the basic pattern of all fetuses is female including the body and brain, and conceptually can be proven by existence of nipple and mammary glands having by men. Hence, sex is basically closely related to

human's sexuality because of the fact that humans are sexual beings.

Sexuality is a part of human beings that can never be separated. Moreover, sexuality is basically inherent in a person and unconsciously becomes the identity of that person. According to the World Health Organization (WHO; 2002), sexuality is an essential part of human existence during their lifespan, include sex, sexual orientation, intimacy, gender identity, pleasure, eroticism, role and reproduction. Sexuality is normally manifested in thoughts, desires, fantasies, behaviors, beliefs, roles, attitudes, practices, values and relationships. Sexuality, generally, is affected by interactions of biological, cultural, social, psychological, political, economic, historical, ethical, legal, religious and spiritual elements. Nowadays, when people address about their sexuality, it usually refers to their sexual preferences or in this case, their ³³sexual orientation.

Sexual orientation is the emotional, romantic and sexual attraction perceived by an individual toward another one, including ²⁰attraction to the opposite gender, to the same gender, to both gender or more than one gender.

According to the American Psychological Association (APA), sexual orientation is not a thing that somebody chooses consciously, which then leads to the fact that sexual orientation will never be able to be changed. In fact, a person is aware of their sexual orientation since childhood, but some people likely require sexual experiences in order to identify their sexual orientation, additionally, sexual orientation is independent of sex and gender. In general, a person will find out their sexual orientation during adolescence or early adulthood without prior sexual experience. Hence, those who have different sexual orientation from the majority, or other than heterosexual, need to disguise their sexuality and do straight-acting.

Queer guys will be socially respected as a gay man if they are naturally masculine. Furthermore, one characteristic to look masculine is by being tough and strong and it can only be delivered with the opposite feminine characteristic. This leads to the fact that ⁵straight-acting is a term referring to a same sex attracted person who does not ⁵reflect attitude, behavior and appearance of what is considered as typical for gay

people. Eguchi (2009) explains that straight-acting has arisen due to some gay men's intention to look dominant and masculine as well to eliminate gay effeminate images. In general, queer men who perform straight-acting can be classified as an attempt to look like a heterosexual man and frequently they do it on purpose to disguise their sexual orientation in the first place.

Disguise literally does refer to a process, a manner or an act of disguise in order to hide the secret identity of a person. Disguise generally is utilized to trick other people by transforming the appearance, characteristic or specific nature indeed attached to. According to Merriam-Webster (1828), disguise has function to change appearances or manners by creating assumed and false identity so that the true identity is able to obscure as well conceal. Mainly, disguise is committed to deceive enemies, therefore, people who commit disguise need to look blending in society so that their true identity will secure. Related to sexuality, people who commit disguised sexuality intentionally and forcefully conceal their true sexual orientation due to powerful heteronormative pressure and hatred toward non-heterosexual

people in society. Consequently, the act of sexuality disguise does have in sight because of the fact that non-heterosexual people require to secure their own salvation.

REVIEW AND RELATED LITERATURE

Queer Theory

Queer theory is a literary and cultural study approach that rejects traditional gender and sexuality categories. Jagose (1996: 16) describes that Queer theory can have various meanings depending on how it is used, but it is generally associated with the study and theorization of gender and sexual practices that exist outside of heterosexuality and challenge the notion that heterosexual desire is 'normal'. Queer theory challenges traditional social institutions based on the heteronormative model of human sexuality and recognizes the full range of sexuality, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The primary usage of queer theory is to subvert heteronormative power and messaging on literary works.

The Anima and Animus

Men carry and perform a masculine role and persona while women

carry and perform a feminine role and persona. However, Jung (1957: 2) states that men possess a contra sexuality which is feminine in nature and this is called the Anima, while women have a contra sexuality which is masculine in nature and this is called the Animus. The Anima which is represented by a female is a male's inner opposite, whereas the Animus which is represented by a man is a female's inner opposite. Jung (1957: 30) declares that ignoring Anima and Animus as the collective unconscious opposites within an individual ultimately can lead to misrepresented perceptions and expectations of others.

Sexual Identity

Sexual identity is an individual's concept of preferred sexual behavior, which is naturally very personal and emphasizes more on personal comfort. Basically, sexual identity represents how an individual identifies related to their sexual orientation, so that someone who exclusively prefers the opposite sex or gender will be automatically considered as a straight or heterosexual sexual identity, and an individual who exclusively prefers the same sex or gender habitually will be considered as homosexual sexual identity.

Additionally, Colapinto (2006:34) describes that sexual identity is dissimilar to sexual orientation or sexual preferences and put more emphasis on how cultural, social or political influence form a someone's belief in sexual identity they have.

Sexual Orientation

Kinsey, Pomeroy and Martin (1948: 638) state that human beings carry eight different sexual orientation subsequently simplified under scale 0 to 6 and X. The Kinsey scale, also named the Heterosexual-Homosexual Rating Scale describes that 0 is totally heterosexual with no homosexual. 1 is heterosexual with a little homosexual. 2 is heterosexual with more homosexual. 3 is equally heterosexual and homosexual. 4 is homosexual with more heterosexual. 5 is homosexual with a little heterosexual. Fundamentally, a person who falls under scale 1 to 5 will be considered as bisexual. Last, 6 is totally homosexual with no heterosexual. In addition, X is asexual or having no attraction to the same or opposite gender or sex. The number, however, can interchange because of growing attractions, behaviors and fantasies over time.

Heteronormativity

Heteronormativity is an order that obliges and requires men and women to pair up and only the partners of this relationship are considered valid and true. Men and women are required to be together, marry and have children. Basically, heteronormativity along with gender superior and gender biner are a part of patriarchy system and it can specifically drag someone into heterosexism and homophobia. Therefore, heteronormativity shapes cultural assumption in favor of opposite-sex relationship and against same-sex relationship. According to Rubin (1993), the impact of heteronormativity is the creation of a sex hierarchy that morally turn good sex to bad sex. Heterosexual relationship is categorized as good for having ability to reproduce and place other relationship beyond that as bad including same-sex relationship.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research utilizes qualitative method which method explain descriptively the analysis.

RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The main character, Russel Middlebrook is a 16-year-old American teenage boy. He lives in a small town around Boise, Idaho with his parents. There is nothing special about Russell, he is just a sophomore student at Robert L. Goodkind High School. He is neither the most popular student nor the least popular student. Basically, he has two close friends at Goodkind, the first one is Gunnar and the second one is Min. Gunnar is a Norwegian-American, he and Russel have been friends since the fourth grade. On the other hand, Min is a Chinese-American. She and Russel starts to be friends since they are in high school. Generally, Russel, Gunnar and Min fall into the category of Nerdy Intellectual students.

Russel's Homosexuality

In fact, Russell has a little secret that he needs to keep throughout his High School era. It will be such a big deal in case someone finds out the truth about him. The truth is Russell is gay and he is in the closet. That is the truth that he needs to cover for the rest of his life. The only way to channel his pent-up desire is to talk to other gays over the internet.

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That night in my bedroom, I logged on to the Net. I said I'd

never actually been naked with a guy, but it's possible that once or twice I might've gone to a gay chat room and maybe even gone off for a private chat with a guy or two. (Hartinger, 2003: 11).

Russell desperately hides his sexual identity from anyone. He never talks about it with anyone other than the other gays he meets on the internet. Russell understands that people generally do not talk about homosexuality in real life. Talking about it will put him in danger. He realizes that homosexuality is not heterosexuality. It is different from the majority of society so that so he cannot carelessly talk about it

³ I knew that any wrong action, however slight, could expose my deception and reveal my true identity. The thought made my skin prickle. The enemy would not take kindly to my infiltration of their ranks, especially not here, in their inner sanctum. (Hartinger, 2003: 6).

He also fully understands that even the slightest careless act that can reveal his disguise will make the surrounding community hate him for having a different sexual orientation. This is reinforced by the environment and other students in the surrounding high school who hate gays and make them the object of bullying.

¹ "Hey, Middlebrook!" Kevin said to me.

"Nice ass!" Leon and Brad and Jarred and Ramone all laughed (Hartinger, 2003: 7).

⁴ "Middlebrook!" Kevin said, all teeth and whiskers and dimples. "You are such a fag (Hartinger, 2003: 7)!"

Even though none of the students knows about the truth of Russel's sexual identity, some students tease him by saying that he is a fag. According to Merriam-Webster (1828), fag stands for faggot, faggot is the term of abuse and disparagement toward gay people and it is normally used by homophobic people to put down and dehumanize gay people. Russel's problems are significantly complex. Even without saying that he is gay, the people around him have bullied him. He is well aware that things will only get worse if people find out that he is actually gay. Realizing the possible effects he might face if people know his true sexual identity, Russell has decided to keep silent and disguise his true sexual orientation and he has some reasons why he has to hide his true sexual identity.

Afraid of Being Rejected by His Parents

Family is the number one supporter owned by children and

adolescents. Parents do not only protect their children and give them love, but also educate their children if something goes wrong. Not much different from Russel's parents, they love Russell but most likely will not be able to accept the fact that their son is gay. This reason also makes Russell more comfortable to talk about his sexual identity with people from cyberspace.

⁷ I desperately wanted to be somewhere where I could be honest about who I was and what I wanted. I had plenty to say on the topic, but no one to say it to—not my friends, definitely not my parents. (Hartinger, 2003: 11).

Russel is just one of many gay teens in the United States who are afraid to talk about his sexual orientation. The fear of his parents' disapproval makes him choose to remain silent and restrain himself although in reality he really wants to talk about it with other people. In the real world, Russel always feels lonely because of the fact that he can only talk about gay things in cyberspace. He does not have a chance to talk about those things in real life since he does not have any gay friends.

¹⁰ The fact is, there's a difference between being alone and being lonely; I may not have been completely alone in life, but I was

definitely lonely. (Hartinger, 2003: 11).

In **this** case, gay people are the ones who suffer the most. They have no one to talk to about their different sexual orientation. They cannot complain to their parents and more can no longer complain to their friends. If they do, the problem can be even bigger than when they choose to remain silent and go undercover. The feeling of loneliness is the only thing they have in the absence of someone else to talk to. The truth is, parents do not want to accept their gay children because of the strong influence of heteronormativity prevailing in society. They are not only afraid but also worried about the future of their gay children.

³ It wasn't hard to imagine what he and his cadre of concerned parents would do over the existence of a gay-straight alliance at the local high school. (Hartinger, 2003: 41).

Parents always want the best for their children. By admitting that their children are gay, they are acutely aware that they are putting their children in a dangerous position. The strong influence of heteronormativity which is taught from generation to generation from parents makes them reject the presence of these gay children. In their minds, gay people

cannot reproduce like heterosexual couples. Moreover, they are not allowed to marry because of the lack of legality of same-sex marriage. Since they cannot reproduce, as a result these gay people are labeled as people who can make humans extinct.

Afraid of Being Rejected by His Close Friends

A friend is someone outside of us who knows us and is willing to talk to us. Friends are people who do not make us feel bad nor do they make us bad. A friend is someone who can see our weakest side. They can accept us as who we are without needing to see our attributes. Not much different from Russel's friendship with his friends, what makes it different is that he does not tell his close friends that he is gay. This is a form of disguise that Russell does so that he looks like he blends in with his surroundings and friends.

⁶ I liked Min and Gunnar. We had a lot in common, and for the most part, I felt comfortable around them. But I couldn't help wondering how they'd react if they knew my little secret—my liking guys. (Hartinger, 2003: 9).

Basically, the reason Russel does not tell Min and Gunnar that he is gay is because

he is afraid of getting rejected by his two best friends. He desperately disguises himself as a heterosexual person so that his two close friends do not turn their backs on him. This is also the main reason Russel is between comfortable and uncomfortable around Min and Gunnar due to the fact that he is hiding something from both of them.¹

But which was also why I guess I never felt that comfortable around them. (Hartinger, 2003: 9).

Russel's reluctance to tell his close friends that he is gay is the effect of the strong homophobia that is spreading in society. According to Plummer (2016), homophobia is not taken into phobia due to the root cause is not the fear but the hatred of sufferers toward gay people. Therefore, instead of Russell having to lose two of his close friends, he prefers to keep silent and not tell the truth that he is gay. Conclusively, the shadows of homophobia and heteronormativity forces Russel to be reluctant to tell his two close friends that he is actually gay.

¹ I doubted they'd run shrieking from the room. But they were my best friends, and I couldn't have handled anything less than confetti-and-sparklers acceptance. Which was why I'd

decided never to tell them.
(Hartinger, 2003: 9).

From the bottom of Russel's heart, he believes that Min and Gunnar will be shocked to learn that he is actually gay. Russel's fear comes from within himself which makes him reluctant to reveal his true sexual identity to Min and Gunnar. Russel is fully aware that resistance can come out from Min and Gunnar at any time if they only know who Russel really is. Because of that, he desperately does not reveal his true sexual identity to his two close friends since he does not want to lose them both. This can also be a reflection that gay people are still considered as enemies and ostracized by society.

Afraid of Being Rejected by School Friends

The school organizes learning and teaching activities by accepting students and providing lessons to students according to levels, majors, and others. In teaching and learning activities in schools must be supported by facilities and infrastructure as well as various rules and regulations that have been designed and established. Russel is one of the high school students in a not-so-big city. He is well respected at his school along with

his two close friends, Min and Gunnar. However, Russel is not the most popular student.

² I wasn't the most popular guy at Robert L. Goodkind High School, but I wasn't the least popular either. (Hartinger, 2003: 7).

¹ In other words, Min and Gunnar were both like me, occasional visitors to the border region of high school respectability. (Hartinger, 2003: 8).

School is a happy place for those who are respected and popular, but hell for those who are considered different, because these people tend to be the victims of bullying. Not only that, bullies do not only bully verbally but also physically either by throwing things at people who are considered different or by doing things that are even more cruel. In addition, people who are considered different and become victims of bullying in High School, are usually alone and have no friends

¹ Brian Bund, a junior, was sitting ¹⁵ himself at a table in the corner. Someone had flung a big spoonful of chili at him, and it had spattered across the back of his white T-shirt. (Hartinger, 2003: 9).

Being different in high school is a very big problem. Consciously or unconsciously, this is what makes other

people bully the person concerned. Nothing special, just be different and people will start bullying. This is why Russell attempts to disguise his sexual orientation as gay in high school. Because of his awareness and fear that people will start bullying him mercilessly if the truth about him is revealed. Not only that, bullying in schools does not just happen once or twice but every day. Therefore, Russell attempts to be as unobtrusive as possible and pretends to be heterosexual.

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Brian didn't seem so different to me. Because I knew that's how people might treat me if they ever learned the truth. (Hartinger, 2003: 11).

The worst part of bullying is that the victim has to endure it all alone. No one else will be able or willing to defend, and others will laugh too. Some people even blame the victim. This is not only cruel but also sadistic. These reasons make Russell reluctant to talk about his sexual orientation and open up to his friends. Being a victim of bullying is no small matter, being different is not that easy. Everything Russell has thought through and he vows never to let anyone know the truth about his gay sexual identity. Not his family, not his close friends and not

his school environment. Russell has decided that only himself should know that he is gay.

Heteronormative Pressure

Homosexuality is not a common thing that people talk about. Generally, society believes that the only sexuality that exists is heterosexuality. This problem is caused by the existence of heteronormative pressures that have long prevented society from giving other sexuality opportunities to appear on the surface. Due to heteronormative pressure, consciously or unconsciously, society has considered that other sexualities such as homosexuality are the enemy of society itself. In the end, people with different sexuality from the majority like homosexuality decide not to talk about it with anyone because of their awareness that talking about their sexuality will put them in a very big danger. Society literally is their enemy.

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I WAS DEEP BEHIND ENEMY LINES, in the very heart of the opposing camp. My adversaries were all around me. (Hartinger, 2003: 1).

People with different sexuality such as homosexuality feel insecure all the time because of pressure from society to be heterosexual. Because of this

heteronormative pressure, the only thing gay people can do is to disguise themselves, hide their homosexuality and try to appear as heterosexual as possible in order to fit in with the conditions believed by society. However, because by nature these people are not heterosexual, they are aware that their act of disguise cannot cover up their true sexual identity. These people feel that their secrets can be revealed anywhere, anytime and can be revealed by anyone.

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For the time being, my disguise was holding, but still I felt exposed, naked, as if my secret was obvious to anyone who took the time to look. (Hartinger, 2003: 1).

Unfortunately, they had no other choice but to disguise themselves and blend in. In addition to always feeling watched, gay students who disguise their homosexuality also feel isolated and truly feel alone. This happens because they have nowhere to go to share their experiences with anyone but themselves. What actually happens is that these gay people have been excluded and ostracized by society because they are considered socially disabled and cannot follow the existing construction of society. Generally, the root of the pressure gay people face come from

heteronormativity that has been long practiced and believed by the society as an absolute and inviolable truth. In the end, all that gay people have left is their own loneliness.

“We’re all alone,” I said (Hartinger, 2003: 27).

The worst part of feeling lonely as gay people is that the pressure will come constantly with no one else to share with. Talking about heterosexuality is easy but talking about homosexuality with other people is not that easy. This is due to the fact that there is a belief that the only existing and dominant sexuality is heterosexuality in society. Just a little mistake, then rejection and bullying will be waiting in front of the eyes and it will be a problem. Things like the difficulty of keeping secrets, not being able to talk about their true feelings, not being able to be honest and open to others, not being able to even be honest with themselves and feelings of wanting to explode are things that people with homosexuality have to deal with. The reason is simple. This is because they cannot talk about their homosexuality in public.

Afraid of Bullying and Harassment

Bullying and harassment are things gay students will experience when

their true sexual identity is revealed, whether it is expressed by themselves or someone else. Likewise with Russell, he desperately hides his sexual identity as gay because he knows full well that there will be big problems if other people find out the truth. Unfortunately, someone has leaked his secret to the public and it causes Russell to panic a lot.

¹⁸
“Is it true?” he said.
“Is what true?” I said
“That you’re a fag.”
I felt my blood flash-freeze.
(Hartinger, 2003: 114).

Being exposed as a gay student in high school is the worst thing that has happened to Russell. That means, he will not have anyone to listen to him anymore because he understands so well that everyone will banish him. After this, Russell will face homophobic taunts and insults from other students because of the fact that his true sexual identity has been revealed. What is experienced by Russell is related to the heteronormative pressures that occur in his school environment. People are reluctant to talk to gay students because gay students are seen as unnatural and abnormal by society. In addition, if someone approaches a gay student, then he or she will also be labeled as gay and lose his

reputation in school. Basically, Russell really is at his worst.

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Now they were looking at me with pity or contempt—mostly contempt. As for the teachers, they no longer had glints in their eyes when they talked to me; now they had little quivers of hesitation. (Hartinger, 2003: 116).

In fact, Russell is not only lost the respect of the other students at the school but also lost the good reputation he has ³⁶ in the eyes of the teachers. This indicates that the teachers also believe in heterosexism and do not have the good intentions of associating with gay students. Basically, teachers do not want to interact much with gay students because they are afraid that they will be branded as defending the abnormality that occurs at school. In addition, teachers may lose their jobs if they are kind to gay students. This condition is again caused by the existence of heteronormative pressure in schools. These things are causing Russell to be at his lowest point now. Not only that, other students start making fun of him for being gay

“Jesus, Middlebrook,” Nate said, as if I hadn’t spoken at all. “What were you doin’ back there? Waitin’ for your boyfriend?”

“Either that, or he’s lookin’ for something to eat,” Ramone said. “What about it, Middlebrook? Find any wieners?” (Hartinger, 2003: 120).

The bullying and harassment that Russell faces comes from people who do not know him very well. Due to the existence of heterosexism and homophobia, these people annoy Russell by saying that his boyfriend has not arrived yet. They deliberately choose the word boyfriend because the relationship between men and men is considered abnormal and against nature. This is one of the insults from homophobic people who deliberately want to attack gay people. In addition, the use of the word wiener is chosen to be associated with the genitals owned by men. Or in this case, this insult is devoted to Russell because he is more interested in the male genitalia. Obviously, this is harassment against gay people. This harassment stems from the heterosexism and homophobia that exists in society. Society upholds heteronormativity and forgets that sexuality is diverse.

“Cocksucker,” I heard Nate mumble.

I stood there in the stink of all that garbage, and I knew that I was finally, really, completely alone. (Hartinger, 2003: 121).

Lastly and not to forget, homophobic people spit words to emphasize that Russell is a worthless and despicable person at the same time meant as an act of disparagement and offense. In the end, Russell is completely left alone. He does not only lose his honor and reputation at school, but also lose his friends for being gay. This proves that the heteronormativity adopted by the society is still and is very strong so that it makes gay students tend to close themselves and not reveal their true sexual identity.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the problems in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that heteronormative pressure experienced by Russell tends to come from the environment and the people closest to him. Russell is well aware that if he reveals his sexual identity as gay, then his life will not be easy. He is very afraid to face the bullying that will be experienced at school. Not to mention the rejection that can come from his close friends and parents. Therefore, in the end he has decided to keep quiet and not reveal his true sexual identity to anyone. In addition, it is also a reflection that society in general is still unable to accept sexual orientation other than

heterosexual. People with different sexual orientations from the majority, such as homosexuals or gays, must desperately hide their true identities due to strong pressure from heteronormativity.

³⁵

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HETERONORMATIVE PRESSURE AGAINST GAY STUDENT IN BRENT HARTINGER'S GEOGRAPHY CLUB

ORIGINALITY REPORT

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