

**LILY SEARCH FOR SEXUAL IDENTITY IN
MALINDA LO'S *LAST NIGHT AT THE
TELEGRAPH CLUB***

A THESIS

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



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2024**

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Surabaya, 15 July 2024

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the journey of sexual identity discovery in Malinda Lo's novel *Last Night at The Telegraph Club*, focusing on the main character Lily, a Chinese American teenager in the 1950s. The writer of this study used qualitative and descriptive research methods to examine Lily's experiences. By employing Vivienne Cass's model of six stages of homosexual identity formation, the research examines how Lily manages her developing sexual identity in the middle of societal and familial pressures. However, in this study, only five stages are found in the main character's journey, as Lily does not reach the stage of pride due to external rejections and societal pressures. This study highlights the intersection of cultural expectations and sexual identity, illustrating the importance of supportive communities on self-acceptance. Lily's story portrays the ongoing challenges faced by homosexual individuals in conservative societies, emphasizing the need for broader societal acceptance and change. Through this research, the study aims to contribute to the understanding of sexual identity development and the critical importance of supportive environments for homosexual individuals.

Keywords: *homosexuality, homosexual acceptance, homosexual identity development, sexual identity*