

**DADE HAMILTON'S CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT  
AS AN OPEN HOMOSEXUAL IN NICK BURD'S  
*THE VAST FIELDS OF ORDINARY***

**THESIS**

**BY  
ERMY DYAH AYU AGUSTINA  
NIM 0911110157**



**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH  
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA  
2014**

## ABSTRACT

Agustina, Ermy Dyah Ayu. 2013. **Dade Hamilton's Character Development as an Open Homosexual in Nick Burd's *The Vast Fields of Ordinary***. Study Program of English, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Dyah Eko Hapsari. Co-supervisor: Aris Siswanti.

Keyword: character development, homosexuality, social psychology.

Homosexuals are a part of a minor community referred as LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender). They are discriminated and physically and verbally oppressed because of their abnormal sexual behaviors. These cause a negative impact on the LGBT teenagers for they become too afraid to reveal their true identities. *The Vast Fields of Ordinary* depicts the life of a teenager named Dade Hamilton and his development as a homosexual and how he deals with identity crisis. This study aims at finding the roles of external factors that influence Dade's character development.

Social psychology approach is used to analyze the external factors that influence Dade's thought and behavior. Interpersonal relationship, group dynamics, and identity development theories are used to support the analysis. Theories regarding homosexuality in a social psychology context are used to examine his identity development as a homosexual and how the status affects his social life.

The results of this study reveals that there are four factors that influence Dade's character development: peers, family, lover and group. They give positive influences to his traits and help him to be more mature and overcome his identity crisis. As a result, he can finally reveal his true identity and live as an open homosexual.

The writer suggests English Department students to do a research on LGBT-themed literature using either Cass Identity Model that describes the stages of lesbian/gay identity development or Fassinger's theory that explores the two processes and four phases of gay identity development. She hopes that doing this study can raise the awareness of the existence of LGBT people in society and decrease the level of discrimination against them.

## ABSTRAK

Agustina, Ermy Dyah Ayu. 2013. **Perkembangan Karakter Dade Hamilton sebagai Seorang Homoseksual dalam Novel *The Vast Fields of Ordinary* Karya Nick Burd**. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: (I) Dyah Eko Hapsari (II) Aris Siswanti

Kata Kunci: perkembangan karakter, homoseksualitas, sosial psikologi.

Kaum homoseksual adalah bagian dari suatu kelompok minoritas yang sekarang dikenal dengan istilah kelompok LGBT (*Lesbian, Gay, Biseksual* dan *Transgender*). Perilaku seksual yang dianggap bertentangan dengan sistem heteroseksual membuat mereka kerap mendapat perlakuan diskriminatif, baik secara fisik maupun verbal. Hal ini berdampak negatif bagi para remaja homoseksual karena mereka menjadi takut untuk menunjukkan jati diri mereka yang sebenarnya. Novel *The Vast Fields of Ordinary* menceritakan tentang perkembangan karakter Dade Hamilton sebagai seorang remaja homoseksual dan bagaimana ia mengatasi krisis identitas. Dalam studi ini penulis akan menjawab rumusan masalah dalam penelitian ini yaitu apa sajakah peran dari faktor-faktor eksternal yang mempengaruhi perkembangan karakter Dade.

Studi ini menggunakan pendekatan psikologi sosial untuk menganalisa bagaimana faktor-faktor eksternal tersebut mempengaruhi pola pikir dan tingkah laku Dade. Teori hubungan interpersonal, dinamika kelompok dan perkembangan identitas digunakan untuk mendukung analisa data. Teori terkait homoseksualitas dilihat dari kajian psikologi sosial digunakan untuk menganalisa perkembangan karakter tokoh utama dan bagaimana status sebagai seorang homoseksual mempengaruhi kehidupannya.

Hasil studi menunjukkan bahwa ada empat faktor yang mempengaruhi perubahan karakter Dade, yakni teman, keluarga, kekasih, dan kelompok. Mereka memiliki peran penting dalam mengubah Dade menjadi pribadi yang lebih positif dan dewasa. Mereka juga membantunya mengatasi krisis identitas hingga akhirnya ia bisa menjalani hidup tanpa harus menyembunyikan jati dirinya sebagai seorang homoseksual.

Penulis menyarankan kepada mahasiswa jurusan sastra untuk melakukan penelitian tentang masalah LGBT dengan menggunakan Model Identitas Cass yang memaparkan tahapan-tahapan perkembangan identitas seorang *lesbian/gay* atau teori milik Fassinger yang menjelaskan dua proses dan empat tahapan perkembangan identitas *gay*. Penulis berharap penelitian ini dapat meningkatkan kesadaran akan keberadaan kaum LGBT dalam masyarakat dan mengurangi tingkat diskriminasi yang mereka alami.

## REFERENCES

- Age: A Psychodynamic Understanding of Life Stages.* (n.d.). Retrieved October 8, 2013, from <http://www.scribd.com/doc/104571945/Age-a-Psychodynamic-Understanding-of-Life-Stages-Erikson>
- Beard, K.W., & Hissam, Amy. (n.d.). *The Use of Erikson's Developmental Theory with Gay Men from Rural Communities.* West Virginia: Marshall University.
- Burd, Nick. (2009). *The Vast Fields of Ordinary.* New York: Dial Books.
- Carlson, Karen. (2010). *Interpersonal Relationship.* Retrieved March 7, 2013, from <http://www.karlsoncounterculture.blogspot.com/2010/03/32510-word-post-interpersonal.html>
- D'Augelli, Anthony R., & Patterson, Charlotte J. (1995). *Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identities over the Lifespan: Psychological Perspectives.* New York: Oxford University Press.
- D'Augelli, Anthony R., & Patterson, Charlotte J. (2001). *Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identities and Youth.* New York: Oxford University Press.
- Delamater, John. (2006). *Handbook of Social Psychology.* Wisconsin: Springer Science+Business Media, LLC.
- Drescher, Jack. (2007). The Psychology of the Closeted Individual and Coming Out. *Paradigm*, p. 16-17. Retrieved September 19, 2012, from [www.sequeltsi.com/files/library/Closeted\\_and\\_Coming\\_Out.pdf](http://www.sequeltsi.com/files/library/Closeted_and_Coming_Out.pdf)
- Dwyer, Diana. (2000). *Interpersonal Relationship.* London: Routledge.
- Forsyth, Donelson R. (2010). *Group Dynamic.* California: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.
- Gay Teenagers and Depression.* (n.d.). Retrieved October 24, 2012, from [AllPsychologyCareers.com](http://AllPsychologyCareers.com).
- Herek, Gregory M. (1991). *Stigma, Prejudice, and Violence Against Lesbians and Gay Men.* California: University of California at Davis.
- Identity Formation in Adolescence. (2002). *ACT for Youth The Upstate Center of Excellence.* New York: Cornell University.

- McLeod, Saul. (2007). *Social Psychology*. Retrieved February 27, 2013, from <http://www.simplypsychology.org/social-psychology.html>
- Reis, Harry T., & Sprecher, Susan. (2009). *Encyclopedia of Human Relationship Volume 1-3*. California: SAGE Publication, Inc.
- Ryan, Caitlin, et al. (2010). Family Acceptance in Adolescence and the Health of LGBT Young Adults. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing*. Volume 23, Number 4, November. Retrieved October 28, 2013, from [familyproject.sfsu.edu/files/FAP\\_Family%Acceptance\\_JCAPN.pdf](http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/files/FAP_Family%Acceptance_JCAPN.pdf)
- Ryder, N.B. (1965). *The Cohort as a Concept in the Study of Social Change*. Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin.
- significant other. (n.d.). *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Retrieved October 7, 2013, from [http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/significant other](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/significant%20other)
- Syahrial, Tommy. (2012). *Personality Development of Landon Carter in His Adolescence Period in Nicholas Sparks' A Walk to Remember*. Malang: Universitas Brawijaya.
- Testo, Robin. (n.d.). *Friendship and Friends: The Study of Friendship and the Rules to Maintain It*. Western Connecticut State University. Retrieved from [people.wcsu.edu/mccarneyh/acad/testo.html](http://people.wcsu.edu/mccarneyh/acad/testo.html)
- Thamrin, Melissa. (2011). *Analyzing Kurt Hummel in "Glee" Television Series Using Queer Theory*. Jakarta: Bina Nusantara University.
- Valentini, Veronica & Nisfiannoor, M. (2006). Identity Achievement dengan Intimacy pada Remaja SMA. *Jurnal Provitae*, Volume 2, No. 1. Retrieved February 21, 2013, from [www.books.google.com/books?id=OVODLXSI4RoC](http://www.books.google.com/books?id=OVODLXSI4RoC)