

TRANSGENDER IN JULIE ANNE PETERS' *LUNA*

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Abstrak

Transgender mengacu pada imajinasi terluas dari praktek dan identitas variasi gender. Karangan Julie Anne Peters, *Luna* mempersempit cerita tentang transgender remaja dari lensa orang normal. Karya sastra ini memiliki banyak konflik yang dialami oleh transgender. Konflik-konflik itu menimbulkan tiga masalah utama, (1) Bagaimana transgender direfleksikan di *Luna*, (2) Apa saja penyebab menjadi transgender di *Luna*, (3) Apa saja dampak menjadi transgender di *Luna*. Data studi ini diambil dari novel sebagai sumber utama dan membaca secara intensif untuk ke tahap selanjutnya yaitu analisis. Konsep yang digunakan untuk mengungkap masalah pertama adalah kriteria diagnosa untuk gangguan identitas gender yang dikutip dari *The Diagnostic Manual and Mental Disorder, Fourth Edition* (2000). Untuk menjawab masalah kedua dan ketiga, studi ini menggunakan teori transgender oleh Susan Stryker. Selain itu, studi ini menggunakan penelitian perpustakaan, analisis, dan deskripsi. Penelitian perpustakaan digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data yang dibutuhkan. Analisis digunakan untuk menganalisis data yang telah dikumpulkan berdasarkan pada teori. Deskripsi digunakan untuk mendeskripsikan hasil dari analisis. Hasil dari analisis refleksi transgender di *Luna* memenuhi kriteria diagnosa untuk gangguan identitas gender yang terdiri dari empat gangguan. Analisis penyebab menjadi transgender di *Luna* menemukan bahwa Liam O'Neill adalah contoh dari variasi XYY kromosom, penyebab lainnya adalah budaya dan struktur otak. Analisis dampak transgender di *Luna* menemukan adanya dampak positif dan negatif. Walaupun Liam O'Neill adalah objek penganiayaan dan memiliki gangguan kegelisahan berlebihan, dia peduli pada Luna dan mencapai tujuan hidupnya, yaitu menjadi perempuan di dalam dan di luar.

Kata Kunci: Transgender, Gangguan Identitas Gender, Gender.

Abstract

Transgender refers to the widest imaginable range of gender-variant practices and identities. Julie Anne Peters' *Luna* presents the story of transgender teen through the lens of a straight. This literature work has many conflicts that transgender people experienced. It is raised three major problems, (1) How is transgender reflected in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna*, (2) What are the causes of becoming transgender in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna*, and (3) What are the impacts of being transgender in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna*. The data of the study is taken from the novel as main source and intensive reading to the next step of analysis. The used concept to reveal first statement of problem is diagnostic criteria for gender identity disorder cited from *The Diagnostic Manual and Mental Disorder, Fourth Edition* (2000). To answer the second and the third problems, the study used theory of transgender by Susan Stryker. Moreover, the study used library research, analysis, and description. Library research is used to college data needed. An analysis is used to analyze the collected data based on the theory. Description is used to describe the result of analysis. The result of the analysis of transgender reflection in *Luna* completing the diagnostic criteria for gender identity disorder which contains four disturbances. The analysis of causes becoming transgender in *Luna* finds out that Liam O'Neill is an example of XYY variation of chromosomes, other causes are culture and brain structure. The analysis of impacts being transgender in *Luna* finds out the positive and negative impacts. Though Liam O'Neill is an object of abusing and getting anxiety disorder, he concerns with Luna and reaches his goal in life, that is being girl inside and outside.

Keywords: Transgender, Gender Identity Disorder, Gender.

INTRODUCTION

Sex and gender are complex issues. Sex refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women; while gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women. People who could not play roles as their assigned gender, categorized as gender identity disorder. In other words, gender identity disorder is feelings of unhappiness or distress about the incongruence between the gender signifying parts of one's body, one's gender identity, and one's social gender (a condition sometimes called "gender dysphoria") (Stryker, 2008: 13).

Susan Stryker states that transgender refers to the widest imaginable range of gender-variant practices and identities (Stryker, 2008: 19). Transgender is frequently used to describe a broad range of identities and experiences that fall outside of the traditional understanding of gender. Therefore, in addition to those people who wish to transition from one gender to another or have done so (who are often described by the clinical term "transsexual"), *transgender* often is meant to encompass a larger community that includes, for example cross-dressers and intersex individuals. Some transgender people prefer to describe themselves as gender variant or gender nonconforming. Gender variant is behavior or gender expression that does not match the gender roles set for males and females.

Hereafter, transgender has been depicted in literature. One of literary form is novel. A novel which narrates transgender is included in young adult literature or used to call YA novel. Julie Anne Peters is one of YA author. Peters said, "Young adult literature is all about experimentation and risk-taking. There are no rules, no limitations, no literary expectations to overcome." She is critically-acclaimed, award winning author of more than a dozen books for young adults and children. She has been writing since September 30, 1989. Her book, *Luna*, was a National Book Award Finalist; *Keeping You a Secret* was named a Stonewall Honor Book; *Between Mom and Jo* won a Lambda Literary Award; and *Define "Normal"* was voted by young readers as their favorite book of the year in California and Maryland.

Peters in fact is a lesbian. "Yes, I am gay and/or lesbian. (Does that make me twice as queer?) When did I know? The moment I fell in love with a girl. I think I always knew; just never acknowledged it." She has been together with her partner, Sherri Leggett for more than thirty years. She cognizes the differences between transgender and homosexual but never perceives of being born transgender. Thus, *Luna* is a challenge for Peters to discover character of transgender.

Luna is young adult novel to thoroughly capture the trials and tribulations faced by teenager with gender identity disorder, as narrated through the perspective of a family member. The novel is narrated and centered mostly on Regan O'Neill, a "genetic girl" or "g-girl" who desperately tries to understand and protect her brother, Liam, as he begins his transition into Luna, his true female self. After years of struggle, Luna is ready to start taking steps, small then tremendous, to make her inside reality an outside reality. In terms of *Luna's* narrative structure, the plot is told through Regan's real-time experiences, and also through a series of flashbacks that are triggered as she witnesses Liam's struggle to unleash Luna. Peters admits, "I'm not trans. I never will be. My authenticity bias couldn't be compromised. To be authentic and honest, the narrator, the main character, would need to act in the role of observer. I decided to create a sister for Luna, Regan. Regan would be Luna's confidante throughout life and in manifestations of being born transgender."

Thus, according to the background of the study above, it raises three statements of problems.

1. How is transgender reflected in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna*?
2. What are the causes of becoming transgender in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna*?
3. What are the impacts of being transgender in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna*?

RESEARCH METHOD

To assist and strengthen the data to be analyzed, it will use a concept of diagnostic criteria for gender identity disorder which is cited from *The Diagnostic Manual and Mental Disorder, Fourth Edition* (2000). To analyze the causes of becoming transgender and the impacts of being transgender will be revealed with theory of transgender by Susan Stryker.

The main source of the study is taken from *Luna*, a young adult literature by Julie Anne Peters which is copied by Little, Brown and Company at 2008. The data collection is taken from *Luna* as main source, including the quotations, phrases, dialogues, monologues, prologue, or epilogue in which reveal thought, speech, action, behavior, and attitude that reflect transgender.

There are some steps for conducting this study. First, close reading of the Julie Anne Peters' *Luna* to determine the major issue in it. The major issue is collected and proposed into a topic of study by seeing the conflict, the dialogue, and the expressions of the characters in novel. After the topic is decided, the way of analyzing is figured

out. Thus it is collected three statements of problems. They are: how is transgender reflected, what are the causes of becoming transgender, and what are the impacts of being transgender in *Luna*. The next step is searching related information about diagnostic criteria for gender identity disorder and theory of transgender by Susan Stryker. The synchronization of analysis is arranged to get the conclusion.

ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

This study analyzes transgender in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna* based on three statements of problems. The first analysis reveals the reflection of transgender in *Luna* using concept of diagnostic criteria for gender identity disorder. The second analysis reveals the causes of becoming transgender and the third analysis reveals the impacts of being transgender in *Luna* using theory of transgender by Susan Stryker.

Reflection of Transgender in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna*

Prior to further analysis, there are two things that need to be discussed in *Luna*'s cover book. One of them is picture of butterfly on the woman shoulder. Here, butterfly can be regarded as symbol of transition because Liam as male character is transforming into girl. The word 'butterfly' also appears frequently in the novel confirms Liam transition, "Like a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis, I thought. An exquisite and delicate creature, unfolding her wings and flying away. Except in *Luna*'s case, the butterfly is forced to rein in her wings and reinsert herself into the cocoon every day. Every single day, she has to become this shell of a person." (Peters, 2004: 223) Hereafter, there is also a sentence saying that 'everything is about to change' in the cover. This sentence is warning that all will change. Liam O'Neill as transgender character in *Luna* is going to do plastic surgery, becoming girl inside and outside.

Reflection of transgender is analyzed using *The Diagnostic Manual and Mental Disorder, Fourth Edition (2000)* about the diagnostic criteria for gender identity disorder. The first diagnostic criteria for gender identity disorder is strong and persistent cross-gender identification (not merely a desire for any perceived cultural advantages of being the other sex). The first identification is repeatedly stated desire to be, or insistence that he or she is the other sex. In the chapter three of *Luna*, Liam O'Neill states, "No one will ever know the person I am inside. The true me. The girl, the woman." (Peters, 2004: 39) When he mentions "the true me" and "the girl" after it, he tries to explain about he is girl inside of boy's body. "No one will ever know" can

both mean that people won't understand or people won't see the true of him. If people cannot see the true of him, they won't understand Liam's willing of being girl inside and outside.

"No, it's nothing like that. I'm not sick. I'm [...] a girl." (Peters, 2004: 328) the words "not sick" mean Liam knowing his mental is sane. He is not crazy. But he is something else, he is girl. He repeats "I'm a girl" frequently, "That's it. I'm a girl." Peters, 2004: 329) He convinces Alyson, Liam's bestfriend who has felt in love to Liam that he is not a boy that Aly's expected. Aly and Liam has been neighbor their entire life and she thinks that Liam is joking. But Liam insists, "No joke. I'm a trans girl. A T-girl. The way you're genetic girl, a G-girl." (Peters, 2004: 330) Words "the way you're [...]" mean that Liam wants the same degree. As T-girl, he wants the same respect and treatment as G-girl. But Aly cannot understand Liam's insistence and Liam does not give up, "My name is Luna," he said softly. "I want you to know me. The real me." (Peters, 2004: 331) Afterward he transforms his look into Luna by cross-dressing to confirm his self-identity to Alyson.

However, Liam chooses other name for his other sex "Lia Marie" in sixth grade. It is when he cannot resist the girl inside anymore. He cross-dresses and represents that girl as Lia Marie. After years, his transformation is done at midnight and he chooses new name. It is Luna, a girl who can only be seen by moonlight. This name states his desire to be the other sex.

The second strong and persistent cross-gender identification is transgender boy preference for cross-dressing or simulating female attire. According to National Center for Transgender Equality in Washington (2009: 3), transgender people experience a persistent and authentic difference between our assigned sex and our understanding of our own gender. For some people, this leads to emotional distress. This pain often can be relieved by freely expressing our genders, wearing clothing we are comfortable in, and, for some, making a physical transition from one gender to another. But transgender boy wears dress will invite violence of society. Girls find it to be a threat to them. (Cheryl, 2012) Girls grow up in competition with each other for everything from clothing, appearance, attention. Therefore, if boys look better in certain style, they are enemy. However, before Liam admits his identity, Alyson sees him this way, "I thought he was going to tell me he was gay. I mean it's okay if he's gay. Gay people get married, right? They have kids. He could change." (Peters, 2004: 331) As a friend, she does not see Liam as an enemy as other girls do, but it is a deviation. She has known Liam's ability and kindness therefore she cannot

judge Liam as a threat. She tries to see the positive side of Liam. Although, Alyson wants Liam for getting normal in time.

It is different with boy's view. Hoyt Doucet, Liam's classmate sees him as disgrace. Hoyt has feeling that Liam is kind of fag or homosexual or gay. When Luna appears with dress at school, Hoyt smacks her. He yells, "You fucking pervert!" and "Perv! You're a perv. I always knew it." Boy is known for masculinity, the opposite will invite violence. The violence is protest over things that should not be.

In sixth grade, Liam is caught for simulating female attire for the first time. He combines clothes and jewelry as he imagined. Until he becomes used to with cross-dressing, "A girl, dressed in jeans and a velour top. The girl's cheeks were flushed, partly from blusher and partly embarrassment. Light blue eye shadow. Pale pink lip gloss. Nothing garish or outrageous. She'd styled the blonde wig in a ponytail to match Aly's." (Peters, 2004: 342) Liam practices dressing every night at Regan's room. He keeps many dresses in Regan's cupboard so that parents won't know. He is so careful with stuffs because cross-dressing is a way that Liam can be himself. It freely expresses his female identity.

She'd chosen blonde wig tonight. It did go well with the red dress, though. She caught me for looking at her and smiled. "I'm going to run for prom queen, too." (Peters, 2004: 8)

From quotation above, words "prom queen" mean that the dress will fit Liam's fantasies for prom night. This is precisely with the third strong and persistent cross-gender identification which is strong and persistent for cross-sex role in make believe play or persistent fantasies of being the other sex. Liam dreams going to prom again the other night, "Know what I'd really like, Re? What I'd love is to go to the prom as me, In my own dress. Get my hair and nails done. Rent a limo. Rent a date." (Peters, 2004: 259) Liam has an extensive imagination about being girl. He imagines about prom night which he never attends to. It needs strong willing to imagine the situation and clearly explains his desires to be other sex. Other example is Liam imagining his breast in C cup, "It wouldn't fit anyway. I'm at least a C cup." (Peters, 2004: 10) He obviously plays as the other sex many times. It fulfills his desire. As National Center for Transgender Equality in Washington states that (2009: 7), cross-dressers wear the clothing generally associated with the opposite gender because it gives them a sense of happiness and fulfillment.

The fourth strong and persistent cross-gender identification is intense desire to participate in the

stereotypical games and pastimes of the other sex. This criteria is diagnosed in Regan's slumber party. Liam wants to participate so badly. After reasoned for taste-test for pizza, he comes back for getting a book. When Aly shows her multicolored toenails to Liam, he breathes and comments, "Cool." That comment gives Liam pass ticket to join the slumber party, "Come here. Take off your shoes." (Peters, 2004: 79) He absolutely loves having her nails polished. Regan knows that Liam often polishes his own nails, "There's always polish around her cuticles, Aly." (Peters, 2004: 334) The word "her" refers to Luna. Therefore he is so happy joining the party. Excitement is often associated with forgetting oneself and losing control. The change is visible and noticeable when Liam throws his arms in the air, begins to gyrate his hips in double, triple time to the beat, then sings in a falsetto to match Madonna's song. It is clear that Liam is intense to participate girls' slumber party which is identification his persistent cross-gender.

It is also diagnosed when Liam plays Samantha doll. He wants mother role intensely. He persuades Regan to play as Dad, "Wait, Re. You be the daddy. Daddies are cool. You can come home with a surprise for Mommy. Like you won a million dollars, so you bought me a new house and a car. Better yet – you can pretend my Big Wheel is a Harley. Vroom, vroom." (Peters, 2004: 13) This is happened when Liam is sixth years old. Young Liam admires Daddy but he wants to be the one who gets surprise and privileged like Mommy. When Liam is the mommy, he dresses and redresses the baby or the Samantha doll. This attitude is obviously the desire of Liam for passing time as the other sex.

The fifth strong and persistent cross-gender identification is strong preference for playmates of the other sex. Liam has no boyfriends, her mother admits it, "He has lots of friends. They all just happen to be girls. What's wrong with that?" (Peters, 2004: 27) As a matter of fact, Liam wants to play with the opposite sex, therefore he asks often times about Chris who is near to Regan, "Let's talk about something cheery. Tell me about your hottie new boyfriend." (Peters, 2004: 425) He tries for knowing every particular object about dating. He keeps asking like, "Where'd you go last night?", "What did you see?", and "Are you going out again with him?" (Peters, 2004: 425-426) It is obvious that Liam desires dating with boy, "Chris doesn't have a brother, does he?" (Peters, 2004: 259)

Liam grabs his penis and starts to pull. "Take it off," he says, almost in whisper. He slishes toward Katie and repeats, "Take it off." (Peters, 2004: 393)

The second diagnostic criteria for gender identity disorder is assertion that his penis or testes are disgusting or will disappear or assertion that it would be better having no penis, or aversion toward rough-and-tumble play and rejection of male stereotypical toys, games, and activities. In quotation above, Liam tries to take the penis off. He disgusts his own genital after he considers that his genital ain't same with girls. He keeps asking "take it off" to his mother while he does not know how. Liam is punished and locked at home because he acts abnormal by whimpering to take his penis off. Then, Liam's mother finds him with a knife in hand and bleeding penis. She runs Liam to hospital, entrusting Regan to her neighbor, but she tells lie, "He cut his... his leg. Will you watch Regan?" (Peters, 2004: 395) It is clear that Liam thinks better to cut his penis rather than have it. He rejects his assigned sex.

She was crying so hard, she was hyperventilating.

"He m-made me try out," Luna gulped a breath and straightened. "He actually came to school and met me after class. I didn't think he even knew my schedule." She wiped her nose. "I suppose he could've gotten it from office." (Peters, 2004: 135-136)

The crying proves that Liam is shock. Word "he" refers to Liam's father. In this case, it is Luna who is oppressed with Father's measure. As the girl inside, Luna does not like male activity. "And he sat in the bleachers the whole time, so I couldn't leave," this makes her cannot reject that Baseball try out. While she holds her feeling all day, it makes her depressed. It is obvious that Liam cannot participate with rough-and-tumble game of boys, it is torture his female identity.

The third diagnostic criteria for gender identity disorder is the disturbance of being transgender that is not concurrent with a physical intersex condition. Liam desires to be girl but he does not have girl's hormone which makes him growing breast and menstruate. He has penis instead. It forces Liam to transition, "It won't go away. No matter how much I wish, or pray, she's always with me. She is me. I am her. I want to be her. I want to be Luna." (Peters, 2004: 40) The word "it" refers to Luna, Liam sees Luna as thing to describe her who is caged in him. When Liam says "she", "her", "Luna"; he puts back his priority of his identity which will always be his concern. Thus, he decides to do Sex Reassignment Surgery to have the concurrent physical, "Oh, Re. I have to transition. I don't care how much it costs. I have to transition now." (Peters, 2004: 137)

The fourth diagnostic criteria for gender identity disorder is the disturbance causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning. The first social

impairment is school. He is smart and becoming teacher's favorite, but his boy role does not quite deceive his classmate. One of Liam's classmates, Hoyt Doucet suspects him as fag. Fag refers to a gay man. People often misinterpret between homosexual and transgender. Hoyt misinterprets Liam as a fag and ambushes him, "Liam had had to leave for school half an hour early his whole eighth grade year to avoid being ambushed by Hoyt Doucet." (Peters, 2004: 47) It is clear that Liam is not pleasant with school life.

The second social impairment is home. Liam and his father never be in line. Liam's father wants him to be like every other kid, normal and happy. He thinks a little exercise will do Liam good, "Sports builds character, teamwork. He'll need that in life." (Peters, 2004: 185) Liam's father worries that Liam does not idolize him like how he idolized his father years ago. The worst is he afraid that his son is gay. But Liam does not like sports and he definitely is not a gay, "Dad, I'm a transsexual." (Peters, 2004: 383) Liam's father feels revulsion to his son. Liam continues, "Like I said, I'm a transsexual. TS, if you prefer. I was supposed to be a girl, and I am, but I was born in the wrong body. Think of it as a birth anomaly." (Peters, 2004: 385) This statement destroys father and son relationship. Liam's father thinks Liam is sick. But Liam respects his father still, "Dad is my hero. Doesn't he know that? I feel like I spend my whole life trying to prove it." (Peters, 2004: 190) He does not want disappointed his father but he cannot resist being a boy forever. Moreover, he wishes for being Regan, a girl that he knows pretty inside and outside, "Don't you know, you're the girl I always wanted to be." (Peters, 2004: 428) Therefore, he cannot match with his father at home.

In fact, Liam is 18 years old and has right to choose his path of life. He will do Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) in Seattle for a year. He sets everything by himself so that he can get the most things that he wanted the whole time, becoming girl inside and outside. It is match with the disturbance manifested by symptoms such as preoccupation with getting rid of primary and secondary characteristic.

The Causes of Becoming Transgender in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna*

Many experts believe that biological factors such as genetic influences and prenatal hormone levels, early experiences in a person's family of origin, and other social influences can all contribute to the development of transgender behaviors and identities. However, biologists tell that sex is a complicated matter. In this case, Liam O'Neill as transgender character in *Luna* can be an example of XYY variation of chromosomes. He is unable to respond to testosterone, therefore he cannot interest to

female. This variation is part of natural order. Liam's mother may be done something unworthy while pregnancy so that Liam is genetically different and identified as transgender. Since it is literature work, the background of biological differences and natural order cannot be analyzed.

Different cultures also vary in their definitions of masculine and feminine. Some cultures look at people and see six genders, while others see two. Some cultures have created specific ways for people to live in roles that are different from that assigned to them at birth. The society in *Luna* accepts two genders. Regan O'Neill, Liam's sister states, "The gender scales didn't extend equidistant in both directions. For example, if you were a girl you could be off-the-scale feminine and that'd be fine, but if you acted or felt just a little too masculine, you were a dyke. Same for guys. Mucho macho, fine. Soft and gentle, fag. What if you happened to be born off both scales, between scales, like Liam? Then you were just a freak." (Peters, 2004: 93) Since people accept two genders, masculine and feminine, therefore transgender invites harassment. *Luna* tells the harassment that Liam experienced. People at West Meadows Mall recognize him as fag or transvestite and chase him, "Fag. Hey, Fag! Yo. Fag." (Peters, 2004: 166) People at Taco Bell restaurant notice Liam is boy wearing dress and their expressions are disgusting and loathing. Not again Hoyt Doucet, Liam's classmate who smacks Luna while she comes to school with dress and also rips off her wig.

However, gender is followed by language. Pretty is a word for girls. The way handsome describes boys. People do use boy and girl language. It is one line which cannot be crossed as same as clothing, behavior, and attitude. Those make transgender people does not fit anywhere, "I know that's how Liam felt. He told me once there was no place for him in the world." (Peters, 2004: 93)

According to National Center for Transgender Equality in Washington (2009: 1), there are links between transgender identity and brain structure. Transgender people build their perspective, "He was a girl all the time, inside. It was hardwired into his brain, he said, the way intelligence or memory is. His body didn't reflect his inner image. His body betrayed him." (Peters, 2004: 93-94) It is obvious that there are people who are aware that they are transgender from their earliest memories. Many trans-people feel that their gender identity is an innate part of them, an integral part of who they were born to be.

The Impacts of being Transgender in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna*

Many transgender people spent years being marginally employed because of other's people's discomfort, ignorance, and prejudice. Liam O'Neill is

high school student. He does not have to work. But in fact he has more than one job. Liam is brainiac therefore he does not have to work among people, "This company, Games People Play or something stupid like that, downloaded beta versions of all the new games their cyber-heads created, then sicced Liam on them. It was his job to play all the levels, to evaluate them, rate their fun factor, graphics, ease or difficulty of user interaction. Most of what he spent time on was seeing if he could crash the system. And he usually did. It got to where the geeks were asking him to look at the code and fix bugs. The company paid him megabucks to do this. Their kid wizard, they called him." (Peters, 2004: 62) A transgender social justice movement is one that addresses the specific kinds of problems transgender people can face in the world, by seeing them as structurally related to problems of racism, poverty, and other systematic injustices. Liam has not problems with racism, poverty, etc by working at home. This is one positive thing for being transgender who was born genius.

Liam's other job was building PCs, copier, scanner, fax for people. His job makes him able to buy a new Mitsubishi Eclipse Spider, sterling silver metallic, and convertible. This is another positive thing that happened to Liam though he is a transgender. Yet, transitioning made relationship with many friends and relatives more difficult. Since Liam decides to do plastic surgery, Regan has to accompany him with his planning. Liam has to do it because if he may live a lifetime in which he never feels congruence between the body and the sense of self, he may be depressed and unhappy, or even suicidal. He chooses this in opportunity to be able to dress, live or work as comfortable as he wants. For the beginning, Liam wants to show up as Luna in public. Regan helps Liam though as compensation she cannot have her own life. Instead, Regan loses her job as babysitter of Materas' children because Liam cannot hold his desire for cross-dressing as Luna in Materas' house. For once, Regan is selfish, "He was always there, invading, interfering, ruining my chances for any kind of ordinary existence." (Peters, 2004: 301)

Then Regan thinks, "What about what I wanted?" it reveals that she is tired of babysitting Liam all the time. She wants ordinary life such as, regular family because Liam cannot be called brother meanwhile he is more like sister. Regan wants a circle of friends, a best friend, a boyfriend, but she cannot handle it because she has to keep Luna's secret, "Just once, I wanted to able to hold a conversation with a person without having to watch every word I said." (Peters, 2004: 301) But Regan is a caring person. When Liam is going to Seattle for Sex Reassignment Surgery, she understands him more. The decision of plastic surgery has freed both of them. Though

she will lose her brother but she knows Luna is happy, "More than anything in the world, I wanted my brother to be happy." (Peters, 2004: 432)

Liam's relationship to his parents, best friend, and classmate are not the same after he admits as transsexual or T-girl. In eighteenth birthday, Liam asks for father and mother's blessing to be Luna the rest of his life. His father does not approve it, "Not in my house you don't. Not if I can help it." (Peters, 2004: 387) Words "not if I can help it" mean Liam's father willing to restore Liam as macho male. While his father says "not in my house", he won't let Liam dressing as girl under his supervision. Liam's father threatens that if Liam gets out from house with dress, Liam does not have to bother coming back. Liam's father wants his son back, he does the one and only he can do, threatening, "I mean it Liam." (Peters, 2004: 388) He is powerless because Liam has money and very smart, therefore he only can threat him with his only shelter place, home. But Liam has strong will. Meanwhile, Liam's mother does not care with their debate. She takes care of her own job as wedding planner. In fact, Liam's mother has known Liam as cross-dresser and does not know what to do with it, "Yes, Mom's always known. She just hasn't known how to cope with it. Or me. Well, she did give me her favorite tapestry bag for my fourteenth birthday." (Peters, 2004: 420) Liam understands his mother's careless because her mother also does not stop him to be himself or Luna.

Liam's relationship to Alyson, Liam's best friend, has been wide apart since Liam's confession. At first, Alyson denies Liam being transgender. But she has been Liam's best friend since childhood. Therefore she tries harder to accept Luna. "Could we finish this game, please?" (Peters, 2004: 401) Aly comes to say happy birthday to Luna purposely, then she acts like everything is normal by asked for finishing the game like Liam is Luna all this time. "We have a game to finish," she said, then she comments of Luna's style that is sweater set. In Regan's view, Luna feels that she has her best friend again in better way, "Aly didn't acknowledge, but I could sense her smile. My heart burst apart with song. I loved Aly. I loved her more than I ever had. I loved her like a sister." (Peters, 2004: 402) Words "her smile" refer to Luna's smile. Then words "loved her more" and "loved he like a sister" refer to Alyson. Regan, as narrator, gratitudes to Alyson who has tried to accept Luna. It is clear that Liam's relationship to his best friend is good at last.

"Not. Hoyt Doucet. He was evil. Satan incarnate. I despised him so much. He'd been Liam's worst nightmare ever since the Doucets had moved in down the street a few years ago. Moved into Alyson's

house, as a matter of fact, when the Walshes upscaled. Liam had had to leave for school half an hour early his whole eighth grade year to avoid being ambushed by Hoyt Doucet." (Peters, 2004: 47)

The quotation above is proved that Hoyt Doucet, Liam's classmate hates Liam. He has felt that Liam is not normal, "Perv! You're a perv. I always knew it." (Peters, 2004: 360) But Liam is not to worry about Hoyt because they never be friend literally. He dresses at school just to test himself, and here Hoyt who gives negative reaction of it. "I had to test myself. To see if I could go through with it. I needed to know that I had the self-confidence, the will to do it every day," (Peters, 2004: 369) in fact, Hoyt action makes Liam stronger and raises his confidence.

It is obvious that transgender people become target of hate crime or object of abusing at their environments. A lifetime of this can be very challenging and sometimes cause anxiety disorders. But Liam is different. He picks plastic surgery as solution and starts life over, "This isn't good-bye. It's hello. I think of it as a new beginning because that's what it is for me. A rebirth." (Peters, 2004: 430) Therefore, Julie Anne Peters' *Luna* tells two sides of impacts, they are positive and negative. Although Liam is transgender and his father also classmate hate that fact, but he gets support from his mother, sister, and best friend. Moreover, Luna is his first priority to live the life.

CONCLUSION

There are some main conclusions about transgender in *Luna*, based on the analysis explained in the previous chapter. Transgender in *Luna* is divided into three statements of problems, reflection of transgender, the causes of becoming transgender, and the impacts of being transgender. The first problem is revealing with diagnostic criteria for gender identity disorder. Liam O'Neill, transgender character in *Luna*, is repeatedly stated desire to be girl. He states that he is girl often times and wears gender-atypical clothing or cross-dresses to fulfill the desire. He also picks Luna as his transition name and prefers to be called Luna when he is cross-dressing.

He is diagnosed for strong persistent for cross-sex role in make believe play or persistent fantasies of being the other sex through imagining be queen in prom night. He desires to participate in the stereotypical games of the other sex. It is diagnosed while Liam is playing Samantha doll and joining Slumber Party. Liam is interested to boy in a way of girls do, which is evidence of strong preference for playmates of the other sex. As transgender character, Liam disgusts his own genital and wants to take

it off. He also disgusts male activities. He is rejected by society because he cannot accept his assigned gender.

The causes of becoming transgender in *Luna* is analyzed in some aspects. One of them is some cultures have created specific ways for people to live in roles that are different from that assigned to them at birth. In addition, different cultures also vary in their definitions of masculine and feminine. Liam's environment accepts two genders, they are masculinity and femininity. Liam is between those, being masculine at day and feminine at night. He cannot be girl all the time because he was born in boy's body. Therefore it makes Liam becoming transgender and cross-dresser. His identity as transgender is linked to brain structure. His body does not reflect his inner image, betraying him. He is one of many transgender who feels gender identity is an innate part of them, an integral part of who he is born to be.

The impacts of being transgender in *Luna* is like two sides of the coin, they are positive and negative. The positive sides is Liam chooses homing job like game tester, building PCs, copier, scanner, fax for people therefore he does not have to meet people. It makes him rich but he has not have his biggest desire is to be girl inside and outside. He decides to transition. It made relationship with friends and relatives more difficult. But He gets support from his mother, his sister, and best friend though ain't with his father and classmate. Transgender people become target of hate crime and cause anxiety disorders. Liam is different, he does not experience it and his decision to do pastic surgery has freed him and Regan instead. In short, it needs strong willing to live as transgender because it is far from fixed expectations of masculinity and femininity. Priority can be helpful to live the life.

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