

Gender Trouble Einar Wegener in David Ebershoff's *The Danish Girl*

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Abstract

There are several gender cases that cannot be explained by common sense. People born with two genders (intersex), men who enjoy sex with men, men who engage in female activities, and even men who want to change transform their gender into a female. It shows where gender is involved. It also shows where you can change your gender. This is what happens to Einar in David Ebershoff's *The Danish Girl's*. The couple is a painter. Einar mainly paints landscapes, and Gerda mainly paints portraits. One day, Einar replaces Gerda's model, which is about to be painted. In this photo model of Lily, she feels Lily is his true personality. In this inner situation, Einar is involved in a conflict between herself as Einar and herself as Lily. These are part of him Einar is currently having double sex. He plays one as a man and Lily as a female. The main course of the novel most often reveals the story of men with two genders. Since Einar lives in a common society, he faces conflicts such as feelings of isolation from society and feelings other than herself. Einar indirectly implies a gender issue. It also explains that gender is not fixed, stable, or absolute. Lily must fight himself and the society. He was born with penis and the was built with male attributes. He followed and did what men had to do, such as changing clothes. But the moment he realized what he had lost, he couldn't escape. What he didn't know was the side of Lily in his body. This revelation and the decision to become Lily explain that gender is not stable. Final tossed male sex while another side of Lily pushed him into female sex in. Internally, he is not only fighting himself, but also a society with gender issues.

Keyword: gender, sex, transform, intersex.

Abstrak

Ada beberapa kasus gender yang tidak bisa dijelaskan dengan akal sehat. Orang yang lahir dengan dua jenis kelamin (interseks), laki-laki yang senang berhubungan seks dengan laki-laki, laki-laki yang melakukan aktivitas perempuan, bahkan laki-laki yang ingin mengubah jenis kelaminnya menjadi perempuan. Ini menunjukkan di mana gender terlibat. Ini juga menunjukkan di mana Anda dapat mengubah jenis kelamin Anda. Inilah yang terjadi pada Einar dalam *The Danish Girl's* karya David Ebershoff. Pasangan itu adalah seorang pelukis. Einar terbiasa melukis pemandangan dan Gerda melukis potret. Suatu hari, Einar menggantikan model Gerda yang akan dilukis. Dalam foto model Lily ini, dia merasa Lily adalah kepribadiannya yang sebenarnya. Dalam situasi ini, Einar terlibat dalam konflik antara dirinya sebagai Einar dan dirinya sebagai Lily. Ini adalah bagian dari diri Einar yang saat ini memiliki gender ganda. Dia berperan sebagai laki-laki dan Lily sebagai perempuan. Intisari novel ini sering mengungkapkan kisah pria dengan dua jenis kelamin. Karena Einar hidup dalam masyarakat biasa, ia menghadapi konflik seperti perasaan terisolasi dari masyarakat dan perasaan selain dirinya sendiri. Einar secara tidak langsung menyiratkan masalah gender. Hal ini juga menjelaskan bahwa gender tidak tetap, stabil, atau absolut. Lily harus berjuang sendiri dan masyarakat. Ia lahir dengan penis dan tumbuh dengan anatomi laki-laki. Dia mengikuti dan melakukan apa yang harus dilakukan pria, seperti berganti pakaian. Tetapi saat dia menyadari apa yang telah hilang darinya, dia tidak bisa melarikan diri. Apa yang dia tidak tahu adalah sisi Lily di tubuhnya. Pengungkapan dan keputusan menjadi Lily ini menjelaskan bahwa gender tidak stabil. Einar berjenis kelamin laki-laki sementara sisi lain Lily mendorongnya ke dalam jenis kelamin perempuan. Secara internal, dia tidak hanya melawan dirinya sendiri, tetapi juga masyarakat menenai isu-isu gender.

Keyword: gender, sex, transform, intersex.

1. INTRODUCTION

There are some cases of gender that cannot be explained with common sense, like someone who was born with two sexes (intersex), a man who loves to have sex with a man, a male who performs female activities, and even a man who wants to transforms his sex to be a

female sex. It shows a point that gender is troubling. It also shows a point that gender can be changed. Among the cases what happens to Einar or Lily in David Ebershoff's *The Danish Girl*.

David Ebershoff's *The Danish Girl* sets in Copenhagen, Denmark. It tells Einar Wegener as a

happily married man. He is married to Gerda Wegener. The couple are painters. Einar paints mostly landscapes and Gerda paints mostly portraits of famous people. One day, Einar replaces Gerda's model, Anna Fönsmark, to be painted. Gerda requests Einar to dress like a woman, makeup and so on. Here, Einar pretends to become Lili. In this Lili's image mode, Einar feels that Lili is the real of himself. In this internal situation, Einar is trapped in a complex conflict between himself as Einar and himself as Lili. Of course, Einar represents male gender and Lili represents female gender. Those are parts of himself. At that moment, Einar performs double gender. He performs Einar as a man and performs Lili as a woman. Both are performed in a single body.

By the main course in the novel, the most cases reveal the story of a man with two genders, male and female. The main character has the problem of gender in his body. He lives with male body, but unconsciously he also reveals his female part living inside. Because Einar/Lili lives in common society, he finally faces conflicts such as feeling isolation from the society and feeling strange of himself. This anxiety gets him/her to do extreme thing. It is genital operations. Einar/Lili indirectly implies problem of gender. It also explains that gender is not fixed, stable, and absolute.

Einar/Lili has to fight against him/herself and the society. He was born with penis and he was constructed with male attributes. He just followed and obeyed what was asked to be man, like how to walk, to dress, and so on. But, in a moment, when he knew his lost part, he could not get away. It was Lili's side in his body that he never knew before. This revelation and decision to be Lili explains that gender is not stable. Einar just performed to in male gender while he had another side of Lili that drove him in female gender. Besides fighting against him/herself inside, he also fights against society with its gender trouble.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretically, gender is not natural, but it is performance. Gender is doing. We are asked to perform what gender we build. For example, a baby with penis was asked to perform male gender like hobby, activities, name, etc. In otherwise, a baby with vagina was asked to perform female gender. So, gender is performance. Gender is doing. If it is doing, gender can be undone (Butler, 1990: 25).

A quarter of a century ago, philosopher Judith Butler (1990) called upon society to create "gender trouble" by disrupting the binary view of sex, gender, and sexuality. Key to her argument is that gender is not an essential, biologically determined quality or an inherent identity, but is repeatedly performed, based on, and reinforced by,

societal norms. This repeated performance of gender is also performative, that is, it creates the idea of gender itself, as well as the illusion of two natural, essential sexes. In other words, rather than being women or men, individuals act as women and men, thereby creating the categories of women and men. Moreover, they face clear negative consequences if they fail to do their gender right.

Sex is also not natural because sex has name and the sign of sex makes the group of gender. Vagina is symbolized to woman and penis is symbolized to man. If a baby with penis grows up with female activities, common society would blame him. It is because society still believes in two genders. Male is considered higher than female (Harris & White, 2018: 335; Goodman & Gorski, 2014: 28-30). There is only male or female. Someone cannot have those two. Norm, culture, tradition, belief, makes we believe that gender of a person must be one and it is taken from sex. This view becomes problem in the case of Einar.

Sex is different from gender. Sex refers to biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women. Male and female are sex categories. Sex is seen as something biological, natural, and fixed. Sex defines gender, from male to female, from masculine and feminine. Masculinity is for men and femininity is for women (Butler, 2004: 43-47).

However, for Butler, there is a thing that influences gender construction. For her, sex is symbol to normalize the normal category: male and female. Male is opposed to female. It is called heteronormativity. Hetero means plural, normativity refers to norm. It means that normally, there are only two sexes which are opposition. Here, gender is considered only two, male and female. For normative view, there is no gender except male and female (Jackson, 2006: 105-109; Saraceno, & Tambling, 2013: 2-3). It shows that it all starts from binary opposition about male and female. If sex is construction of symbols, so gender is also construction. If it is all construction, it can be deconstructed (Butler, 2004: 41).

Sex is category, so is gender. Category defines us. For example, when a baby was born with vagina, society categorizes her as a female baby, then she was assigned to do, behave, think, or perform how to be feminine characteristic. This explains that construction forms someone's gender identity.

Gender identity is taken from performativity. What we behave always makes our gender. Performativity is repetitive performance. Something that is done repetitively can make it appears as if it is natural. Gender is like that. Gender is something practiced regularly. If gender is what we do regularly, we can change what we do freely. So, gender is a process, not an end or

conclusion. It is something we do, not we are (Butler, 1990: 46).

Process refers to the doing or the deed. It is produced regularly and continuously by someone. Gender comes from performative or performance. Performative builds the identity. Identity is supposed to be gender. Gender does not exist before doing. From the deed, someone is subjected into gender identity (Butler, 1990: 25).

What we as subjects do is just doing gender regularly. We are never conscious doing gender like a man who is smoking, a girl who is playing doll, etc. For example, men wear pants, ties, having short hair, dangerous sport, etc. and women wear skirt, bra, having long hair, cooking, etc. A baby born with penis follows male categories. A baby born with vagina follows female categories. The always exists before us and it defines us (Butler, 1990: 25). So, gender means to act with the category provided to us. Gender follows the normative view of society (Jackson, 2006: 105-109). Normative view is a discourse that brings gender in binary opposition (Butler, 1993: 2).

Men can do female things and women can do male things. A woman can play football, a man can cook. A woman wears pants, a man has long hair. It shows that there is gender trouble. Subject has choices to choose gender freely. Gender is constructive. It is not natural. Subject is demanded to choose. If it is a choice, we can reject the gender that was given to us. We can choose gender that we feel right (Butler, 1987: 128-129). By seeing gender as identity construction, gender is able to be deconstructed. The point is, we do gender performative. Gender performative is gender practices that we do regularly. This regular doing is called performativity. Performativity is not just speech acts, but it is also bodily acts (Butler, 2004: 198). Gender is a performative. It is a regular practical process. If it is just about what we are doing, then what we do shapes us, so gender shapes us from what we are doing.

If we do not do it, gender does not exist in us. Gender category is practiced in performative. The performative is practiced regularly. The regular performative is called performativity. Performativity is illusion that represents gender category. But, performative can be crossover because male category and female category are not certain.

Butler criticizes the traditional idea of the gender hierarchy and category. Butler saw that performance appears before the performer. We are made by what we are doing, we do what is given to us (Salih, 2002: 10). There is only doing performative. It is like an actor. We know actor from his performance. Without act, there is no performance. Actor is made from his performance. His act makes his character. Doing bad thing makes him

antagonist. Doing good thing makes him protagonist. So, doing male thing makes us man, doing female thing makes us woman. Gender is not given, but what we do. we actually can choose what we do freely.

From Arumsari's research, it can be seen that the similarity between Arumsari's research and this research is on the novel. Both discussed about the novel. However, the difference is on how the subject of the novel is explored. Arumsari's research focuses on Greta (Lili's girlfriend) that leads the research in love theory in discussion. Differently, this research focuses on Lili's twist in gender heteronormativity. It leads the research in gender discussion, especially about Einar/Lili's struggle with his/her twist gender heteronormativity.

The second research to compare is a research written by Natalia Sisca Dessensia, entitled "Gender and Sexual Dilemma as seen in the character of Einar Wegener in David Ebershoff's *The Danish Girl*" (2017). Dessensia's research focuses on the analysis of Lili's transsexuality (sex transformation to find gender identity). Dessensia's research proposed three problems: (1) Einar Wegener in relation to his gender, (2) the internal conflicts experienced by Einar Wegener, and (3) the intimate conflicts faced by Einar Wegener. Dessensia's uses psychological perspective and Harry Benjamin's transsexual psychology to see those problems. The type of the research is qualitative, the approach is objective, the data are quotations, the technique of data collection is documentation, and the technique of data analysis is interpretation. It results that Einar Wegener is described as a man who has a feminine tendency; submissive, inferior, and emotional. The internal conflicts explain that Einar has low self-confidence dressing as a man, has sexual attraction to male, and has struggle to discover identity. There is a solution to find his identity by doing transsexual surgery and finds the identity as real woman.

The similarity between Dessensia's research and this research is the discussion about Einar/Lili as the main subject to analyze. Those also talk the same line: gender. However, the difference underlines on how Dessensia saw Einar's problem is psychological and she concluded that by doing transsexual surgery, Einar found himself as a woman, while this research focuses on deconstructing gender heteronormativity with Einar/Lili's twisted gender and it ends with deconstructive gender identity, neither as a man nor woman, because gender is not defined in a single category.

2. METHOD

This is literary study and the used theory is undoing gender. Literary work can be reflection of social or cultural problem (gender is part of socio-cultural

problem). The approach of the research is interpretation from the data. The data of this research are quotations (paragraphs and dialogs) because the source of the data is a novel. The novel is entitled *The Danish Girl*, written by David Ebershoff, published in 2000 by Allen & Unwin (Australia) and Viking Press (USA), with 324 pages. This novel won the Rosenthal Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Lambda Literary Award, and a New York Times Notable Book.

The technique of data collection in this research is documentation. To document the quotation in the novel, there are some steps to do: (1) Reading the text, (2) Inventorying data, and (3) Classifying data. The technique of data analysis in this research is interpretation. To do interpretation as the part of data analysis, there are steps to do: (1) Initiating main topic of discussion, (2) proving data, (3) describing the interpretation of the data, and (4) underline the result. These steps are operated continuously until all data are examined.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. The Portrayal of Einar's Gender Trouble in David Ebershoff's *The Danish Girl*

David Ebershoff's *The Danish Girl* tells a gender problem of Einar. Einar Wegener was a happily married man. He was married to Gerda Wegener. The couple was painters. Einar painted mostly views and Gerda painted mostly portraits of famous people. One day, Einar replaced Gerda's model, Anna Fonsmark, to be painted. Gerda requested Einar to dress like a woman, makeup and so on. Here, Einar pretended to be woman, he chose a name, Lili. In this Lili's image, Einar felt that Lili was the real of himself. In this internal situation, Einar was trapped in a complex conflict between himself as Einar and himself as Lili. Einar represented male gender and Lili represented female gender. Those were parts of him. At that moment, Einar performed double gender. He performed Einar as a man and performs Lili as a woman. Both were performed in a single body. From those points, Einar faced gender trouble in his body. The portrayal of gender trouble can be found in female portrayal and male portrayal.

a. Einar's Male Gender

Talking about male gender cannot be separated from masculinity. The problem, Einar has no masculine characteristics. The dominant part is feminine. It means that Einar is a man with tendency to be like a woman. However, his feminine side appears clearly after he was asked by Greta to be her model. Before that, it is found little case of his masculine side.

Masculinity is a stereotype about men which can be contrasted with femininity as a stereotype of women. Masculine and feminine are two poles of opposing traits and form a straight line that each point represents the degree of maleness (masculinity). A man who has characteristics that are identical with masculine stereotypes is called a masculine man, if he has more characteristic is called a super masculine man, if he has less is called a less masculine man or a feminine man.

The stereotypes of masculinity and femininity include various aspects of individual characteristics, such as character or personality, role behavior, occupation, physical appearance, or sexual orientation. So, for example, in general, men are characterized by an open, rude, aggressive, and rational character, while women are characterized by closed, refined, affective and emotional.

In individual relationships, men are recognized for their masculinity if they are served by women, while women have their femininity satisfied if they can serve men. In the case of occupational jobs that rely on strength and courage such as soldiers, drivers, boxers, etc., are called masculine jobs, while jobs that require smoothness, accuracy, and feelings such as beauty salons, cooks, sewing, and others, are called feminine jobs.

From the explanation, it is relevant to say masculine character is considered as dominant one. In the context Einar, he still had sexual orientation to Greta. It also little bit shows his masculinity in sexuality.

Within the group of men, various myths about sexuality are preserved by the hegemonic construction of masculinity coupled with the taboo that surrounds it. Information about sexuality obtained by men is more obtained from peers (school friends, hangouts, etc.) than the right source. As a result, various misleading information is obtained and has an impact on their behavior as men. The ideal construction of heteronormative men requires *courage* to encourage men to engage in risky sexual behavior. Manliness that is often associated with conquest makes men feel to have sex to contribute to violence against women.

Therefore, in sexuality, man is characterized aggressive. The problem is, Einar has paradox. He is a man but he is not real man. In sexual practice with Greta, Einar felt strange to demand sex.

"It was almost as if the question had tumbled with its own will out of Greta's mouth. She had never wondered about this before, because Einar had always been sexually awkward and without initiative" (Ebershoff, 2015: 55).

From the quotation, Greta opened a fact that Einar desired of her. It means that Einar still has masculinity part. Usually, Einar always felt awkward to have

initiation in sex, but the quotation exposes that Einar still had the desire in sexual with her.

b. Einar's Female Gender

When Einar was youthful, he lived with his dad and grandma. His mom left him when he was a baby. Einar also found that he was jealousy of his dog since his dad adored it to such an extent. Einar felt that his dad loved his dog than him (Ebershoff, 2015: 28). Despite the fact that, he felt that way, he loved his dad so much. At the point when his dad was injured, the mysterious illness, Einar would sneak into his dad's room while he was snoozing, and would discover foam gathered on his dad's lips, rose with breath (Ebershoff, 2015: 27). This background can be a confirmation that the first love of Einar was his father. It is a little bit strange since general understanding sees that the first love of a son was his mother. It indicates that Einar had the female gender in his sexual interest. It also shows that gender is not constructed by sex, but by something outside of the subject. Einar should have the love of mother that would drove his sexual interest to woman, but it did not happen. He felt that his father exposed his sexual interest. Because his sexual interest was to his father, it stimulated his female gender in his body. But, Einar was still a kid, it would become complex when he had grown up.

From this logic, the stereotype of what people do, based on sex and gender, categorization appears. Then, it is reproduced regularly and become a belief. Subject is determined to be in the normal category. If subject is determined, subject actually can determine himself or herself without being in the category. If a man has sexual interest in man, it is his right. If a woman has sexual interest in woman, it is her right. There is no natural standard of becoming who subject is. Sex is construction. Gender is construction. It is the right of someone to become who they are (Butler, 2004). However, normalizing gender refers to discipline of dominant power. Gender is constructed in category in which female is lower than male. This situation also explained why Einar felt inferior. It can be caused by female gender in his side.

When Einar was youthful, he had a good companion named Hans. Hans focused on everything about Einar and they constantly played together. Hans additionally treated Einar as young lady that ought to be kept. At the point, when they played a kite, Hans asked Einar to remain in hidden spot, so he could stay away from the daylight (Ebershoff, 2015: 30). It shows that Hans treated Einar like a girl who has to avoid the sunburning, of course, Einar agreed and it means, Einar confirmed his female character.

Later, Hans requested to play in the kitchen, while Hans acted like a husband sat tight for the food and Einar resembled a wife. Hans put a cover of Einar's grandmother and he placed it into Einar (Ebershoff, 2015:32). The way Hans treated Einar indirectly involves in Einar's female gender. Einar seemed to be happy with that. Moreover, Hans whispered quietly to Einar, "Light a fire. Boil some water. Drop in a few stone potatoes and mutton joint," then Hans continued with smoother voice: "Einar, let's pretend" (Ebershoff, 2015: 32). The word of "pretend" here refers to pretending to be a wife who prepares the food for the husband. Einar agreed and it means that there is indication of his female gender interest, especially of being a woman, who is loved by a man, and passive.

After his childhood passed, Einar grew and we can call him as a successful man. We know that Einar married with Greta. They were a couple, but Einar was more famous than Greta. Both were painter. Einar's works of art were constantly acknowledged by the seller, so he needed that Greta's artworks were placed in a similar exhibition of the craftsmanship vendor. He said to Ramussen, the craftsmanship vendor, to think about his idea. At long last, Ramussen agreed that Greta's artworks were shown for about fourteen days (Ebershoff, 2015: 52). He needed to help Greta to be pleased with her masterpiece, since she never found the craftsmanship vendor for her artistic creations.

Plus, Einar would consistently attempt to help Greta in painting. He helped her at every possible opportunity, and would attempt to instruct her techniques of paintings, especially technique to create light and separation or distance (Ebershoff, 2015: 47). Apart from it, Einar never felt that he was a well-known painter. Many people knew him and were sure that he was one of the great painters in Denmark, however, he felt that he was only a painter (Eberhsoff, 2015: 47). Some people may see this as romantic action. Einar helped the career of his wife, but in other way, Einar's action was just summed up in his character that is not arrogant. He was famous, but he still felt inferior.

As formation, one day, Greta asked Einar to be her model because Greta's model was not available. The problem, Greta's model was a woman. Here, Einar was requested by Greta to be like female model. Einar had to dress like female model, like a real woman. In this situation, the strange thing happens. Einar feels comfort and he even names his female character with Lili. In this moment, Einar was Lili and Lili was Einar.

"Then just slip it on for a few minutes." Greta brought it to Einar and held it to his chest. "Greta," he said, "what if I-"

“Just take off your shirt,” Greta said. And he did.
“What if I-“
“Just close your eyes,” she said. And he did.
(Ebershoff, 2015: 10).

Based on the quotation above, it implies that Einar agreed and obeyed Greta’s request of being like a woman. At the beginning, Einar seemed not to want to dress like woman, but he agreed. He seemed to be powerless in rejecting his wife’s request. It, once again, shows his passivity or submissive character. He was a man but he has no power to reject a woman, especially his wife. Plus, we all can see that there is important note inserted by the author, “... and he did ...” which implies that Einar was confused about himself. However, this confusing moment leads us in his female gender which was hidden so far in Einar’s body. Finally, Einar lives in Lili’s image.

“He chose a dress. It was white, printed with pink conch shells. Its hem hung to his calf. The white and pink looked pretty against his leg, which had taken color from the French sun”
(Ebershoff, 2015: 73).

Based on the quotation, Lili’s image is portrayed with white dress, printed with pink conch shells, covered and curved on his leg and it is pretty as the French sun. The author portrayed Lili with this kind of dress and of course, it is the reader can imagine what did Einar in Lili’s image looks like. Dress white portrays beauty and the edge hangs to his calf also imagines the sensuality. French sun can be referred to romantic sense. With this portrayal, it can be imagined that Einar should not enjoy it, but in the fact, Einar seemed to enjoy it. After this moment, Einar felt strange of himself. He felt that the way he dressed (dressing like Lili) was part of him. Einar was not the same. Einar even dressed like Lili in some times.

Einar likewise turned out to be increasingly fragile when he dressed as Lili. In a moment, Lili went to a party and he met Hendrik. After that, Lili and Hendrik regularly met after the gathering, however, in their last gathering, Hendrik said to Lili that he had definitely thought about Lili. But, somehow, Hendrik realized that Lili was Einar. Hendrik finally realized that Lili was a man. Of course, after Hendrik said that, Lili suddenly separated their relationship. Lili felt so broken and fragile after he knew that he was not a woman, he felt so broken of knowing that the other people knew the truth of himself (Ebershoff, 2015: 60).

Lili shuddered again. “I’m afraid I can’t see you anymore,” Lili finally said. “I’m going to have to say goodbye to you tonight.”
“What are you talking about?” Hendrik said. “Why are you saying this?”
“I just can’t see you anymore. Not right now.”
He reached Lili’s hand, but she refused. “But it does not make any difference to me. Is that what is about? That what I’m trying to tell you. Is this because you think that I won’t-“ (Ebershoff, 2015: 61).

This point of the story shows that Einar has emotional and disruptive feeling. He was so sensitive. It is not because he had trouble of his psychology, but he had problem of his gender. He was so confused of doing gender. He was so confused whether he was Einar or he was Lili. Remember, Einar grew with female and male gender in one body. He actually performed male gender but every time she had a chance to perform female gender, he did not deny it. It means that in a body, there is gender trouble. Einar was both male and female. He cannot be judged in hetero sexual category. He cannot be blamed because he had trouble in gender hetero-normative gender. Hetero normative gender is category of gender based on the normative culture. There is only male and female gender, both cannot be in one body. Of course, Einar broke this category.

Theoretically, what sexual and gender orientation is correlative with what subject does. A female baby is asked to be adapted with dolls, skirt, and other female stuff. Obviously, she grows up with consciousness that it is the thing that she is. It implies that, sexual and gender orientation is simply about what is asked to do. It is just about the *doing*. Subject obeys and follows what is asked by society. Society is the guideline of how sexual orientation creates subject’s gender. With this flow, gender appears as if it is natural. There is nothing behind what subject does. Subject simply gets things done, from what subject does. Subject turns into a gendered subject. A subject is socially controlled and created (Butler, 2004: 49). In the context of Einar, he felt confused because his body was male, but his orientation was female, then he was asked to perform male. Sure, there is problem.

Both gender and sex are not something natural, it is all constructive. Butler claimed that there is no relationship between the gender and sex as biological nature. We become female because we are asked to perform female things. We become male because we are asked to perform male things. We were not born, but rather become subject with categorized gender. We are not free because gender in hetero normative people is only categorized in two, male and female. Outside of it, it is considered as abnormal. Male is not a male naturally,

but male becomes male constructively. Female is not a female naturally, but male becomes male constructively. To become woman, a baby was asked to do things related to femininity such as thought, behavior, and rule, or mental of how to become woman. In otherwise, males are also asked to do the same in male context. Of course, it is patriarch society. Therefore, if it is just becoming, a woman can become the other of woman category. Both gender and sex are the result of socio-cultural construction. Sex is culturally constructed as gender (Butler, 1990). Einar's problematic gender can be explained by this view. He was trapped in a male body while he had female gender. The way he performed Lili shows that he found a way to express his female gender but, it all ruined after Hendrik knew who he really was.

The way Einar rejected Hendrik's hand explained Einar's fragile character. His fragile character was from his performance as Lili, as a woman who wanted to be loved and perfect in front of man. Hendrik attempted to clarify, yet Einar would not like to hear anything from Hendrik. It indicated how Einar turned out to be so fragile in light of the fact that Hendrik thought about the real Lili. By observing the response from the character, it encourages an assumption to say that Einar's gender was dived in female gender with all fragile feeling. His complicated gender affects his personality.

In a moment, when Hans expected to visit Greta and Einar, Greta required Einar to meet him in men-dressing, anyway Einar declined that. Einar expected to show up as a woman (Ebershoff, 2015: 67). After difficult conversation they had, Hans came. Strangely, Hans did not know that Lili was Einar. In other way, Lili was worried that Hans would see her.

Lili cried and said to Greta, "Hans didn't figure it out, did he?" Her arms folded across her breasts, which the way things were, hang more flathy than Lili's. (Ebershoff, 2015: 68).

From the quotation, it is known that Lili cried and convinced herself to Greta by asking that Hans did not know that it was him. Lili worried that Hans could know that it was her. In other hand, Einar actually always dreamed to meet Hans, the lovely boy in his childhood. But, the way Einar dressed as Lili confirms a situation that he did not want Einar again, but he wanted Lili, Lili who would be loved by Hans or whoever man would love him.

In the last moment to describe female gender of Einar, it was when Einar made two cups of coffee in the moment of Greta woke up. In their life, Greta never observed Einar when she woke up. Einar in lady dress woke up right on time and made some morning meal for

both. It was Lili, not Einar anymore. Lili held two cups of coffee. Lili was grinning and afterward, she attempted to slip back underneath the sheet. Greta viewed the coffee spill over the bed, toward her hand, and Lili started to cry (Ebershoff, 2015: 69). This moment can be a good reason that Einar performed female gender both physically and mentally. Of course, Einar's case in Lili's performance explains that Einar exposes gender trouble. It is not Einar's problem, but it is gender that is problematic. A subject can perform any gender he or she wants. It is not just a single category, gender is free. A single body can be more than one gender and Einar performed it. However, in the matter of fact, it is very opposite to hetero normative people and it brings Einar in the problem as the impact of exposing gender trouble.

2. The Impacts of Einar's gender trouble in David Ebershoff's *The Danish Girl*.

This novel is a kind of biographical fiction, so the story is focused on the problem of a character, it is Einar. Most of the problems that Einar had was about his gender. His gender is trouble. Therefore, Einar's gender problem causes mostly internal impact to his life.

It very well may be said that really Einar has female qualities as the sex character contradicting his sexual character which is a male. This reality carries him to the confusion about his gender. For instance, one may detect himself as a male, yet a manly man of a feminine man or even as a man who dreams being a lady.

In short words, gender identity is the manner by which an individual feels and communicates his/her sex. In leading the investigation, the novel exposes female attributes exist in Einar. As the assumption expressed over that gender identity is simply the manner in which individual express to be manly or womanly like the case with Einar Wegener. In sloving the problem of this confusion, Einar attempted to do transsexual operation. Transsexual refers to change sexual organ related to gender trouble. It additionally happens to Einar. He indicated how the internal problem drove him to do transsexual.

At the beginning, it is important to show how Einar was stuck in the gender problem. In a moment, Einar asked his wife to dress Anna's clothes and shoes. Anna was Greta's model. When Einar wore the dress and the shoes, Einar felt comfort. Just look at this quotation.

"He looked down at his shins, the silk smooth except for a few hairs bursting through like tiny hard fuzz on a bean. The yellow shoes looked too dainty to support him ... Something began to run though Einar's head and it made him think of a fox chasing a field mouse: the thin red nose of the fox digging for the mouse through the folds of a pulse

filed ... A strange watery feeling was Einar as he stood on the lacquer trunk, the sunlight moving across him, the scent of herring in the air ... he left warm and submerged ... The fox was chasing the mouse, and there was a distant voice in his head: the soft cry of a scared little girl." (Ebershoff, 2015: 7-10).

The dress makes Einar fantasized about a little girl or young lady. He imagined it for long. Einar understood that from the first occasion when he saw the dress, he adored the dress and imagined that it belonged to someone. He felt he owned it (Ebershoff, 2015: 11). By the time, Einar felt and considered that he was a young lady, Lili. Einar felt that Lili was a piece of his side. Of course, this was the first time Einar imagined Lili in his body. Just like what he said in this quotation, "I've been thinking about her," Einar said, "Little Lili" (Ebershoff, 2105: 18).

The dress made Einar fantasized he was Lili. From that moment, Einar has double gender to do. He felt confused about his gender identity. His body is male but he felt female in Lili's image in himself. Dressing like Lili gave him confidence that he was a female.

Beginning from that point, Einar has lost his certainty to take on the appearance of a man. He regularly takes on the appearance of a female. Einar likewise felt that he got an opportunity to appear like a lady when Greta agreed him to dress and appear like a lady. Greta gave a plan to dressing as a lady in the hall party in painting show. Greta realized that Einar never loved going to dance hall party, but Lili was not Einar. Lily was in a beautiful dress with a linen sailor's collar and cuffs. The dress made a soft noise as she walked. She nervously tried not to think what lay ahead. She danced (Ebershoff, 2015: 43).

Within Einar's inner side, he is glad of dressing as a lady, despite the fact that he is a man. Afterward, dressing as a lady turns into a desire for Einar. He realizes that by dressing as a lady, he could show up Lili from inside. He became confident of being Lili. Moreover, Einar understood that he was gradually certain when he took on the appearance of a lady, he found himself the truth, a true woman.

"Are you going to stay dressed as Lili?" She asked. "I thought I might."

"But I don't think he should meet Lili right away. Not first. Not before Einar." Greta was right, and yet part of Einar wanted Lili to be the first to meet Carlisle, as if she were his better half. (Ebershoff, 2015: 11).

The conversation implies a point that Einar was not confident enough of being like Einar. Einar was not sure and certain whether he was a man or not. He seemed to

dislike of dressing like Einar. He had lower self-confidence when he dressed like a man. It was also supported with a case when Hans and Einar met. The both never met for so long. Suddenly, Einar felt that he should dress and become Lili (Ebershoff, 2015: 67).

Also, Einar ended up himself in a comfort zone by dressing like woman, not just in a moment, but in any event. As it was explained before, in a morning, when Greta woke up, she found Lili, not Einar. At other time had Lili laid down with Greta; they had breakfast together in silk kimonos designed with cranes, and looked for stockings together (Ebershoff, 2015 68).

Einar had a doctor to consult with, he was Dr. Hexler, a psychotherapist. Einar often told to Dr. Hexler about other side of himself.

"Where do you go to find her? Dr. Hexler asked.

"Inside me." Einar said.

"And is she always there?"

"Yes" (Ebershoff, 2015: 91).

This conversation explains that Lili had consistently been living in Einar. The daydream about Lili made Einar accepts an illusion that he lived with two genders exist in his body; female and male, Lili and Einar. Those all things above drove him to do transsexual surgery. In the wake of seeing that Einar is looking good about women's dress, it strengthens a drive to do a change about his gender.

As it is explained before, gender is construction. Gender is about what we do. Einar lived in the body of man, but it does not erase his female gender inside. When he dressed female clothes, Einar found himself as woman. Then, he acted, behaved, and even liked man. It assumes that it is not gender that makes a man being a man, but it is performance of man that makes a man become a man. Gender is becoming, not being. Einar became Lili means man became woman. Gender can be undone. Gender can be cancelled. Man can be woman and woman can be man. Gender is not certain. Gender is not static and absolute. A body can bring any gender because a body can perform any gender. In Einar case, dressing as a lady makes him develops female character, in appearance and additionally in sexual orientation. As it may, the discussion between Dr. Hexler and Einar additionally supports an issue that Einar really wanted to become Lili.

Performing as Lili is not just about dressing like woman, but also felling it like woman. Feeling like woman means that Einar had desire and love to a man. As it had been explained before, his father can be said as the first love. But, Hans was also important in developing Einar's desire to man. During his childhood, Einar often

played with Hans and Einar wanted to be so close to Hans. In a moment, in a game, Einar kissed Hans (Ebershoff, 2015: 31-32). Of course, Einar's father was furious and sent Hans away. After Hans, Einar loved Hendrik Sandhal, a man who stared at her when Lili appeared in the ballroom in a party. For Lili, Hendrik looked like his father (Ebershoff, 2015: 46). Their relationship went further until in a moment, Hendrik kissed Lili and he almost did something further. When Hendrik tried to squeeze Lili's breast, Lili avoid and ran away because Lili was afraid Hendrik knew a thing that he was a male (Ebershoff, 2015: 49). He felt painful. He was furious about a fact that he was a man. He wanted to be loved by Hendrik but he was afraid that Hendrik did not love him as a man.

"I don't want to stop seeing him," Lili said.

"Then please, stop seeing him for me."

"Lili said she'd try, but even she said it she knew it would be impossible. As she stood in the front room, by Einar's empty easel, she knew she was lying to Greta. But Lili couldn't help it. She could hardly help herself" (Ebershoff, 2015: 60).

From the quotation, it can be taken an assumption that Einar had been lost, there was only Lili. Einar did not just like a woman, but Einar wanted to become woman. With this case, it is very relevant to a point that gender is performance. By dressing like Lili, Einar performed Lili's way. By performing Lili's way, Einar becomes Lili. By becoming Lili, Einar had Lili's gender. It means that Einar performed female gender that makes him female. It is performance that makes gender, not the category.

After Hans and Hendrik, Einar's female gender also affect to his sexual desire. When he visited prostitution in Paris, Madame Jasmine Cartoon's, Einar did oral sex to a man. It occurred when Einar watches a man and a woman are doing intercourse in the prostitution, Einar felt that he needs the man to do likewise to Lili (Ebershoff, 2015: 109). Further, Einar met a mysterious man in the prostitution which is the man viewing Einar more than he watched the stripper. After the strip show had done, the man come nearer to Einar and opened his pants.

"... his fly was open and through it poked in the eye of his penis ... The head of his penis was peeking from beyond foreskin. It smelled salty ... and then the man's penis was only inches from Einar's mouth, and Einar closed his eyes. Einar's mouth was opened ...just when Einar knew for sure that Lili was here to stay and very soon Einar have to disappear" (Ebershoff, 2015: 126-127).

The quotation explained that Einar's sexual orientation has changed. It is actually the impact of having gender trouble. Einar was a man but he did oral sex to a man with pleasure. It meant that it was not Einar who did it, but it was Lili. Lili was the female image in Einar's inner side. Of course, having gender trouble causes this situation. The question, can we say that Einar is a gay? Sure, it is still questionable because the one who did oral sex to a man was Lili. It was mentally Lili, a young girl, who had sexual interest to a man, while the body was Einar. Einar had the body, but Lili had the orientation. It is very complicated. It is believed that Einar felt the same. The internal conflict in Einar's performance in gender becomes important point to say here.

The last situation that can be said as the impact of having gender trouble is the process of determining Einar's gender identity.

It takes a long procedure for transsexual. Remember, it was based on the first person doing sex surgery. This was happening to Einar, which he has been experienced various things before he is courageous to pick become a woman. Realizing that Einar began to like a man, his confusion about himself was developing each day. Einar and Greta moved to Paris to have another life, especially it was about Greta's successful painting there. Before they moved, they visited a specialist to inspect strange thing in Einar's body. It was about his changing hormone.

"You're not really concerned about the bleeding?"

Greta asked to Dr. Hexler. "Not in the least?"

"Not as much as I am about his delusion that he is a woman. Even X-ray can't cure that. Would you like me to talk to Einar? I can tell him that he's injuring himself."

"But is he really?"

"Yes, of course" (Ebershoff, 2015: 99).

Dr. Hexler fixes that Einar had a dream of being a woman. Dr. Hexler likewise said to Greta that Copenhagen (Denmark) could not acknowledge a man like Einar (Ebershoff, 2015: 100). It made Greta thinks to move to Paris, so she could make Einar's feeling becomes better. Following to moving to Paris, Einar became upset about himself. Moreover, Einar felt that Lili became opposed to Einar. He tried to figure out some kind of info about transsexual surgery in a library. He found some books about it. He tried to read some books such as *The Sexes*, and *A Scientific Study of Sexual Immortality*. He hoped that the books helped him to find the truth of his gender so he could decide whether Lili should exist or fade away (Ebershoff, 2015: 138). This frustration can be seen below here.

“He eventually read enough to become convinced that he too possessed the female organs. Buried in the cavity of his body were Lili’s organs, the bloody packets and folds flesh that made her who she was ... He imagined a uterus shoved up behind his testicles. He imagined breasts somehow trapped by his ribcage” (Ebershoff, 2015: 139).

Einar started to be sure that he should follow his instinct. Einar truly understood that the half of himself was Lili. His imagination about female organs likewise turned into his will. In any case, the person who accepted that existence of Lili was just Greta. Greta liberated Einar to pick his Lili. She supported her husband to be female.

“No. It’s just that I sometimes don’t know what’s going on with me.”
“But that’s not true,” she said. “We know exactly what’s going on with you. Inside of you live Lili. In your soul is a pretty young lady named Lili. It’s as simple as that. It has nothing to do with being crazy” (Ebershoff, 2015: 150).

The conversation exposes that Greta was so sure that Lili lived inside of Einar. However, Greta’s support seemed to put some stress in Einar’s mind. We can imagine what Einar’s felt. He was supported by his wife to be female. It was not unacceptable, but Greta did it. It causes depression for Einar.

Einar felt confused. The confusion is not just about a woman image that lived in his body, but in addition it influenced his sexual desire. Einar was considered as a man. He understood that he tended to be a woman. At that point, his chaos brought Lili that lived in Einar’s fantasy. In any case, his sex is male then it ought to be a manly as opposed to female. It makes Einar’s chaotic and depressed about his character. The condition and situation drove him to be a different person. He felt he was not a man but he also felt that he was not a real woman. It implies that he was just a partner, but he could not fulfill Greta’s sexual desire.

CONCLUSION

Conclusion

This research can be concluded in a simple way. This novel tells a story of Einar. He is a man bodily, but mentally, he grows with female gender characteristic. With this case, he felt confused of himself, whether he was a man or a woman. However, something that can be said here is about how he changed his gender. He changed it by changing his doing. He changed his performance, from performing male to performing

female, from performing Einar to performing Lili. Lili was the female image that Einar felt it existed. It firstly came when Einar became a model of his wife’s painting. He dressed like woman, then finally, he wanted to become a woman. The impact of his gender trouble is the conflict in his internal side. He felt confused, depressed, and frustrated. Finally, he decided to be a woman, to be Lili, by doing sexual surgery. His transsexual surgery was failed and he died. It was the risk but something that can be taken, he braved to be honest with his gender. He also explained that gender is construction and it can be changed.

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