

**THE INFLUENCE ON ENVIRONMENT TOWARD HOMOSEXUALITY
IN THE MOVIE *MOONLIGHT* (2016) BY BARRY JENKINS: AS QUEER
STUDY**

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ABSTRACT

This research aims at how the setting of the movie *Moonlight* affected the main character's choice to self-identify as gay. This study applied the qualitative approach to the data and Judith Butler's queer theory to determine the analysis. The author gathered data using depth analysis and evaluated the movie to offer a huge amount of supporting data. Three conclusions can be drawn from this investigation. The first is that the main character's peer group's school and family environments influenced him to be a homosexual. The second, performativity as a homosexual or gay are seen as in recognition, utterances, appearance, and sexual activities. The final issues the main character has as a gay in a heterosexual culture are hiding, social punishment, and disclosing.

Keywords: Queer, Homosexual, Role of Environment, Performativity, Problem's being Gay

INTRODUCTION

Humans are fundamentally a part of the environment. First and primarily, an individual's environment has a significant impact on how they develop their personalities. People frequently act and conduct themselves according to their immediate environment. The doctrine in their environments and daily life becomes the measure of their inherent character. It suggests that a person's surroundings reflect their personality as they are still forming.

There are still a number of people who are unaware of how important the environment is. In truth, the earliest influencers that shaped the entirety of one's personality were likely their families and sites of school. It includes gender. Janah (2017) argues that the development of a person's identity is greatly influenced by their gender. Men and women are often separated using the term "gender." Gender is a term used to describe the roles that men and women play in society. It is the type of individual manipulation and the meaningless effect of impacted culture. It means gender as a separation of being masculine or feminine (Rosalita, 2020).

People become more open and inclusive of gender over time. The word used for LGBT individuals is one example (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender). In heterosexual society, LGBT people have been stigmatized and seen as deviant. Homosexuality is one among them. In some people and nations, it is still debatable. Many people do not want to talk about homosexuality, according to Oetomo (2001:43). It is because society either does not understand it well or does not understand it at all. Everyone has a different opinion about how homosexuals are handled in the modern world; some people tolerate them, while others reject them (Rudy, 2016).

This study on the influence of the environment will talk about homosexuality. It entails stating that a person's surroundings have an impact on their personality. And the topic is Barry Jenkins' film "*Moonlight*." The story centers on Chiron, who experiences frequent bullying from his friend and lacks a mother figure because his mother is a narcotic. As a result, the main focus of this study will be how the main character's environment influences his sexual orientation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Popular Culture and Movie

Popular culture is unquestionably also referred to as "folk culture," as defined by Storey (2004) as "a culture of people by people." Every cultural product made,

including CDs, DVDs, books, and films, which closely considers what customers want and like, supports this. Ideas, traditions, and objects meant to be broadly disseminated are referred to as popular culture (Junaid & Ikhsan, 2014).

The movie is one form of popular culture that people use to appreciate literature. A movie script is usually available in movies to complete them. Both original works and those that have already been published are included. It implies that the script is a screenplay for a movie having a setting, a story, characters, and themes (Saputri, 2016).

Queer Theory by Judith Butler

It was predicated on the queer concept that, if sex is a gendered category, categorizing gender as the cultural interpretation of sex is illogical. It is not appropriate to view gender as primarily a collection of laws based on pre-defined sex (a constitutional concept). The precise production process that divides the sexes must also be considered when defining gender. It suggests that sex and gender once had a close relationship (Butler, 1990).

According to Butler's queer research viewpoint, sex, gender, and identity are all distinct from one another but nevertheless connected. Depending on one's environment and social conditions, one's definition of gender may change frequently. It implies that people's acts over time, based on their surroundings, determine their gender.

Another Butler claim is that performativity, a process, is what gives rise to gender creation. In Judith Butler's interpretation of queer theory, floating is involved. She disregards the fact that every person has a beginning and an end. Identity is created by performative movements, which evolve over time. In the heterosexuality paradigm, gender comes first and governs social behavior. Since its inception, gender has governed how people act, communicate, and love. Therefore, Butler's gender, sex, and sexual orientation are amorphous, unnatural, and change depending on the social context. Butler concurs that LGBT is not merely a societal abnormality but a performative type of human identity (Dinata, 2013).

RESEARCH METHOD

In order to analyse how the environment affected homosexuality, this study applied Judith Butler's queer theory. A descriptive qualitative methodology was used by the researcher. The researcher has conducted many actions in order to obtain the data. The first step is watching Barry Jenkins' "*Moonlight*" and becoming proficient at reading scripts. After that, discover the data and develop it so that it is precise and synchronous. The last is related to all of the information and conclusion.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The Influence of Environment toward the Main Character's Sexual Orientation as a Homosexual

The researcher's concentrate will be on the effects of the environments that were the subject of this analysis, such as Chiron's family environment and his school environment. It will also be revealed that a person's actions and decisions, including their level of sexual attraction, can be influenced by their environment.

The Influence of School toward the Main Character's Sexual Orientation as a Homosexual

The previous sentence reflects the character's life in the tough environment. He experienced peer pressure, which accidentally shaped his personality. His interest in homosexuality has also been inspired by what his friends have said about gay people. Accordingly, a person's gender may alter over time based on their conditions and environment.

Bunch of kids: "Get that nigga!"

"Get Your ass here"

"Going around with that faggot ass, bro"

"Ain't gonna catch him"

"Kick his ass"

(Juan looks away from Terrence, across the road and sees...

Three young boys (adolescents, 12/13 years old) with sticks chasing LITTLE (similarly aged but smaller, a runt) who is running, terrified) (02.20 – 02.30)

On other occasions, men are consistently portrayed as brave and strong. It implies that masculinity is something that society expects of men. Weak men frequently act intimidated and have their actions undervalued. Chiron, the main character, is scared of his classmates because of his differences and worries that bullying at school would drive him to change who he is.

Kevin: See, you just gotta show them niggas you ain't soft.

Little : I ain't soft. Always and forever a hothead this one

Kevin : I know man, I know. But... (pauses for effect) ...don't mean nothin' if they don't know (15.18-15.27)

The toxic masculinity portrayed in the movie suggests that a man must be tough and combative to be considered a real man. Chiron experienced a gender identity crisis as a result of the tough environment making him worried about the contrasts within himself. He becomes even more afraid of being bullied as a result of his classmates' mockery. Then he started to question whether he is gay.

Terrell: Get off to me, now ain't with that gay shit. But if you fuck with me, I'll give your ass more than you can handle.

Chiron: Fuck y'all niggas (Chiron tries to fight them back)

Terrel: what did you say? Huh? Say it again dog, I swear

Chiron: whatever man.

Terrell :Aight, your better stay ass right there if you know what good for you. you see how tight this nigga jeans be? Nigga nuts must be chokin' in them tight ass jeans, boy I swear (47.22 - 47.53)

The Role of the Family toward the Main Character's Sexual Orientation as a Homosexual

The family has a critical influence in shaping a person's moral character. The only parent Chiron has in the family of the movie's main character is his mother. His mother Paula is a drug addict. Paula has never been a mother figure to him, and he thinks his mother is awful. Juan is more concerned than his mother since he is a stranger. Paula's presence in his life gave him the impression that women could not comprehend him. In contrast, a man shows affection and care. Chiron may have thought men understood him better than women. This suggests that he is gay or has homosexual traits.

Juan: I saw your mama last night.

(That gets Little's attention)

Little: I hate her (32.40 – 32.47)

Paula is infuriated with Chiron because he keeps quiet when other guys try to interrupt him in the conversation between Juan and Paula. Furthermore, she thinks strangely as a result of the drug's effects. He detests going back home because of how she was treated. Chiron is not included in the portrayal of a family that ought to be a cause for criticism in the movie. Strangers, though, provide him warmth and security. That leads us to the conclusion that a person's family has a big part in their personality. Additionally, a person's activities are influenced by their environment.

PAULA :So... you gon' raise my son now? Nothing from Juan, all stillness in his holding this gaze

PAULA: Huh?

Juan lowering his eyes, legitimately weighs the question.

PAULA :You gon' raise my son?

Paula sucking her teeth

PAULA :Yeah... that's what I thought (28.00 - 28.25)

The Main Character Reveals Himself as a Homosexual

The performativity of the main character is on display, including recognition of his identity, the utterances about homosexuality, his appearance, and sexual identity. The performativity of Judith Butler fits this description. A genuine identity is created by a performance, which consists of a number of movements, gestures, and emotions. Additionally, it makes the case that behaviors such as actions and words

that are influenced by an individual's environment and exhibited in themselves produce gender identity.

Performativity in the Recognition of Main Character's Gender Identity as a Homosexual

The performativity of the discourse was made clear when Chiron questioned Juan and Teresa about "is he faggot." Chiron's comments and body language regarding it demonstrate his propensity for letting his surroundings affect how he performs as well as how his activities contributed to his current state of pain. He will make the choice to discover his own misunderstanding.

Little: Am I a faggot?

Juan: No, you can be gay but you gotta let nobody call you faggot.

Little: How do I know?

Juan: You just do...I think....

Teresa : You'll know when you know

Juan : Hey, you ain't gotta know right now, all right... not yet (33.57 - 34.24)

The Performativity in Utterances of The Main Character as a Homosexuality

Chiron's portrayal demonstrates that his words about mentioning homosexuality are a performance. Chiron wonders what a "faggot" is. It is because his pals used to refer to him in that way. That conversation started when Chiron inquired as to whether he faggot. The source of Chiron's interest in homosexuality was disclosed by his unconsciously raised question about faggot. Juan, on the other hand, replies that the word "faggot" is used to dehumanize gay people in response to the query. It implies that LGBT people continue to be denied access to their natural surroundings and are viewed as repulsive or unhealthy.

Little : What's a faggot?

Juan: a word used to make gay people feel bad (33.25 - 33.48)

Another moment, Chiron's revelation shows something about him on the inside by showing how he feels enthusiastic about Kevin. Chiron needs to accept that he is gay at this point. It has been demonstrated that Chiron exhibits homosexual traits, especially while talking about homosexuality. He attempts to be sincere, telling Kevin that he is utilizing the route as a kind of solace for himself.

BLACK : You're the only man who's ever touched me. The air going out of Kevin's chest, his gaze fixated on Black's lips, anticipating the words falling from there (01:44:46 – 01:44:57)

The Performativity in the Main Character Appearance as Homosexual

In the conversation, Chiron's persona reveals that he is a reserved individual. He tended to be a reserved individual who responded angrily to cruel treatment. Chiron is portrayed as a gentle, timid man who is always terrified by people around him. In regards to women, his character has a soft side. Some people think he is gay and that his gesture is one of a woman.

Kevin: See, you just gotta show them niggas you ain't soft.

Little : I ain't soft. Always and forever a hothead this one

Kevin : I know man, I know. But... (pauses for effect) ...don't mean nothin' if they don't know (15.18-15.27)

When Chiron walks, his character will take center stage, and one characteristic will be his concern for the reasons he was bullied. He did not look to be a man, as evidenced by his hunched, timid stance. To survive in this hostile environment, he must be exceptionally macho. His gesture body causes people, including his mother, to make fun of him and treat him unfairly.

Paula : You ever see the way he walk, Juan?

Juan : Watch your damn mouth. Paula real close now, extremely close, her nose at his chin, looking up into his eyes

Paula : You gon' tell him why the other boys kick his ass all the time? Huh? (29.10 - 29.20)

The final element is how the main character dresses and how the homosexual or gay character is always portrayed as having a woman's appearance. Thus, a man need not constantly dress like a woman to indicate whether or not he is gay. Chiron appears amazing with his bad-boy image. He cannot help but feel attracted to Kevin, though. Everyone has a gender, and they are all free to choose whether or not they find themselves to be sexually appealing. This demonstrates how Chiron could be both masculine and feminine at once.

(Hot today; hot as hell out today as Black sweats through baggy jeans and oversized white tee. What's more, unlike the pensive Black glimpsed recovering from a fevered dream, this one menaces through a full array of gold-fronted teeth. They're impossible to miss as the city passes by outside his window, cruising through the Flats. As the car continues along, Black's license plate)

Black : Hello, homie. What's good with you, B? (01:07:05 – 01:07:35)

The Performativity in the Main Character Sexual Activities as Homosexual

It occurs when Chiron is sitting alone on the beach at night and Kevin unexpectedly approaches him. They engage in a lengthy conversation about a variety of issues. It demonstrated how at ease Chiron is when he is close to Kevin. He looks into the sexual interactions that he and the others have. A homosexual appears to partake in a variety of sex practices. Chiron's desire reflects the optimism that results in comforting oneself. Chiron's self-aware behavior toward homosexuals is the effect of environment-influenced behavior.

(Their eyes meeting here, Kevin slowly working his hand along Chiron's neck, small movement, with feeling)

Kevin : Huh Chiron?

(Slowly, nearly subconsciously, Chiron going weak, leans toward Kevin, their weight supporting one another here on the dune. All sound drowned by the

echoing ocean, the night covering these two as close as they've ever been. Both sit up again, facing each other and still close, noses nearly touching. They stare. Kevin smiles, his open lips brushing Chiron's. Chiron startles and... leans in. Heavy this kissing, much deeper than just the meeting of lips. A moment more of this heavy petting then.....the sound of a buckle being undone, Kevin's hand disappearing down below, a gasp from Chiron and.....pressure. Rhythm. Pressure and rhythm as Chiron's breath catches in his chest, head fully leaned to Kevin's shoulder, free hand grabbing at the sand as Kevin takes hold of him, a caressing and a pulling and a soothing as.....Chiron comes, holding onto Kevin for dear life, choking on the sea breeze. Kevin removing his hand, looks at the cum there before wiping it on the sand) (54:21 – 55.30)

In another situation, Chiron appeared to engage in sexual activity as an adult. When Chiron is in charge of caring for Kevin at home at night. During the dialogue performance, Chiron and Kevin are having sex at his house. It seems that homosexuals or gays have ways to sate their cravings. They frequently think that their sexual behaviors are the same as those of heterosexuals. The individual seems to take pleasure in and find comfort in what they did, and Kevin seems to get it.

Black :I haven't really touched anyone, since.

Black sitting at the foot of the bed, fully clothed, hands clasped between his knees, leaned over slightly. Kevin standing before him, frozen. They hold each other's eyes an interminable beat. Black stands shakily. Kevin watches him as he closes the space between them, drawing right up to him. Kevin takes a hand and lays it flat against Black's chest. A puzzled look coming over Kevin's face. Kevin :You shakin'.

Black : Yeah.

Kevin :Wait.

Kevin crosses the doorway, flips a switch:

Total darkness.... (01:44:54 - 01:46:05)

The Main Character's Problem as a Homosexual

According to Butler, when someone acknowledged themselves, they were referred to as gay or homosexual. How the environment was affected by their gender as determined by their performance. Gender, on the other hand, is a variable and never set concept. People that were different had to deal with their own unique set of difficulties in life. Both internal and external issues are involved. It suggests that there are outside problems, such societal or environmental ones. internally, like in one's own body. As a result, the focus of this section will be on the main character's struggles with living a homosexual lifestyle.

Hiding

The comparison between Chiron hiding his presence and the idea that someone is homosexual or gay if they acknowledge or accept their sexuality and engage in social interaction. It implies that although they are not to blame for the issue, others are inclined to do so. They become increasingly compelled to conceal their existence. Chiron woke up almost every time with a nightmare. It has been established that a few sequences represent Kevin's recurring vision of Chiron's nightmare. Chiron was forced to admit that he was always considering him. He wonders about his emotions in light of Kevin's physique.

Paula :Right. If you knew you'd prolly...

Black : Bad dreamin'.

*Paula : Still? You ever thought about talking about it with somebody?
(01:16:45 – 01:17:00)*

Social Punishment

Next, as the dialogue makes clear, Chiron is depressed as a result of the pressure from the surroundings. He is constantly being accused and mistreated for being rude by others around him. Chiron has always faced prejudice because of his uniqueness and uncertainty about his gender identification. This demonstrated how those who are different in society face ongoing prejudice and rejection.

Chiron :(low, breaking) You don't even know.

Williams : Look son, I'm not blaming you, I'm not. I know it's hard, believe me, I'm not tryna disrespect your struggle. I just need you to know, if you need some help, if you need somebody to talk to... that door right there, it's always open, you feel me? And as soon as you walk through it, let me tell you -- everything you going through, all of it's gonna get better. (Ignoring that, still set on that window) (01:02:57 – 01:03:23)

Disclosing

Chiron's admission suggests that he does not like being a masculine. On the inside, he was not in denial about being a gay man; he knew it. This is consistent with the perspective on homosexuality held by Judith Butler. She is a metaphor for when someone accepts and confesses to a trusted person. They have a history of being homosexual or gay. As a reminder, Chiron confides in Kevin about what he is going through because he believes in him.

Black : You're the only man who's ever touched me. The air going out of Kevin's chest, his gaze fixated on Black's lips, anticipating the words falling from there

Black : The only one.

Black's hand is flat atop the table between them. His eyes lower to it

Black : I haven't really touched anyone, since (01:44:54 - 01:46:00)

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This study attempted to examine how the environment influenced homosexuality in Barry Jenkins' movie *Moonlight*. Three conclusions are drawn from this study's application of Judith Butler's queer theory to the research. The main character's family and school impact their sexual orientation as gay, which is the first environmental factor. The second is that the main character lines himself as gay and gets involved with the performativity that the main character displays as a mark that he is gay or a homosexual, such as recognition of his identity, the utterances about homosexuality, and his appearance, and sexual identity. The final is the problem of homosexuality of the main character, which is organized by hiding, social punishment, and disclosing.

Many people are still unaware of how crucial the environment is to a person's development as a person and how it is one of the earliest forms of media in that process. Additionally, despite the fact that they are distinct, some individuals still wrongly conflate gender and sexuality. Everyone has the freedom to choose their gender identification, whether they identify as a feminist or a man. Readers are also being reminded by the author that gays and other LGBT individuals have the same right to exist as people. The message is that everyone has the right to be treated equally and without prejudice, regardless of whether someone accepts or rejects them.

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