CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Woman and man are constructed to be masculine and feminine by the society. The society gives the ideas how masculine and feminine act and behave. This social construction is reflected in the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

Dorian Gray, the main character in this novel, is characterized as a good-looking young man. As seen in the description of his picture in the following *"stood the full-length portrait of a young man of extraordinary personal beauty." (Wilde, 1992: 5)*. However, he is an inexperience young man. As described by Lord Henry, one of the character that later becomes his friend, below

> *"I feel quite sure of that. He is some brainless, beautiful creature, who should be always here in winter when we have no flowers to look at, and always here in summer when we want something to chill our intelligence." (Wilde, 1992: 6)*

The data above describes Dorian characterization through the telling method that is from Lord Henry character. Lord Henry describes Dorian as a brainless person, which indicates that he is inexperience. Lord Henry also describes Dorian as if Dorian is a woman figure by using the word beautiful instead of handsome, and he is also depicted as flower as seen here, "*who should be always here in winter when we have no flowers to look at, and always here in summer when we want something to chill our intelligence."* The description from Lord Henry above can be concluded that Dorian is characterized by brainless,

beautiful and flower. Those words pertain to women's characteristic which indicate Dorian Gray's feminine side.

Dorian is inexperience young man because he lost his parents at a very young age. His father was killed in duel at Spa a few months later after the marriage and his mother died too, within a year.

> *"The poor chap was killed in duel at Spa, a few months after the marriage. There was an ugly story about it. They said Kelso got some rascally adventurer, some Belgian brute, to insult his son-in-law in public; paid him, sir, to do it, paid him; and that the fellow spitted his man as if he had been a pigeon. The thing was hushed up, but, egad, Kelso ate his chop alone at the club for some time afterwards. He brought his daughter back with him, I was told, and she never spoke to him again. Oh, yes; it was a bad business. The girl died too: died within a year." (Wilde, 1992: 29)*

Dorian's past life is described from the conversation between Lord Henry and Lord Fermor. He lost his parents when he was child. His father died few month later after the marriage because of his grandfather paid some Belgian brute to insult his son-in-law in front of public, and he was killed in that duel. Although, this story is covered up but public knew about this. His grandfather brought Dorian's mother back, but after that, Dorian's mother never spoke to Lord Kelso until she died. After the tragedy, Dorian lives with his grandfather who is described as *"tyrant and lovelessman" (Wilde, 1992:31).* This is the reason why, Dorian is inexperience. He has no one teach him. Dorian constructs by his society that his grandfather. Dorian does not get the education from his grandfather. He just stay at home like commonly woman in Victorian era.

His life changes when he comes to London. There, he meets Basil and Lord Henry. Basil thinks that Dorian is so impressive he is handsome and has a good shaped of body. As seen here:

> *"I sometimes think, Harry, that there are only two eras of any importance in the world's history. The first is the apperance of a new medium for art, and the second is the apperance of a new personality for art also. What the invention of oil-painting was to the Venetians, the face of Antinous was the late Greek sculpture, and the face of Dorian Gray will someday be to me. It is not merely that I paint from him, draw from him, sketch from him. Of course I have done all that. But he is much more to me than model or a sitter." (Wilde, 1992:11)*

Basil sees Dorian like a beautiful art. "*The first is the apperance of a new medium for art, and the second is the apperance of a new personality for art also." (Wilde, 1992:11)* Dorian apperance and personality is an object of art for Basil. "*What the invention of oil-painting was to the Venetians, the face of Antinous was the late Greek sculpture, and the face of Dorian Gray will someday be to me."(Wilde, 1992:11)*. Basil equates the beauty of Dorian face and body to the classical Greek statue, the Antinous-the Greek statue who has a beautiful body and face. Basil thinks Dorian is perfect to be a model for his painting. It becomes a reason Basil draws his picture on canvas. It is not only Basil who is fascinated with Dorian but Lord Henry too.

Lord Henry is also fascinated with Dorian Gray even before he meets him. *"He was certainly wonderfully handsome, with his finely-curved scarlet lips, his frank blue eyes, his crisp gold hair. (Wilde, 1992: 16).* He first saw him on canvas drawn by Basil. Lord Henry fascinated with the Dorian handsomeness.

The handsomeness of Dorian is clearly seen. Dorian also has a perfect composition for handsome man with a red lips, blue eyes and gold hair.

On the other hand, Dorian is fascinated by Lord Henry, as seen below

> *"Dorian Gray frowned and turned his head away. He could not help liking the tall, graceful young man who was standing by him. his romantic olive-coloured face and worn expression interested him. (Wilde, 1992: 20)*

This data above shows that Dorian is fascinated by Lord Henry's appearance that is tall and charismatic. Dorian thinks that he is very masculine and smart. He is the representation of a man he want to be.

Dorian closeness to Basil and Lord Henry shows a homoerotic relationship. Although those three are heterosexual but their friendship is too close and they care one another too much. The relationship is based on the older man teaching the young boy the ways of life and how to become a man. The implicit statement about homoerotic can be seen in Lord Henry statement below:

> *"I believe that if one man were to live out his life fully and completely, were to give form to every feeling, expression to every thought, reality to every dream – I believe that the world would gain such a fresh impulse of joy that we would forget all the maladies of medievalis, and return to the Hellenic Ideal – to something finer, richer, than the Hellenic ideal, it may be." (Wilde, 1992:18)*

The quotation above shows a homoerotic code since Lord Henry mentions Hellenic ideal to emphasis the time when a man can freely idolizes other male body. Implicitly, Lord Henry starts to idolize Dorian beautiful face and body. Lord Henry doctrinates Dorian with his thought about idolize Dorian beauty face and body. His beautiful face and body has become an object of education for himself. Lord Henry also tells to Dorian that how to man could and should live his

life to be meaningful. He emphasizes with the "*maladies of medievalis"*, the tendency to praise the "art for art's sake" that is art as a final pleasure. It leads Dorian to the "*gain such a fresh impulse of joy"* Lord Henry suggests that Dorian to pleasure himself while he still young. Lord Henry thought starts to influence Dorian Gray. The education that Lord Henry teaches to Dorian builds an extraordinary close whch can be considered as man Homoerotic.

Dorian is also interested with Lord Henry's witty enigma and cynical judgment about the world. Thus, he thinks Lord Henry as a one who can teach him about the world.

> *"For nearly ten minutes he stood there, motionless, with parted lips, and eyes strangely bright. He was dimly conscious that entirely fresh influences were at work within him. Yet they seemed to him to have come really form himself. The few words that Basil's friend has said to him – words spoken by chance, no doubt, and with willful paradox in them – had touched some secret chord that had never been touched before, but that he felt was now vibrating and throbbing to curious pulses." (Wilde, 1992: 19)*

Lord Henry's witty enigma and cynical judgment about the world affected him. His inexperience makes him as empty canvas and waiting to be formed. He likes a child and ready to learn everything. There are many things that Dorian learned from Lord Henry including his own beauty.

> *"You have a wonderfully beautiful face, Mr Gray. Don't frown. You have. And Beauty is a form of Genius – is higher, indeed, than Genius, as it needs no explanation. It is one of the great facts of the world, like sunlight, or springtime, or the reflection in dark waters of that silver shell we call the moon. It cannot be questioned. It has its divine right of sovereignty. It makes princes of those who have it. You smile? Ah! When you have lost it you won't smile ... People say sometimes that Beauty is only superficial. That may be so. But at least it is not so superficial as*

> *Thought is. To me, Beauty is the wonder of wonders. It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances."(Wilde, 1992: 21)*

Lord Henry says Dorian has an extraordinary beauty. Dorian has just realized it. He also learns that the beauty is a great miracle. As Lord Henry statement about beauty,*"It has its divine right of sovereignty. It makes princes of those who have it."*

Besides beauty, Dorian also learns the important of Youth from Lord Henry. *"Youth! Youth! There is absolutely nothing in the world but youth!" (Wilde, 1992:22)* Lord Henry tells that youth is everything in this world. Beauty and youth makes someone a man. Dorian starts to believe that someone is judged only from their appearance as has been pointed out by Lord Henry "*To me, Beauty is the wonder of wonders. It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances."*

Dorian thinks that, if he wants to be masculine like Lord Henry he should maintain his appearance. If Dorian loses his beauty, people will not respect him anymore. Dorian relies on Lord Henry judgment about how to be a man.

Dorian awareness about beauty and youth makes him afraid to be old. It can see on below data:

> *"That had stirred him at the time, and now, as he stood gazing at the shadow of his own loveliness, the full reality of the description flashed across him. Yes, there would be a day when his face would be wrinkle and wizen, his eyes dim and colourless, the grace of his figure broken and deformed." (Wilde, 1992: 23)*

Dorian is afraid that someday, there would be a time that he lost his loveliness, which is the mark of his masculinity. Someday he will be old, wrinkle,

and wither and ugly. It is indicated Dorian is afraid of aging. He believes that youth is everything; he can do anything when he is young and handsome. Dorian thinks that ideal men are those who have beauty and youth. The society are also respected those who have beauty and youth. As seen in Lord Henry statement below:

> *"You have only a few years's in which to live really, perfectly and fully. When your youth goes, your beauty will go with it and then you will suddenly discover that there are no triumphs left for you, or have to content yourself with those mean triumphs that the memory of your past will make more bitter than defeats." (Wilde, 1992:21)*

Dorian learns from Lord Henry that he has to enjoy his life fully before he loses his beauty and youth. The aesthetic movement that emphasizes art from its beauty not from its deeper meaning influences this thought.

Dorian becomes obsessive to youth and beauty and he starts to hate his picture.

> "*'How sad it is!' murmured Dorian Gray, with his eyes still fixed upon his own portrait. 'How sad it is! I shall grow old, horrid, and dreadful. But this picture will remain always young. It will never be older than this particular day of June …. If it was only the other way!If it was I who were to be always young, and the picture that were to grow old! For this—for this—I would give everything! Yes, there is nothing in the whole world I would not give!'"(Wilde, 1992: 14).*
>
> ……
>
> *"oh, if it were only the other way! If the picture could change, and I could be always what I am now!" (Wilde, 1992:25)*.

Dorian thinks that he will be reputed as deformed person when he grows old. Meanwhile his picture will stay the same. This is the reason why he hates the

picture. His obsessions make him do not want to be old and he would give everything to stay young and beautiful forever.

Dorian not only learns about the value of beauty and youth for masculinity from Lord Henry. He also learns that a man should have many experiences especially love experience.

> *"My, dear boy, the people who love only once in their lives are really the shallow people. What they call their loyalty, and their fidelity, I call either the lethargy of custom or their lack of imagination. Faithfullness is to the emotional life what consistency is to the life of the intellect – simply a confession of failure. Faithfulness! I must analyse it someday. The passion for property is in it. There are many things that we would throw away if we were not afraid that others might pick them up. But I don't want to interrupt you. Go on with your story." (Wilde, 1992: 41)*

The qoutation above tells about Lord Henry's opinion about Dorian intention to marry Sybil. A woman he meets in the theater. Dorian does not immediately accept Lord Henry's enigma about how to be a man. At first, he still feels proud with Sybil because he is sure that Sybil is beautiful woman and has a great skill in acting.

> *"Harry, imagine a girl, hardly seventeen years of age, with a little flower-like face, a small Greek head with plaited coils of dark-brown hair, eyes that were violet wells of passion, lips that were like the petals of a rose. She was the loveliest thing I had ever seen in my life. You said to me once that pathos left you unmoved, but that beauty, mere beauty, could fill your eyes with tears.*

It indicates that Dorian praises the beauty of Sybil. Her beauty makes Dorian amaze with her "*imagine a girl, hardly seventeen years of age, with a little flower-like face, a small Greek head with plaited coils of dark-brown hair, eyes that were violet wells of passion, lips that were like the petals of a rose." (Wilde,*

1992: 42). Her beautiful face, hair and lips is a perfect composition for Dorian. Dorian thinks he found a femininity in Sybil beauty. Sybil beauty also emphasizes by Dorian with her voice "*And her voice – I never heard such a voice. It was very low at first, deep mellow notes, that seemed to fall singly upon one's ear. Then it became a little louder, and sounded like a flute or a distant hautbois."(Wilde, 1992:42).* The beauty of Sybil is like a beautiful symphony for Dorian. Dorian feels that he is hearing a music and her voice amuses Dorian. Dorian has been drugged by Sybil voice, when she was singing, "*In the garden-scene it had all the tremulous ecstasy that one hears just before dawn when nightingales are singing." (Wilde, 1992: 42)* and her voice never forget in Dorian mind, *"I shall never forget." (Wilde, 1992:42)*

Dorian praises Sybil's acting. The night when Sybil performs, Dorian imagines Sybil as Rosalind, Imogen and Juliet. These characters are a perfect feminine women in Dorian imagination. "*One evening she is Rosalind, and the next evening she is Imogen. I have seen her die in the gloom of an Italian tomb, sucking the poison from her lover's lips."(Wilde, 1992:43).* Dorian does not imagines a Sybil as herself but as those characters mentioned above. Dorian gives a high value for beauty and art in defining femininity. He appreciates Sybil for her passion in art because Dorian praises the beauty, youth and art.

When Sybil does not satisfy Dorian with her beauty and perform bad art. Dorian feels disppointed with Sybil and she has failed to satisfy Dorian desire about beauty. It is also the reason he break up with Sybil after he sees Sybil bad perfomance.

> *"You used to stir my imagination. Now you don't even stir my curiosity. You simply produce no effects. I loved you because you were marvellous, because you had genius and intellect, because you realised the dreams of great poets and gave shape and substance to the shadows of art. You have thrown it all away. You are shallow and stupid. My God! How mad I was to love you! What a fool I have been! You are nothing to me now." (Wilde, 1992: 71)*

Sybil makes Dorian embarrassed and it ruins his pride in front of his friend. He has told his friend the beauty of Sybil performance but it turns out to be different. The above explanation shows that Dorian is interested in Sybil because his obsession about beauty as mentioned earlier. "*You used to stir my imagination. Now you don't even stir my curiosity."* Dorian feels Sybil has failed to satisfy him with her performance. Her performance is not what Dorian what. He loves Sybil because her beauty and her perform the art not a real love that Sybil want "*I loved you because you were marvellous, because you had genius and intellect, because you realised the dreams of great poets and gave shape and substance to the shadows of art."* His love for Sybil is only simply motive as an art and beauty. It is emphasizes with this quotation. As seen in the following

> "*Tonight she is Imogen,' he answered, 'and tomorrow night she will be Juliet.' 'When is she Sybil Vane?' Never'" (Wilde, 1992: 45)*
>
> *……*
>
> *"Oh, I can't bear to think of it! I wish I had never laid eyes upon you! You have spoiled the romance of my life. How little you can know of love, if you say it mars your art! Without your art you are nothing. I would have made you famous, splendid magnificent. The world would have worshipped you and you would have borne my name. What are you now? A third-rate actress with a pretty face." (Wilde, 1992:71)*

Since Dorian only sees Sybil from her aesthetic side, he thinks that Sybil is not good enough for him after her bad performance. Dorian said *"Never",* it clearly seen that Dorian loves Sybil cause her beauty not loves her because the feeling. So, Dorian broke Sybil's heart into pieces, and she decides to kill herself.

Dorian's way of thinking about how a woman should be is also affected by Lord Henry's point of view about femininity as seen here:

> *"My dear Dorian, it is quite. I am analysing women at present, so I ought to know. The subject is not so abstruse as I thought it was. So find that, ultimately, there are only two kinds of women, the plain and the coloured. The plain women are very useful. If you want to gain a reputation for respectability, you have merely to take them down to supper. The other women are very charming. They commit one mistake, however. They paint in order to try and look young. Our grandmothers painted in order to try and talk brilliantly. Rouge and esprit used to go together. That is all over now. As long as a woman can look ten years younger than her own daughter, she is perfectly satisfied. As for conversation, there are only five women in London worth talking to, and two of these can't be admitted into decent society. However, tell me about your genius. How long have you known her?" (Wilde, 1992:40)*

This data above shows Lord Henry explains two kinds of women, plain and color women. However, the point is that Lord Henry persuades Dorian that He should not be too serious to women because only few women worth to be noticed.

> *"My dear boy, no woman is a genius. Women are a decorative sex. They never have anything to say, but they say it charmingly. Women represent the triumph of matter over mind, just a men represent the triumph of mind over morals." (Wilde, 1992: 40)*

This data above shows that Lord Henry persuades Dorian to thinks that women is unimportant. He reduces women only as a decorative. Woman is like

furniture that makes home more beautiful. Lord Henry tells the more beautiful that man can get, the more he feels proud on himself among his friends. This is the reason Dorian dumps Sybil. She makes him ashamed in front of his friend.

Actually, Dorian imitates Lord Henry because Lord Henry is very masculine for him. Lord Henry masculinity fits with the social norms that construct man. Dorian thinks he should act like a man. Therefore, Dorian is imitating the Lord Henry experience about woman. Woman for Lord Henry is just a place for seeking a pleasure, because Dorian praises the beauty and youth. He is only seeking a beauty and youth in woman. If woman unsatisfied Dorian's, desire about beauty and youth. Dorian will leaves the woman and find other woman who can satisfy his feeling about beauty and youth.

In fact, Dorian's obsession with youth and beauty leads him into his destruction. He tries to live as Lord Henry directed to him but it leads him to feel as a bad person, whichis reflected in his picture,

> *"Finally he came back, went over to the picture, and examined it. In the dim arrested light that struggled through the cream-coloured silk blinds, the face appeared to him to be a little changed. The expression looked different. One would have said that there was a touch of cruelty in the mouth. It was certainly strange." (Wilde, 1992:73)*

The changes appearance of the picture is reflected the deformed of Dorian sincerity, which make him hating his own picture. Dorian also blame Basil because he has painted Dorian. He thinks that Basil is the man that makes him sees his own fault through his own picture. At last, Dorian kills Basil with the knife.

> *"Dorian Gray glanced at the picture, and suddenly an un-controllable feeling of hatred for Basil Hallward came over him. The mad passions of a hunted animal stirred within him, and he loathed the man who was seated at the table, more than he had ever loathed anything in his whole life. He glanced wildly around. Something glimmered on the top of the painted chest that faced him. His eye fell on it. He knew what it was. It was a knife that he had brought up some days before, to cut a piece of cord, and had forgotten to take away with him. He moved slowly towards it, passing Hallward as he did so. As soon as he got behind him, he seized it, and turned round. Hallward moved in his chair as if he was going to rise. He rushed at him, and dug the knife into the great vein that is behind the ear, crushing the man's head down on the table, and stabbing again and again. (Wilde, 1992: 125-126)*

This data above shows the effect of the adoration of beauty and youth. Dorian cannot control himself to life in hedonist life that leads him to the destruction of his own life. His guilty of Sybil and Basil death haunts him. He depresses, finally he decides to stab the picture, which symbolizes that he kills the dark side of himself. As seen below:

> *"He looked around, and saw the knife that had stabbed Basil Hallward. He had cleaned it many times, till there was no stain left upon it. It was bright, and glistened. As it had killed the painter, so it would kill the painter's work, and all that that meant. It would kill the past, and when that was dead he would be free. It would kill this monstrous soul-life, and without its hideous warnings, he would be at peace. He seized the thing, and stabbed the picture with it." (Wilde, 1992:177)*

Dorian thinks that if his portraitis destroyed, he will be free from feeling guilty and he can rest in peace at last.

The explanation above shows that Dorian interprets masculinity and femininity in relation to beauty and youth. He thinks that masculine men are those

who can enjoy his life and use his youth to a fullest extent. He should have a lot of love experience and never married at all. Under Lord Henry's advice, he interprets there are few women that is worth of his attention. A woman should be charming, smart and she should have a great skill in art. All of those characteristic is important to make a man proud in front of his friends.

The analysis also shows that masculinity and femininity are a performance. Dorian as an inexperience person learns how to be masculine from his surrounding and then he performed it. Since he has too much obsession on masculinity and femininity in his own interpretation, he done many bad things. It leads to the destruction of his own life.