

Chapter V

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This final chapter provides conclusion and recommendation. The conclusion section sums up the findings from the discussion. The recommendation section provides suggestions intended for further research about aromantic and asexual identity discovery processes.

5.1 Conclusion

Being part of a minority means constantly being aware of the possibility of being misunderstood and discriminated against. It is presented in almost every literature work that discrimination and prejudice are inevitable for queer communities. These literature works create representation for those who are neglected in the society and help society understand the minority. Nowadays, there are a lot of media with LGBTQ+ representation; however, there are some sexual orientations that still have their legitimation questioned including aromantic and asexual orientations. This research is written in order to understand the discovery process of aromantic and asexual using the character Georgia Warr from novel *Loveless* by Alice Oseman.

This research is applying Robbins' asexual identity development models which include six stages of development. The results suggest that Georgia only went through five stages from what is outlined by Robbins. The first stage presents identity confusion. Georgia's identity confusion is mostly influenced by the lack of knowledge and awareness in aromantic and asexual identity. This lack of awareness

forces her to engage in things she does not enjoy including kissing and dating. Due to the uneasy feeling towards activities that were supposed to be normal for her, she feels alienated until she discovers aromantic and asexual identities.

The second stage is discovery of terminology. Upon discovering aromantic and asexual, Georgia feels disappointed knowing that her future is different from what she had pictured. While ignoring the uncomfortable feeling, Georgia pressures herself to date Jason and kisses Pip's crush, Rooney. Georgia does not realize that forcing herself to feel something she cannot enjoy is hurting Jason and Pip. Consequently, Jason and Pip leave Georgia. In her loneliness, Georgia decides to move forward and begins to learn about aromantic and asexual.

The third stage is exploration and education. In this stage, Georgia educates herself about aromantic and asexual. With the help of the internet, she learns that these terminologies have existed for a while. This new information of aromantic and asexual opens Georgia's mind; but it still overwhelms her. The fact that no one has talked about these identities before makes Georgia angry at the world. Her anger slowly shifts after she engages with Ellis, her cousin, who is also aromantic and asexual. Engaging with Ellis calms Georgia knowing that she is not alone. There are a lot of aromantic and asexual out there. In this stage, Georgia also comes to an understanding that she has always been brainwashed by the media about love and relationship, and jeopardizes her friendship for something she does not enjoy.

The fourth stage is identity acceptance. Accepting her aromantic and asexual identities for Georgia means opening a new perspective that true love can also be in a form of friendship and is as valuable as conventional relationship. In this stage,

it is also found out that salience negotiation is not included in Georgia's identity acceptance which makes it different from Robbins' model. Subsequently, her experience is still valid knowing that the model is made to outline the asexual identity development rather than a strict guideline for asexual people to experience.

The last stage is coming out and identity integration. After accepting her identities, Georgia finally came out to her friends including Sunil, Rooney, Pip, and Jason. Each person she comes out with leads her to identity integration. Some positive differences are presented when Georgia is talking about aromantic and asexual. She no longer thinks that these identities are something that make her different but rather something that represent her as a person.

Georgia's identity discovery process is mostly influenced by the limited visibility aromantic and asexual in society. Despite reaching the final stage of identity discovery, Georgia can still experience distress and doubt if the society is still reinforcing the narrative of romantic love and marriage as a necessary part of human being.

Humans are dynamic creatures. Sedgwick (1990: 25-26) argues that sexuality is far more complex and varied than the labels that are used to describe it. Even people who share the same orientation, gender, or background can experience sexuality differently. Some people may feel their desires have been with them since birth; the others feel like their desires shifted over time. Both of these experiences are completely valid; there is no "right" way for identity to develop or manifest. At the end of the day, we are all just human beings trying to be the best version of ourselves in our lives.

5.2 Recommendation

Aromantic and asexual identities remain largely under-discussed in society. While this research covered the aromantic and asexual identity discovery process of Georgia Warr in the novel *Loveless*, the stages experienced by each aromantic and asexual individual might be different. Since Georgia's asexual and aromantic identities emerged together, this research applied Robbins' asexual development model to both. However, this approach reveals a gap that aromantic identity may not mirror asexual development despite certain similarities. Therefore, further researches can explore and design aromantic identity discovery model.

