

TRANSGENDER IDENTITY PORTRAYED IN *TOM HOOPER's THE DANISH GIRL*

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ABSTRACT

Transgender has been recognized and is being a popular perspective nowadays, but still being debated in society as a gender issue. This real case of life was brought up in an epic movie by Tom Hooper, titled *The Danish Girl*. The purpose of this study is to discover Einar Wegener's transsexual character as he seeks his true identity, which leads him to become a woman. The movie is described and analyzed by using a qualitative descriptive method. Referring to the transsexualism theory, Einar Wegener's character includes all of the characteristics of a transsexual, such as behavior confusion with the actual gender, the eagerness to be free from the main gender characteristics, willingness to be characterized as the opposite sex, etc. However, because transsexuality is a sexual deviation that differs from the norm, the main character must deal with negative consequences such as family problems, depression, insecurity, self-susceptibility, and health issues that lead to death due to his inability to survive after undergoing a second surgery. The movie idea which based on the true story depicts the complex problems arise in gender reassignment and its consequences toward personal life and the environment.

Keywords: *Movie, Transgender, The Danish Girl*

INTRODUCTION

Every human being is born with biological sex characteristics, either male, female, or intersex. Gender, on the other hand, is a social construct based on the norms, behaviors, and societal roles that are expected of individuals based primarily on their sex. In psychology, gender identity refers to a person's self-perceived gender, which can be male, female, or none at all which is an essential aspect of everyone's identity. There has certainly never been a time in recent history when everyone felt they were either stringently male or female. However, while cultural differences have been more open and the response of people surrounded toward various gender identities at multiple stages are more acceptable, some people today are more willing to express their individuality and

go out of their way as representatives of gender. In recent years, the increasing of public understanding toward gender has allowed many people to feel more at ease in their own skin and live what their belief as their gender identity.

Transgenders or transsexuals are people whose gender identity does not match with their biological sex. A male-to-female (MTF) transsexual is born male but sees himself as female, while opposite a female-to-male (FTM) transsexual is born female but sees herself as male. He or she may use hormones to suppress the characteristics of the biological gender or to promote the characteristics of the desired gender. The common behavior appeared in transsexual characteristics such as a strong desire to exchange one's primary sex

characteristics to the other gender; a desire to be the opposite sex and be treated as such; a conviction that one's feelings and behaviors are in fact related to the other sex (American Psychiatric Association, 2000a, 2000b; Meyer-Bahlburg, 2010).

Gender issues is still a popular perspective that is being debated in society. It is not only talking about the complexity of the roles of man and woman, but more broadly refers to sexual violence, racial discrimination, and culture. In social life, there are still many negative stereotypes about transgender and transsexual people. It continues to believe that transsexuals engage in behaviors contrary to the norms and religion. So people are hesitant to socialize with and live alongside these trans people. However, as the modernization era progresses, the general public's perception of trans people is improving. People have begun to accept their existence and believe it is not a major issue as long as it does not interfere with social life.

The phenomenon in this life, sometimes was brought in literary works such as movies. A movie is a complex social, psychological, and aesthetic phenomenon consisting of stories and images accompanied by words and music. The movie can be connected as an imagination world created as a cultural reflection, including a reflection of gender ideology in society. So, it becomes an option for material objects that deserve to be used as a source of study, considering that the movie is not merely the result of fiction, but it is also a reflection of reality (Adi, 2011). Each movie has its own message and meaning, which is conveyed by raising the reality that grows and develops in society and then projecting it onto the screen. People often use the popular issue as the theme of the story.

One of the most well-known movies that address gender issue is *The*

Danish Girl. This movie was released in 2015 and directed by British-Australian movie director, Tom Hooper. This movie is taken from the true story of Einar Wegener, who changes his primary sex as a man into the second sex as a woman. This movie showed of how Einar is struggling to find his identity. He is confusion about himself which has man body but like to have a tendency of woman attribute. The issue of the gender begins when Einar often wear woman's dress. The story started as his wife, Gerda Wegener, a well-known landscape painter, asks him to fill in as a female model when the lady is late for the assignment. Because he looks fit and beautiful with women's dress which is tried to put on to his body. Since then he feels comfortable and trapped with the condition of woman attributes. The process of acceptance and firm of his status being a woman is hard and miserable. The struggle is not only for himself but also for his wife and closed people. Unlike the common response, his wife gives him spaces to explore his process being a woman. She fully supports his decision for a transsexual surgery and accompany his dying because the failure of the surgery until he was death.

This movie is interesting to analyze since it depicts the transsexual issue without much opposition from people surrounded as still common responses showed in the society, and reflects the willingness of close people having a member family with transsexual. The illustration of struggling a person in changing his identity with mixed emotional feelings which cause suffering, miserable and tragic life. This phenomenon gives different perspectives toward this social issue. It delivers the messages for more comprehending about the transsexual gender rather than judging the people about their problem identity. So in this study, the writer is interested to analyze the transgender topic in *The Danish Girl* movie. The statement problems that will be focused on in this research are how

transsexual identity is portrayed on the main character of the movie, and what the consequences of his identity change are.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

According to journal of American Psychological Association, transgender is an umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity (sense of themselves as male or female) or gender expression differs from that usually associated with their birth sex. Lehmillier in (Rokach & Patel, 2021), cites that it is an individual's psychological perception of being male, female, neither, both, or somewhere in between. Although a person's gender identity is often consistent with their biological sex, this is not always the case. As Scutti (2014) elaborately says that transgender as people who transition from one sex to another. It cannot change their genetics and cannot procure the reproductive abilities of the sex they transform. An individual can be born as a male and then become recognizably female and vice versa through hormones and surgical procedures. He also adds that transgender has traditionally been viewed as a psychological phenomenon.

Moreover, (Yalamanchi et al., 2017) stated that a mental health professional usually diagnoses transgender and that it is critical to identify potential psychiatric comorbidities before considering hormonal or surgical therapy. According to The Endocrine Society guidelines and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care, the diagnosis of transgender involves the existence of at least two of the following criteria in either adolescents or adults for at least six months; lack of consistency between one's actual/expressed gender and primary or secondary sex characteristics, eagerness to

be exempt from one's primary or secondary sex characteristics due to a labeled dissonance with one's experienced gender, willingness for the opposite gender's primary and or secondary sex characteristics, burning urge to be of the opposite gender, a need to be treated as the other gender, a significant conviction that one has the typical feelings and reactions of the other gender. All the characteristics are as features which indicate the intense of the transgender level. The more categories someone belong the more potential he or she become a transgender

Opening community with various cultures, transexual with its characteristic is incredibly diverse. Portrayed transexuals can be reflected as a man or a woman, while others may describe themselves as bigender or other identities that reflect their personal experience. Some of them take hormones or have surgery as part of their transition, while others may change their pronouns or appearance (Stephens, 2014). In other words, transexual refers to a person who does not associate with the sex birth-assigned, regardless of whether they are successful in realigning their gender and sex through medical intervention. It shows that some transexuals opt for gender reassignment surgery – or surgery in which a person's physical and sexual characteristics are transformed through surgery or hormone treatment. However, the main objective of being a transexual is not related to sexualstimulation but instead the desire to live life with the opposite sex (Sansfacon, et al, 2022).

Although transsexuality appears to be a personal decision, it impacts its structure and sociocultural dimensions. It can cause an identity crisis due to the effects of transsexuality on an individual's personality, behavioral system, and social adjustment. Sociological deviance in sexual orientation is an example of this behavior. Unusual behavior can be contentious because it directly impacts the social system's foundation. It refers to wrong doing that violates or contradicts normative rules. According to this perspective, deviation becomes illness or variation from stable norms established by many people or situations that differ from these expectations.

Transsexual people are indeed becoming more visible in popular culture and everyday life, but they continue to face discrimination, stigma, and systemic inequality. According to the Human Rights Campaign (2022) there are some specific issues confronting the trans community such as the following: a) lack of legal protection; trans people face a legal system that frequently fails to protect them from discrimination based on their gender identity, b) stigma, harassment dan discrimination; the trans community continues to face significant stigma due to being labeled as mentally ill, socially deviant, and sexual predatory, c) violence, against trans

people; transsexual people face far more violence than the average person. This type of violence has the potential to be lethal, d) identity documents; a common lack of accurate identity documents among trans people can have ramifications in all aspects of their lives, including access to health care and other public services. Many states prohibit trans people from updating their identification documents to reflect their gender identity. With all impacts on their lives, trans people live harder than common-life people.

Transsexuality can also distorts an individual's life path. With all consequences, it causes physical, psychological, social, economic, and family problems. But it huge impact on the inside personnel of trans people such as decreasing self-confidence and social capital but increasing depression, isolation, and the individual's sense of vulnerability, causing disruptions in daily functions, social activities, and peace of mind (Ardebili, et.al, 2020). Furthermore, their transsexuality makes them reliant on others and prevents them from participating in everyday social activities. All of these issues and various treatments, complications, and high treatment costs reduce the quality of life for transsexual people.

METHODS

To collect data, the writer employs descriptive qualitative methods. According to (Calderon, 2006), descriptive research is a deliberate process of gathering, analyzing, categorizing, and tabulating data about current conditions, practices, trends, and cause-effect relationships, and then making adequate and accurate interpretations of such data with or without, or sometimes with

minimal, statistical methods. Furthermore, this method determines the current state of facts in a group under investigation and provides either qualitative or quantitative or both, descriptions of the group's general characteristics as a result. The writer also uses the library study to support the research. The writer searches the theories from books and the internet as the

baseline of analysis and finds some journals as references from other writers to compare and help to arrange the research.

The primary data is collected from *The Danish Girl* movie directed by Tom Hooper. Then, secondary data is derived from books, journals, and others in the form of a perspective sociology approach, film review, previous research, and other relevant sources. Several procedures are

carried out for obtaining and analyzing the data. First, the writer watches the chosen movie several times to gain an understanding and to identify some parts of the scenes to analyze. Second, collect some data from various sources to support the analysis in relation to the topic. Third, after compiling all of the research materials, the writer begins to analyze the data and link it to related theories.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Danish Girl is a biographical movie based on a true story adapted from the same-titled novel written by David Ebershoff in 2000. The unforgettable love story is inspired by the lives of artists Einar Wegener (Lili Elbe) and Gerda Wegener. The journey of Lili and Gerda's marriage and Lili's involvement to help Gerda's career as a painter is depicted in the slow and gloomy movie. His accidental involvement in his wife's work as a painter of woman's models is the beginning of his groundbreaking journey as a transgender. The depiction of the process to become transgender is the main topic for analysis of this research. The analysis is to answer the research questions, namely, how transsexual identity is portrayed in the main character of the movie, and what the consequences of his identity change are. As a baseline of analysis, the writer used WPATH's diagnostic as a reference for indicating the transgender features, and other approaches to support the analysis.

1. Transgender Characteristics

In this analysis, the writer examines the depiction of the main character's identity change and his journey to becoming transgender. According to WPATH the diagnosis of transgender involves the existence of at least two of six

characteristics of transgender, namely a) lack of consistency between one's actual/expressed gender and primary or secondary sex characteristics, b) eagerness to be exempt from one's primary or secondary sex characteristics due to a labeled dissonance with one's experienced gender, c) willingness for the opposite gender's primary and or secondary sex characteristics, d) burning urge to be of the opposite gender, e) a need to be treated as the other gender, f) a significant conviction that one has the typical feelings and reactions of the other gender. After analysis of the main character based on the characteristics above, the writer found all traits in Einar's personality which indicate the profound transexual change in his identity that will elaborate in the following explanation.

Transgender is initially interested in the opposite gender from his or her original gender. In a moment they wear or act like people related in their imagination or supposed roles that should be performed. But in the other moments, they are aware that they have to come to their original identity. The identity changes frequently which caused confusion and conflict with internal individuals and others. *The lack of consistent identity*, as the first trait occurred at this stage. At scene (0:24:48) depicted

when Gerda asked Einar to attend the Artists Ball as Lili to substitute a model that could not attend. In this case, he wore woman costume and practiced to walk like a woman pretend as a real lady. This role as initial stage for him to switch being a transgender. Einar was still claiming to be a man but was gradually acting like a woman. Later on Einar was feeling more comfortable being of the opposite sex, but he realized his actual gender as man embedded in his real identity. It also shown at scene (0:53:31) occurred when Einar attended the artists' meeting and but he acted and dressed like a normal man. This was done in order to achieve societal normative value among the artists despite the fact that he started feeling ease in his role as Lili. Since these complicated roles, he was highly insecure at the time. He was anxious people will know his trouble identity tend to be an abnormal gender. At the same time, he is reluctant to reappear as Einar who is known as a man. These two identities cause a lack of consistency between his current situation and his imaginative sex character. His appearance and behavior at the time were inconsistent. The next trait embedded in transgender is the *eagerness to be exempt from the original sex characteristic*. When a transgender decides to change his identity, he has a huge desire to be accepted as a person with a new attribute. He avoids and dislikes something with his old identity. As seen at scene 01:38:52, Einar tried to confirm Gerda that everything has changed regard to his identity. It is stated that Einar is no longer being the same person. He wanted to show off his secondary sex trait, and erase his previous life as a man.

Einar : If you thought that everything would be the same afterward, but I didn't

Gerda : But I promised Einar that I would take care of you.

Einar : For goodness' sakes, Gerda, Einar is dead.

Based on the statement above, Einar's eagerness to be free from his original identity was truly expressed when he said, "*For goodness' sakes, Gerda, Einar is dead.*" which indicated that the old Einar had vanished and he desired to be exempt of his actual gender. Furthermore, he tried to convince Gerda that he could no longer be his husband because he chose to live as a woman, and he kept begging her to stop referring to him as Einar rather than Lili, his secondary sex.

The following characteristic which is *the willingness for the opposite original gender* usually arises at the initial process of being transgender. Sometimes, feeling doubt adhere in the action and mind, but the hesitation is lost by the desire to be a new identity. As the scene (0:13:41) showed that it is the beginning stage of Einar's journey of becoming transgender; he agreed to wear a woman's dress as Gerda's request. He initially refused to put it on. However, he ended up accepting the request by wearing the dress in order to make his wife happy. On the other hand, Einar appeared to enjoy dressing up as a woman, indicating his willingness to be the opposite sex characteristic rather than just to assist his wife. Additionally at the scene (0:26:55), Einar had to go to a party as Lili, but he was worried that he wouldn't look like a woman. It shown that Einar accepting Gerda's offer to dress up as Lili for the Artist's Ball. Gerda chose the dress for him, and she also did Einar's makeup that looked really a real beautiful woman. Nonetheless, he is still perplexed about his appearance as a woman. In his dialogue with his wife, he said "*Am I pretty enough?*". This was considered transsexualism because, rather than refusing Gerda's wishes to wear woman's dress, he continued with his new role and attend the party as Lili. According to Ekins and King (2006), when someone is attached to the condition of converting one gender over the other, it

involves the dressing practice in identifying their identity.

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Another indication of being transgender is the *burning urge to be of the opposite gender*. In this case, a transgender has a strong belief to change his identity. At scene 1;28;45 showed that Einar's strong desire to change his gender permanently. After a quite long time to discover his true identity, Einar decided to pay a visit to Professor Warnekros in Dresden. His decision to be a transsexual is supported by his belief that he is now indeed a woman named Lili Elbe. It is also relevant to

Cohen's (1999) cite that transsexual is people who desired (or lived) in the social role of the opposite gender and decide to undergo sex reassignment.

Prof. Warnekros : For what we are attempting, I need you to be strong.
Eina : This is not my body, Professor. Please take it away.

According to the dialogue above, he has proven an interest in the surgery schedule that could completely transform him into a woman. This was something he had always desired. As a result, he acted instinctively based on his primary need and he can use hormones or surgery to achieve desired secondary sex characteristics. In this case, Einar felt trapped in the body of the wrong sex. It is also in line with the characteristic of transsexualism which someone has a strong desire to be of the opposite gender, which is compatible with Einar's eagerness when he said: "*Please take it away.*" Moreover, his strong desire to change his gender showed when he did the second surgery after he failed in the first surgery. At scene, 01:48:03 depicted when Lili awakes from her second operation. Despite knowing she would not survive due to the operation's complexity, she finally got what she wanted by declaring, "*I am entirely myself.*" It was discovered that she revealed her primary identity as a woman named Lili Elbe.

When a transgender has fully accepted his different gender which changes the way of his life and his environment, gradually *he needs to be treated as a new gender*. As shown in scene 1:34:52, is an illustration after Lili had her first genital surgery. Working in a perfume shop helped Lili connect with the women's community. She enjoyed working in an environment that allowed her feminine side to be shined. This is consistent with transsexuals' need to be

treated as the opposite gender. In this case, this activity was viewed as a secondary activity as her desire eventually allow the behavior of the feminine side, but only at the right time and place. It means that she was now a woman and needed to find a group of women with whom she could work and cooperate. This was done to prepare Lili for social situations that support her acceptance in society. Gradually Lili immersed her role in a new world that she dreams of before. She changed her body, her mind, and her environment that is surrounded dominantly by women in order to be accepted and treated as a real woman. As Schilt and Connel (2007) stated that transmen are more interested in discussing girl- talk, such as appearance, dress, and menstruation, whereas transwomen are more interested in sports and cars. This is relevant to Einar, a transman because he expected to become involved in female activities and interests.

The last characteristic of being transgender is *belong the typical feeling and reactions of the other gender*. They have transformed into a new identity, so their feeling and acting as the same as expected gender. As in scene 0:33:00, shown at the party when there was a man named Henrick interested in Lili. He approached Lili and flirted with her before attempting to kiss her. When Henrik asked Lili for permission to kiss her, she was at a loss for words. She was afraid of hurting Gerda if she kissed Henrik and was also fearful of Henrik discovering she was Einar. However, she was flattered and happy when a man liked her and wanted to kiss her. It gave her the impression that she was a completely natural woman. This is also consistent with the diagnoses of transsexualism of a firm conviction that the individual expresses typical emotional reactions of the opposite gender. This is similar to Einar's problem of becoming at ease as a woman (Lili). Additionally, at

scene 01:42:13). This scene occurred as Lili was about to undergo her second surgery, and Professor Warnekros advised her to rest and save her energy for the procedure. And Lili stared at Professor Warnekros said “ *I want a husband who looks just like you. Um.... Maybe a child one day... Like a real woman*”. In that conversation, she expressed a desire to become a woman not only through genital reconstruction, but also through having children as she said, Furthermore, Lili was expressing her feelings to have a husband, indicating a significant reaction for being the opposite sex as she become now.

2. The Impacts of Being Transgender

Transgender is defined as an unusual behavior that can be contentious because it directly impacts the foundation of the social system. It refers to wrong doing that violates or contradicts normative rules. Regarding this movie, Einar's journey to becoming Lili Elbe has some consequences that affect his normal life and people surrounded him. As Ardebili (2020) stated that transsexuality distorts an individual's life path that causing many problems such as psychological, social, economic, family aspects, etc. Some impacts of transgender toward mostly the individual's psychology and closed people portrayed in the movie are in the following below.

Increasing Family Problems

Transsexuality may affect various dimensions of life which most related to the individuals' health or psychology trait and also their social lives especially the their family (Guez and Allen, 2000). At Scene 0:46:23 illustrated the problem started related to the couple's relationship. It occurred when Einar returned home after meeting Henrick. At the party he He cried, afraid that knowing he had kissed a man

would hurt her wife's feelings. Gerda appeared sad and frustrated, which turned out to be true. She was attempting to hide her tears and pain as she realized her husband was no longer the same man who preferred to continue his role as Lili. Afterward, at scene 1:10:55 Gerda disappointed at Einar because her husband was no longer the same person. She asked him to stop role playing as Lili but Einar refused it.

Gerda : This is not how it goes. Stop playing that stupid, stupid game

Einar : Please, Gerda. Don't you think this is game

Gerda : I need my husband. Go get him

Einar : I can't

Gerda : I need to hold my husband. I need to talk to him (She seems very depressed)

Einar : No, I'm sorry

Gerda and Einar fought after she returned home from the exhibition, which arose in the above dialogue. She is deeply disappointed and angry with her husband. It refers to Einar's inability to stop role-playing as Lili, assuming he truly desires to be a woman. But in the same time, he is also creating a consequence by having his family messed up and disappointing his wife. From the other side, Gerda Wegener, Einar's wife, holds the miserable and pain condition. She is the closest one of his husband have to face the reality that she never thought before. She has been through difficult times and had to make tough decisions influenced by society and her surroundings which is not easy. Throughout the story she manages to overcome such situations, that take an immense amount of generous support as well as deep understanding towards her husband which is lost his identity.

Increasing Depression Feelings and the Individual's Sense of Vulnerability

Most issues for being transgender are related to internal psychological conflicts such as unconfident, depression, confusion, etc. that affect the quality of life. The cause The scene 01:13:24 showed that Einar was feeling depressed to face the consequence of his decision. This was the scene after he argued with Gerda about not attending Gerda's exhibition, which enraged her. He was depressed now, thinking about how much he would be hated by everyone around him. Furthermore, his feelings were shattered by the fact that he had to choose between bringing Einar back to life and living happily with his wife or embarking on a new journey as Lili. He was extremely sad and depressed as a result of the situation, but he decided to pursue his dream of becoming the opposite sex. In this case, he attempted to accept the consequences so long as he could be who he desired

Scene 1:16:37 happened when Einar was being followed by strangers that began to question whether he was a man or woman based on his appearance. It means that although transsexual people are becoming more visible in popular culture and daily life, they continue to face discrimination, stigma, and systemic inequality. In this case, Einar was attempting to be nice to them, yet they turned out to be joking and mocking him because of his gender. In another scene at 1:17:14 when Einar received a stigma from strangers, he continued to receive violence from the same people simultaneously. It decreased his self-confidence as he didn't expect to face that situation. The scene depicts Einar being assaulted by the same strangers. He was attempting to fight them back, but Einar's vulnerabilities fueled their desire to assault Einar even more because they knew he was not a normal guy, i.e., a transsexual. It is proven that trans people

face discrimination and other societal challenges. They might feel uncomfortable at home, school, work, or social situations.

Decreasing Self-Confidence

Similar to other negative feelings, being transgender will decrease self-confidence because of the rejection from people and themselves whether this is the right or wrong way. In scene 0:27:42, Einar as Lili is feeling ashamed to be around many people that scene occurred when Einar had to dress up as Lili to accompany Gerda to the Artists Ball. Einar was feeling shy and insecure in front of a large crowd at the time because he was portrayed as a woman named Lili.

Lili : You won't leave me, will you? (He begins to feel strange in the crowd.)

Gerda : No, never (As she holds Lili's hand)

Lili: People are looking. (He is uncomfortable being stared at by so many people.)

Gerda : Well, you're a pretty girl. Gerda. You'll have to get used to it.

In this dialogue, Einar seemed to be unconfident as he appeared in public as Lili. Despite his willingness to accept Gerda's request, he felt insecure and embarrassed to be in a crowd event. He was worried that people would notice Lili was Einar and ruin his reputation as an artist. Feeling unconfident commonly arise in the beginning process of gender transformation, because they still confuse and unsure with their identity and fear of peoples' response.

Causes Physical Problem

At scene 01:50:39 showed that Lili died as a result of complications from her

second surgery. Lili wanted to be a real woman, so she took surgery to change her genital from a man to be a woman. This is not a simple surgery for her body. Moreover, at that time the medical technology has not developed yet as nowadays. But Lili insisted to take a surgery. Unfortunately she failed in that operation. But her spirit did not fade. Lili took the second surgery. Professor Warnekros had been warned Lili that the second surgery has a high risk of failure. It could lead to infections and complications that were too dangerous to attempt. However, she continued to pursue her desire to be a complete woman by undergoing the second surgery. Whatever risks she might face, at the very least she. Lili died after undergoing her second genital surgery. Her body could not hold any complications caused from the surgery.

Transgender is derived from many factors such as socially constructed and performative factors. It is also considered that a biology factor should also be taken into an account. It shows that Einar wanted to change both his personality and his body. When someone change his gender, his body will support with suitable condition with his mind. The transformation caused either biological matters that definitely wrong or the behavior matters which affect his body to respond. In this case, Einar totally change his body by getting surgery. He is not only becoming a woman in her mind but also in his body. It is clear that he chose the way transitioning and a sex reassignment surgery although it is miserable and pain and getting tragic at the end.

CONCLUSIONS

Transgender is a phenomenon that more existing nowadays because the open culture and the recognition of different traits among people arise rapidly in modern era. Transgender will see their identity or gender expression differs from that usually associated with their birth sex. It is an individual's psychological perception about them selves of being male, female, or middle of both female or male. Although it is more acceptance in community, but gender issues is still a popular perspective that is being debated in society. It is not only talking about the complexity of the roles of man and woman, but more broadly refers to sexual violence, racial discrimination, and culture. In social life, there are still many negative

stereotypes about transgender and transsexual people. As showed in Danish Girl movie, the process Einar as the main character for being transgender namely Lili reflects several indications going through. The transformation to change his identity from male to female is complicated not for himself that struggling with his identity but also for people surrounding especially with his wife that causes conflicts to their relationship. Although at the end the wife fully support his decision to change his gender by taking surgery and accompany him in the pain and miserable process, but tragically the surgery is fail and Einar was death in pursuing his dream to be a real woman.

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JEE (Journal of English Education) Vol. 8 No. 2, 2022

<http://journal.upp.ac.id/index.php/JEE>

P-ISSN:2459-9719, E-ISSN 2597-7091

DOL: <https://doi.org/10.30606/jee>