

**DISCURSIVE CONSTRUCTION OF IDENTITIES
OF YOUNG HOMOSEXUAL MALES**

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**FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
KUALA LUMPUR**

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**FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
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ABSTRACT

This dissertation reports a study addressing the issue of identity construction of four young Malay homosexual men in Malaysia. Through their narrative discourse of their life experiences and aspirations, this study explores these participants' linguistic repertoire and discursive strategies in the formation, negotiation, and establishment of their identities. The narrative data were gathered through a semi-structured interview-cum-conversation which allowed the participants to express sentiments about their lives in a heterosexual dominated society. Using an adapted framework of discourse-historical approach of Critical Discourse Analysis proposed by Reisigl and Wodak (2009), this study analyzed the participants' emergent language use and discursive strategies in representing themselves and others; and in disclosing their positions to the dominant sexual ideology. This study has revealed that there are some similarities and homogeneity of the discursive strategies used by these participants in the constructing of their identities. None of the participants rejected the mainstream sexual ideology. In fact, there were some indications in their narratives that revealed their internal struggle between their desire to stay homosexual and their obligation to assimilate the dominant sexual ideology. The participants' identity construction was realized through their linguistic choices which included rhetorical devices such as metaphors, metonymies and hyperboles; modalities; and others.

ABSTRAK

Disertasi ini melaporkan sebuah kajian mengenai isu pembinaan identiti empat orang lelaki muda Melayu yang berorientasikan kehidupan homoseksual di Malaysia. Melalui wacana kisah kehidupan mereka, kajian ini mengupas himpunan penggunaan linguistik dan strategi diskursif peserta kajian dalam pembentukan, perundingan dan pewujudan identiti mereka. Data naratif mereka telah dikumpul melalui temu duga ala perbualan separa-struktur yang memberi ruang kepada para peserta untuk meluahkan sentimen mereka tentang kehidupan mereka di dalam masyarakat yang didominasi oleh golongan heteroseksual. Dengan menggunakan kerangka yang telah diadaptasikan daripada pendekatan wacana-sejarah Analisis Wacana Kritikal yang diusulkan oleh Reisigl dan Wodak (2009), kajian ini menganalisa penggunaan bahasa dan strategi diskursif peserta dalam memaparkan diri mereka dan ‘orang lain’; dan mendedahkan pendirian mereka terhadap ideologi seksual dominan. Hasil kajian ini telah menunjukkan terdapatnya persamaan dan keseragaman strategi diskursif yang digunakan oleh peserta dalam pembinaan identiti mereka. Tiada seorang pun daripada para peserta kajian menolak arus ideologi seksual masyarakat. Malah, terdapat tanda-tanda di dalam naratif mereka yang menunjukkan satu konflik dalaman yang mereka alami antara keinginan mereka untuk menjalani kehidupan homoseksual dengan kewajipan untuk mengasimilasikan diri mereka menurut ideologi seksual yang dominan. Pembinaan identiti peserta telah direalisasikan mereka dengan pemilihan linguistik yang merangkumi alat-alat bahasa retorik termasuk metafora, metonimi, haiperbola; modalitas; dan lain-lain.

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