

# Lesbians Search for Identity in Palopo City

1<sup>st</sup> M. Rasyid Ridha

*Departmen of History Education  
Faculty of Social Science  
Universitas Negeri Makassar  
Makassar, Indonesia  
m.rasyid.ridha@unm.ac.id*

2<sup>nd</sup> Firdaus W. Suhaeb

*Departement of Sociology  
Faculty of Sosial Science  
Universitas Negeri Makassar  
Makassar, Indonesia  
firdaus.w.suhaeb@unm.ac.id*

**Abstract**— This paper reviews the lives of women who are characterized as men and have a tendency towards same-sex. The focus of the study reveals the background of the emergence of this community, lifestyle and public perception of this lesbian community. In general, these lesbians have no place in the hearts of the people of Palopo City, but in reality this community still want to try to show its existence by gathering friends of the community and trying to interact with the wider community. Its presence in the midst of society Palopo City to the pros and cons. On the one hand, the pro community considers this community as common as long as it does not disturb the peace of the community where they are. On the other hand, the counter-conspirators view this as a disgrace because it is considered to be contrary to religious and cultural values. This research is a study of Sociology by using qualitative method with descriptive analysis model with data collection through in-depth interviews, lesbian community and community leaders. In addition also by making observations. Furthermore, the data is processed by using sociological methods.

**Keywords**— *Wandes, Social Identity, Palopo City.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

It is worth acknowledging that lesbianism is no longer commonly discussed in a metropolitan city. According to Adrienne Rich, lesbianism began to develop into an ideologic idea since the 1970s. This idea emerged as a form of resistance and criticism of the power of men. Furthermore Adrienne Rich considers that the idea of lesbianism is a new consensus in providing alternatives in the sexual component.[1]

Furthermore, Papalie and Feldman stated, that the past 40 years gay and lesbian have experienced a drastic increase and are more open in voicing their identity as a community that is in the community so that they have revealed themselves a lot. This open increase is due to the large social acceptance of homosexuals by the public [2], [3]

Today there are still many countries that are questioning about sexual deviations. Even it was found that homosexuality is found in all forms of culture and all walks of life in society throughout history, including the social conditions of modern and industrial society as it is today. There is a tendency that is more advanced a society is, the more irregularities occur as gays and lesbians.[4] Lesbianism seems to grow rapidly in the Indonesian social area.

Initially homosexuals such as gays and lesbians have sprung up in big cities like Jakarta, Bandung, Surabaya, Yogyakarta, Makassar and other big cities in Indonesia. Makassar is one of the provinces where the development of the city area is quite rapid in Indonesia. So that many people accept or adopt cultures and lifestyles from outside that enter the middle of society like lesbians. In Makassar City these lesbians are usually scattered in crowded places such as the Mall and in other crowded places. These lesbians are not ashamed to show themselves to the public, that they are lesbian. This lesbian lifestyle has spread in areas not least in Palopo City. In the Palopo community several new cultures emerged as a result of adoption from western culture. One new culture that is a product of adoption from western culture is a lesbian lifestyle. Palopo city community adopts this culture but with different terms. They refer to lesbians as Wandes (lesbian; Palopo). Lesbians in Palopo are more likely to be done by teenagers, whose ages range from 14 years to 22 years. [5]

The lesbian community began to grow in Palopo City. It starts from the media, especially social media, then gathers in one place they have agreed to. But, in the midst of quantity developments, not many people in the city know of their existence. Its development follows the development of the times that continue to experience development. One of the dominant factors that influence the dissemination of this community is communication technology, especially through blogs, twitter, whatsapp, Facebook and a group of communities that are constantly organized.

Lesbian lifestyles in Palopo City, are not ashamed to admit themselves in the community that they are Wandes. The Wandes are clearly dating in public. The reason they do this is because there are several factors such as relationships, broken home children, and dating the opposite sex but being hurt. In Palopo these communities or lesbian gatherings usually gather in one house or other crowded places, and their associations are also divided. The gathering place moved to move.[5]

In the midst of rapid development, lesbians are clashed with religion and culture, in this case lesbians are people who are laknak and hell is an eternal place. In this case, it is necessary to discuss further about the existence of lesbians, which started from the beginning of its existence, lifestyle and community perceptions regarding the existence of lesbians in Palopo City.

## II. RESEARCH METHODS

Researchers used the method of Phenomenological-Etnometodologis analysis. The main data of this study are conversations with objects that will be in carefully, because through this conversation is implicit things, but not the result of speculation or guess-guess penelti seen quite clearly. Matthew and Michael in Hamid Patilima provide an explanation that the analysis of the data is divided into three activities that occur simultaneously. The three paths in intention are; (1) Data reduction, defined as the selection process, focuses on simplification, abstraction, and data transformation arising from field notes. there is a reduction stage, then make a summary of the data analysis that has been in and get arranged systematically. (2) Presentation of data, ie a collection of data and information composed which provides the possibility of drawing conclusions and taking action. (3) The conclusion, the final conclusion, depends on the size of the collection of field notes, coding, and research skills. Withdrawal of conclusions, is only part of an activity. The conclusion of this conclusion is verification or verification to achieve justification and approval, so that validity can be achieved . [6]

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. *The Emergence of Lesbians in Palopo City*

The development of an increasingly modern and static era of western culture cause human relations to be infinite make a lot social behavior and behavioral irregularities. One form irregularities in immoral norms that grow in society are binuality. In prehistoric times, meditation practices have also begun. Researcher revealed that each ethnic group has its own concept regarding the role of women in their society. The way the tribe is Comparing women so that they determine the ideology and characteristics of the structure gayual. For example, the Marind tribe in Merauke and Kiman in Papua, just like in childhood, boys from mother and woman's house to sleep together his father in the man's house. Print the first signs of puberty, his uncle from the mother's side was given the task of penetrating the boy's anus that, which thus gives / completes it with the sperm that will make it a strong man.[7]

The city of Palopo is a small town whose area began to grow rapidly. In the Palopo City community there are many new idioms emerging commonly spoken by teenagers to name lesbians in the area. The idiom is like prostitute (bandrek), naughty girl (beke-beke), a feminine man (wandu), men who have physical characteristics such as women as well as a transvestite or transvestite (wendes), and an idiom that has often been heard by young people in Palopo City is Wendes. The Lesbian profession known as Wendes is not an option, but is simply a way of life that he himself did not know before. [8]

Wendes is a familiar term among teenagers in Palopo City. Various perceptions arise about the beginning of this Wendes appearance. From interviews with some Wendes and communities in Palopo City there are many opinions about the beginning of the name Wendes. According to Carla, Wendes started appearing in 1994, Wendes was a man means a broken dick guy. Furthermore Carla continue the story,

actually Wendes is started from the usual gatherings, then form a band. Wandes grew bigger when Mitha Band The Virgin became the top band, from here he dared to claim that I was butchi [9]

From the results of interviews with Carla he stated that Wendes is a broken dick man. The initial appearance of this name Wendes in 1994 he said that who made the name Wendes is a friend of Mother of Carla who used to gather together. Carla also stated that the name Wendes is in form because of the mockery of the bencong lesbian who asked that whether the lesbians have genitalia like a man. Actually Wendes name is focused on women who have tomboyish characteristics such as short-haired. Carla also stated that the name Wendes began to spread around 2008 when a band called the virgin appeared. The virgin is a band that appeared in late 2008. Wendes is a name for women of same-sex enthusiasts who have characteristics such as Men and have a masculine posture. This Wendes name is a new identity for the same sex lover in Palopo City. From the source I got the meaning of the name from Wendes itself was a broken dick man. From the results of the research I got Not all that tomboy is Wendes, and all that Wendes is tomboy.

### B. *Wendes Life Style in Palopo City*

In the case of Wendes, most Wendes spend their spare time with their friends whether they are female friends, male friends, or friends of Wendes, compared to spending time in the house with family. As Pen discloses he usually mixes with his boyfriends friends as well as his fellow Wendes friends. Things he did usual with his friends are ngamen, ngerokok and drink. In this case, Pen tells herself, that most of the male companions are predominantly male, while Wendes are limited in number. Initially, the Wendes met in cafes or other hangouts, doing activities such as drinking, singing and smoking. In addition, Pen often took his girlfriend to hang out at the cafe[10]

The influence of social media that continues to evolve into the factors they have has a lot of community, both local, regional and international. If lesbians who use media owners also cannot donate lesbian communities to and spread their ideology into their readers. If in women's magazines, media owners really know what is most needed by women to be beautiful, intelligent and successful women, then the content of the video will lead to ideologies intended directly for female readers. Likewise specifically for LGBT. From some media, it is illustrated that the needs of LGBT people can also take the form of writings and images that are very attractive. It is very appropriate or not able to directly provide information and information to its audience so that it may be accessed by the public.[11] With the role of the media, they continue to learn a lot from developments abroad, that they also have the right to live in the name of human rights.

Magazines are also made to keep abreast of developments in the world market, as well as enjoy it in Palopo City, not unlike the media market with other segments, namely providing information about community discourse, art coverage, celebrity interviews, comprehensive events lists, and charity. And interestingly, this Meta magazine writes that this is what is called the celebration of diversity and is committed to challenging bigotry. This

means that the presence of this magazine is at the same time to oppose the view that this community is the wrong group. That there is, this people have their own existence. Therefore this magazine is dedicated to promoting positive self-esteem and connectivity between trans people, resulting in creativity, motivation and aspirations through the image and ethos of positive inspiration. [12]



Fig 1. World Transgender Magazine

The picture above shows that the more open lesbian is in publishing itself. They do not hesitate to present themselves in various ways, especially in the media. Although the magazine shown above is a more open foreign publication magazine. But it was found in the field that there are some lesbians who already have a world magazine as described above. Findings in the field are very influential in their relationships, especially in terms of clothing, drinks and the way they are community.

They hang out with friends like women in general. They spend more free time with his friends whether it is female friends, men, friends Wendes or their girlfriend in appeal spend his spare time at home with his family. They used to spend their spare time like hanging out at the cafe with friends telling stories, drinking, joking and others. And they also spend time with singing with friends of his friends

C. Community Response to Wendes in Palopo City

Society is a group of people who interact between individuals with individuals, individuals with groups, and groups with groups. In society there are many different attributes, behaviors, religions and mindsets that are heterogeneous. In Palopo City society, a very heterogeneous there is a behavior that violates the norms of religion that is usually among teens called Wendes. Wendes is a woman who has characteristics like a man. People of Palopo city there are still not know what is Wendes and there are also who already know the meaning of Wendes. Wendes in palopo it's a lot of hanging around, many people's perception about the Wendes. Here's the public perception of Wendes in the city of Palopo. Natalia, who is a commoner in Palopo City, Wendes deviates socially and religiously. Ironically,

there are parents whose children Wendes but not forbidden, even bought special clothes. This is not the same as giving thanks to God. [13]

According Natalia he does not agree about is a lesbian sexual lesbian in this sense is Wendes. According to him it is a deviation that is prohibited by religion and in society because it is an action that is not commendable. So, Natalia, who is the general public, does not approve of it.

Initially Wendes still hesitate to hide his identity in the social environment. As time went on, the intensity of the meeting made them no doubt show their current identity. In ordinary people, they usually judge Wendes's behavior as a negative behavior that also deviates from the religious teachings and norms existing within the society and isolates the behavior. In the Palopo City community the term Wendes has not been widely known by the Society in the grouped in the age range 40 years and over.

Wendes in Palopo City society, especially the teenagers already know the understanding. in Palopo City society there are many pros and cons about this Wendes behavior. Some see it as an option for their lives and some see this phenomenon as aberrant behavior. The rejection attitude of some of these communities raises a rule that can make the Wendes in Palopo City feel discriminated by society.

Wendes phenomenon is already a common thing among teenagers, especially in Palopo City. Sebahagian people are actually concerned about the phenomenon Wendes in this city Palopo. They are concerned about the lifestyle they choose. On the other hand, people also do not directly reject or condemn it because it has become the rights and personal self Wendes. In view of this Wendes behavior the public should be wise to address the existence of the Wendes. People also think that if the Wendes in Palopo City does not make a riot or commotion people can still tolerate it. The community is also working to see how this Wendes can get back on the right path, and also to prevent the development of Wendes' behavior in Palopo City so that it can be stopped and undeveloped, so that it does not give birth to new generations.

Women in General	Lesbian
Feminine	Masculine
Long hair or shoulder length	Short haired like a man
Wearing skirts and women's pants	Wearing Men's Shorts and Long Pants
Women's Shirt Clothes	Wearing T-shirts
Wearing flat and high-heeled shoes	Wearing Kets or Sliver Shoes
Dress up	Don't like dressing up

[14] Amalia Fitria, 2015

Fig. 2. The Difference Between Women in General and Lesbians

The table above shows that women generally differ in appearance from lesbians in Palopo City. This can be seen from the model that women are generally feminine, but lesbians are more masculine. Masculine characteristics that are specifically owned by lesbians are independence and

courage. In this case, most were found in the field that they were able to make a living on their own without relying on family and surrounding people. They place themselves like men who have great responsibility for their lives, as well as their partners. Because of this, many lesbians were found working in several shopping, cafe and nightlife venues, which of course at first glance cannot be distinguished from women in general. The view of society regarding lesbian masculinity is quite varied, but in general they assume that what they do has deviated from people's lives. On the other hand, they are considered as independent people, do not depend on their families, this is much appreciated by the community. They have helped the economic independence of the people of Palopo City.

Furthermore, from the physical especially the appearance of her hair, women generally have long or shoulder length hair, while lesbians have short hair like men. But it does not rule out the possibility of someone who has long hair, in this case who is looking for a general character in terms of his hair. They prefer short hair because they want to be like a man who is liked by a partner who is of course a fellow woman. Even if there are long-haired lesbians, they are sometimes alluded to their friends so that they immediately cut their hair. In this case the community responds to the appearance of course with one eye. They are considered strange women with short hair.

In terms of how to dress women in general use skirts and pants with female models, women's shirt clothes and use flat shoes and higleels, while lesbians use shorts and trousers male models, use T-shirts and use sneakers or flip-flops. From appearances like this, the public immediately responded negatively. Especially groups of people who have taken religious education and have a religious level in society. They forbid lesbians, even extreme religious beliefs, especially Islam, will usually catch and will return to the nature of women in general. Found in the field, he was bare his head because his identity was discovered that lesbians, their families directed the community to arrest him. But in its development there were no more found so, lesbians were indirectly accepted by the public with several humanitarian claims

Whereas in the school community, there is a teaching and learning process, and students are taught to be smart children to advance this nation. In the school environment every student has a different attitude and mindset. This is what distinguishes them from one another. Usually their behavior is in accordance with the norms that exist in society and religious norms. Furthermore there are also behaviors that deviate from religious norms and norms that exist in society, such as juvenile delinquency, drinking illicit drinks, using drugs and some who commit sexual deviations, such as Lesbians. In the city of Palopo, there are some students who are in the school environment to commit a sexual deviation, namely Lesbians. In some schools in Palopo City already know that, in the school environment there are Lesbian symptoms. There are some teachers who already know this, and there are some teachers who don't know about it yet. In the symptoms of Lesbian teachers get most of the symptoms of Lesbian found in basketball

players because they have characteristics like lesbian women who have tomboy characteristics and style rather like men. In this case the teacher also cannot directly take action against students who have Lesbian symptoms, before getting the facts that really show that the student is a Lesbian. Students who are still in school usually hide their identity in the school environment. So that teachers find it difficult to know who has Lesbian behavior in the school environment. The efforts of the teachers to prevent the spread of this deviant behavior is by way of socializing the behavior of lesbians who violate the norms and norms of religious norms, as well as norms that apply in society. When the teacher gets a student who has Lesbian behavior that has become a trend among adolescents, the teacher will do coaching for the student. after that, the student will be called by his parents, and if a student does not want to change, then he will get a sanction from the school in the form of expenses from school. So in general people still respond negatively to lesbians. They are considered to have deviant behavior in people's lives. But, on the other side along with the times and the protection of human rights, their lives have begun to be accepted by some groups of people.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

In Wendes lifestyle usually spend his spare time gathering with fellow male friends, women and friends Wendesnya. They usually spend time hanging out at the cafe. society in general they actually reject the Wendes behavior, because the behavior is a behavior that saves and violates the norms of religion. However, on the other hand, people also do not necessarily reject or condemn the lesbian behavior because of this behavior, is the choice of life and has become the personal rights of the Wendes. The community also believes that if the Wendes in Palopo City did not create riots or commotion in the community, they could still tolerate that.

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