

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE INVOLVEMENT OF MALE
HOMOSEXUALS WITH
MAINSTREAM NEWSPAPERS'
REPORTING OF HOMOSEXUALITY**

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Thesis submitted in fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

Faculty of Communication and Media Studies

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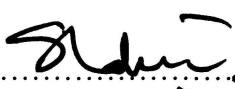
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I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

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ABSTRACT

The contributory factors to male homosexuals' (MH) involvement with mainstream newspapers reporting of homosexuality was observed on news content representation including the reporting criterion and its consistency to be reported to the audiences, triggering the public interest in receiving information and advocating themselves towards a guided living culture. This study was guided with two theories; (i) Uses and Gratifications Theory, and (ii) Social Judgment Theory following a series of content analysis on newspapers reporting of homosexuality that was conducted to understand how it was presented. Using a qualitative approach with phenomenology and popular culture paradigms, informants of male homosexuals from the non-governmental organization were selected randomly through the purposive and judgmental sampling strategies. All data were collected from in-depth interviews and content analysis procedures and analyzed by using thematic analysis and constant comparison strategy. It was disclosed such news reporting became a platform for the male homosexuals to be alert with current updates pertaining to homosexuality issues that established involvement. The inclination in getting involved among male homosexuals' readers with news reporting of homosexuality was also factored by the message conveyance on content delivery, news themes and overall reporting that strongly associated with the public awareness on issues of safe sex messages and crimes. In overall, this study had managed to observe on the role of mainstream mass media in Malaysia as a platform in disseminating the government agenda including to understand the possible factor that generated MH involvement as active audience affecting on their attitude and behavioral change induced by ego involvement.

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