

# **“Sasalubungin Ka Namin ‘Pag Handa Ka Na’”: The Analysis of Coming Out in Philippine Context as Portrayed in Boys’ Love Web Series ‘Gaya Sa Pelikula’**

Gertrude A. Abarentos John Eric T. Canlas Diether B. Navarosa Paula C. Poblete

Bachelor of Arts in Communication Research Institution: Polytechnic University of the Philippines

## **ABSTRACT**

Several studies have claimed that the Philippines is a gay-friendly country (Tubeza, 2013; Mis, 2014). However, the lives of Filipino gays appear to be at odds with the level of the playing field that they must overcome, including social acceptance of coming out and homosexual love (Tadili, 2015; Lee, 2016), which are present in certain deteriorating Filipino accustomed practices and religious beliefs. This prevailing battleground is evident in Juan Miguel Severo’s *Gaya Sa Pelikula* (2020), a Boys’ Love (later BL) genre in which characters boldly championed homosexual relationships despite heteronormative culture through the exchange of chosen themes from popular romantic Filipino movies. This paper aims to answer the question, “How does Juan Miguel Severo’s *Gaya Sa Pelikula* depict coming out in the Philippine setting?” Fairclough’s Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and the interpretivist paradigm would be utilized to characterize *Gaya Sa Pelikula*’s film elements, grasp its discursive means of coming out representation in the Philippine context, and uncover the power relations between Juan Miguel Severo and the characters in portraying homosexuality. Purposively selected media texts from the eight (8) available episodes would be analyzed through Saldana’s two cycles of coding (2015, p. 149) to demonstrate the discourses in *Gaya Sa Pelikula*. Finally, this paper would contribute to the understanding of culturally embedded notions of coming out among LGBT Filipinos in general.

*Keywords: Filipino gays, coming out, Gaya Sa Pelikula, homosexual love, Philippines*