



The Adaptation of Y fiction to TV Series: The Case Study of The Untamed (2019)

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Abstract

Y fiction has been one of the remarkable movements of literature in this current decade. In response to audience and economic demand, the fiction has been adapted to live action series and broadcasted on TV networks and streaming applications. Even though Y series had received a warm welcome in Asia, it was not the same in every country. China has a strict regulation about presentation of LGBT in all kinds of media. Hence, in adapting Y fiction to series the production team must not only consider how to adapt fiction to other series but also be careful about not to violate the authority's decree. *The Untamed* (2019) was under the same condition as other Chinese series. The study found that when the image of man-man affection was prohibited, the production team applied several strategies to complete the missing messages. With the well-planned strategies applied, *The Untamed* (2019) was successful and famous among Chinese and international from around the world. In Thailand, the series was admired as one of the best Y series and social media still had been flooded with posts and shares about the series since.

Keywords: Yaoi, Yaoi series, danmei, adaptation, The Untamed



1. Introduction

The population of supporters of Y culture are growing as well as Y contents that can be seen in all kinds of media. In Thailand and many other countries in Asia and around the world, the Y contents are welcome and admired. Several businesses are turning their attention to Y culture to gain broader market share for their products and services (Koaysomboon, 2020). This could be merits of the better tolerance towards diversity of genders, the non-stop unforgiving movement for gender equality, or the overflow benefit earned by this marketing strategy that “Y” culture has been one of the main streams of popular culture of the contemporary era (de Guzman, 2020; Koaysomboon, 2020; Grace, 2017; Chunyu, 2016 and Welker, 2006). Fans are everywhere and you might find that your friends and family are one of them. Pictures and VDO clips of this man-man romance too are everywhere, both virtual and real world. All over the world are connected with posts and shares in social media and Y series is one of the topics at which people never lose attention. It is true that the government of some countries have their strict eyes on the picture of Y in media due to its relation to homosexuality. The restriction can somehow never prevent fan’s addiction (Haring 2021; Davis, 2020; Nugroho, 2020 and Zhang, 2018). Questions have been that what is with the letter Y, exactly; how have people accept and react to the Y culture so far; and how does the Y society adapt to blend into the global society?

1.1 Background of “Y”

One thing for sure is that it is about a man-man romance, however, the place where Y should be positioned in the gender spectrum is still in quarrel since fans claim that this is not to be defined as homosexuality. The birth of Y can lead back to 1976 when it was called “Shounen-Ai”. A Japanese cartoonist created a comic as a parody to classic Chinese poetry. It should not be surprising that this comic, or “Manga” in Japanese, had been limited to only a small group of fans due to the image of romantic relationship between two men. Through time, comic was not the only genre to portray the man-man relationship, later there came animation or “Anime”, movies, and series. Additionally, some characters from famous series or movie or even real-life boy band members will be picked up and matched together to create a homoerotic storyline by fans. This “fan fiction” was phenomenon along with the growth of Internet. Some of these amateur writers who composed these stories were so successful that their “fan-fic” hobby became their job. Thai audience prefers to call this literary content “Y”, as short for “Yaoi”. Hence, in Thailand, the term “Y” was casually used to replace other terms such as the original “Shounen-Ai” or “Boys Love”. At first that it was in hiding among small group of fans, the Y content has now been open to public and gained attention from a far larger numbers of fans, most of which are female, just like at its beginning of this community (Koaysomboon, 2020).

LGBT community made a point that Y series do not depict an authentic image of LGBT individuals; instead, they usually generate false perception. The fans of Y literature too deny defining this man-man relationship as homosexuality. Rather, it is about the special affection a man specifically has towards another man and neither of the two men is homosexual even though their relationship might involve sexual intercourse. It is rather meant to be, not random. Not only did Y



fans refuse to get on board with the gay cruise, but the essence of Y literature also parallels with binary gender role. In Thai Y society especially, the term “Ke”, derived from original Japanese “Uke” – receptive, refers to the character with weaker and more feminine quality somehow not effeminizing e.g., submissive, more talkative, more lively, more whiny, physically smaller, etc. On the contrary, the “Me”, derived from Japanese “Seme” – to attack, refers to the character with stronger and more masculine quality e.g., dominant, quieter, more reserved, more serious, physically bigger, and stronger, etc. Assumably, this is a heterosexual relationship in disguise as homosexual romance (Koaysomboon, 2020; Welker, 2006 and Zanghellni, 2009).

1.2 Thailand: The “Y” Series Hub of Asia

Thailand is one of the countries that has embraced the “Y” culture since the age of comic to online novel, and now the series. Not only importing the series from other countries, but Thai entertainment business has also created its own “Y” culture. The male contestants in any reality shows, for example, are usually matched together as a Y couple by audience, or even planned by the producer of the show. This is of course (usually) not real, but when the popularity grows the producer and the actors themselves take the opportunity to extend to better income and future jobs in entertainment business. Recently, there have been so many productions and broadcast of Y series. In Thailand, there were 24 Y series broadcasted in 2020 (RAINAVENE, 2019). These series are based or inspired from Y novels many of which are digitally publicized on Internet while many of them get published in print. Before the blooming of Y series in Thailand, the image of love between men can be seen only as a small part of the whole series. Such characters were a friend of the leading female of the series, for example. These characters were usually made to be effeminate with an act or costume to indicate that they were gay men. Until later, the broadcast of *Lovesick: the Series* (2014) turned over all the old traditions. This series was aired in the national public channel and gained huge attention, followed by many Y series broadcasted in public channels and streaming applications, attracting uncountable national and international fans (Koaysomboon, 2020).

Even though there are so many of them, these Y series usually complied to similar plot formula. The grammar of Thai Y series usually begins with the two men met and find each other unimpressive due to a situation at the first meet or the reputation that precedes one of the characters, traditionally, the “Me”. Then the story goes, and they are gradually bonded. The indescribable yet good feeling grows before one find that another was obliged to someone or some duty. This is where female character appears and plays roles as the barrier against this relationship. Eventually, through the ups and the downs, the two male characters finds that their love is too strong, and they belong together. Unlike traditional series where this typically brings the story to the end, the Y series is usually continued with the honeymoon period of the couple to satisfy the audience before once again put them through to another misfortune to prove that their love is truly unbreakable. This test is usually real tough and really jeopardizes the faith of the two. Notwithstanding, the happy ending is required to service the fans at last.



Apart of the standard plot formulation of Thai Y series, the actors are the great attraction that turns audience to fans. Becoming a Y actor is usually a first steps into entertainment business of many Thai actors. The famous Y actors are usually matched and star together in variety show, commercial ads, spin-off episode of the series or even the new series. Once they are matched, they are perceived as a couple and are expected to maintain the Y vibes to “service” their fans. Some of the actors are not comfortable with this condition since they want to grow and receive different and more challenging roles for their future opportunity in acting career. However, it is truly risky to change the image after they are perceived as Y actors. Many of them fail that they have lost fans and fame after they turn away from Y society and accept the heterosexual role, not to mention their secret heterosexual relationship in real life.

Thai Y series are quite successful compared to other countries in the same region. In fact, it was globally successful. Seeing that, Thai Y actors usually have international Fan-Meet and their series on streaming application usually have comments from international fans that it is necessary to have English subtitle. Either way, some international fans start learning Thai hoping to communicate with the actors or understand the series better (Nugroho, 2020). In case that the series or the team of actors is famous, the company usually arrange a fan-meet event or even a concert in the theme of the series. Many of these international fans fly over to meet the actors in Thailand especially the fans from China.

China is a huge market of Y culture consumers. Despite the restriction from the government, there are comic, novel, animation, drama, and even radio drama for the Y consumers. The national broadcast of TV program is being observed and controlled strictly by a government. In 2016, *Shan Yin* or in English *Addicted*, the ground-breaking Chinese TV series about man-man relationship, was the second most watched content on the streaming application iQiyi. Unfortunately, it was banned and the broadcast was ceased as ordered by State Administration of Radio, Film, and Television (SARFT) which is now National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA) due to its explicit presentation of homosexuality. The last three episode were uploaded on YouTube and can be watched only by audience outside of China. That is more than clear that such content cannot be aired in China.

Surprisingly, *The Untamed* (2019) or *Chen Qing Ling* (陈情令) in original Chinese, which was surely a Y content to Thai fans, survived the censorship. What is more is that the success of this series was phenomenal. In Thailand, *The Untamed* (2019) was on the streaming application WeTV. The first broadcast on June 27th, 2019, to the last episode on August 20th in the same year had created the unstoppable craze in Thailand and, actually all-over Asian countries and even to the Western sphere. The promo picture of the series was on LED billboard in Times Square, New York. Purchases of the series were dealt for broadcast in many countries, even in Korea - the well-known production and export hub of Asian series.



1.3 The Case Study of *The Untamed* (2019)

The plot of the series was about the cultivators' society in ancient China. Wei Wuxian, a disciple from Jiang clan joined together by Lan Wangji - the second heir from Lan clan - to fight villains and uncovered series of mystery. Wei Wuxian died in the battle and was resurrected by someone else's ritual after 16 years of his death. Lan Wangji recognized his friend at once even though he was in other's body. The two reunited and together disclosed murders and mysteries which had been linked back to the sixteen – year past revenge.

The original version of the series was a novel *Mo Dao Zu Shi* (魔道祖师) written by the famous modern Chinese author in the penname Mo Xiang Tong Xiu (墨香铜臭), a female novelist, of course. Before this adaptation into the series, the fiction had been made into comic book, animation, and even radio drama. So far, there has been two spin-offs from the series *The Untamed* (2019) which are *The Living Dead* (2020) and *Fatal Journey* (2020) – telling the side stories focusing on other characters. This very well represented the popularity of the series (Lusky, 2019).

There were several factors contributing to the success of *The Untamed* (2019). The cast of the series were of those magnetic actors and actresses of China. With excellent design of costume, scene, kung fu fight choreography, computer graphic, music, and all other elements together, the series was phenomenon. It was true that the theme was also interesting that it played around to critique about social value, traditional philosophy, justice, and the blurred line between the right and the wrong. However, the most attractive charm of this series lies in the fact that it was a Boy's Love drama. It was obvious that the original fiction was written by the intention to present homoerotic, as known as “danmei” in Chinese

It is no doubt that when *The Untamed* (2019) was on Thailand's WeTV, it was cherished by Thai fans wholeheartedly like many other Chinese series on this and other streaming applications. Lots and lots of compliments and supports from fans resulted in the growing business as the actors appeared on many advertisement campaigns and became a life-changing rising stars just overnight. People were praising the production team for their bringing back Chinese traditional musical instrument to the attention of the new generation. This is unusual because China was not always kind and opening to man-man relationship like this, at least compared to the case of the previous *Addicted* (2016).

When the production team of *The Untamed* (2019), under the administration of Tencent Penguin Picture, was planning to transform the novel into live action, they had to be very careful with the line that could never been crossed. The result they came up with to present the Y fiction was an interesting design of the subtle yet understandable portrait of man-man relationship. The clever design of the production preserves the Y factors of the show yet saves the series from being seized by the government.



2. Research Methodology

This study investigated the strategies applied to the production of *The Untamed* (2019) to bring this series to success and to prevent censorship from the Chinese authority. The data was collected from the 50 episodes of the series and 20 episodes of the “special edition of the series. Also, the VDO clips of behind-the-scenes and other promo VDOs as uploaded to social media such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter were observed and collected for analysis to find out the company’s strategies to produce and promote the series. Th hypothesis was set up that this adaptation of the novel to the series must change some details from the source text novel to avoid contradiction with the government’s policy and many supporting strategies must be implemented to contain the charm for danmei fans. The analysis revealed that there were several factors and strategies that brought the series to success and kept the series safe from censorship.

3. Results

The investigation of the episodes and promo VDOs revealed some strategies used to construct the production and promotion model of the case study as follows:

3.1 The Original Famous Danmei

Mo Xiang Tong Xiu’s Boy’s Love fiction, as called in Chinese “danmei” – literary meaning “indulgence in beauty”, is famous among BL readers. First a BL’s fan since high school, the writer finally published her first novel, *The Scum Villain's Self-Saving System* (人渣反派自救系统) in 2014. Then the second novel, *Grandmaster of Demonic Cultivation* (魔道祖师) was released in 2015 and another one, *Heaven Official's Blessing* (天官赐福) was released in 2017. All of these were well known BL novels since there were not many fictions of this kind from China. The widespread of her works owed to the Internet that carried the novel away to the outer space off the Mainland China. Especially, the second novel, *Grandmaster of Demonic Cultivation* (魔道祖师), first as “c-novel” – an online novel published in website, then it was adapted to an animation (donghua) dubbed in several languages, an audio drama, a comic (manhua), and a live action series (c-drama) in the name “*The Untamed*”, the case study.

Hence, many of the audience already knew what the story is about. With its fame and reputation in previous adaptations, fans were looking forward to watching the series. So, the adaptation did not fail the fans. The rating of the program was quite low at the initial broadcast due to rumours that the original content was far adapted that female characters were made to play mire role that they should do. In fact, the series itself do not change much from the novel and that made their fans happy that the picture in their mind from the printed novel become real picture in live action. Some danmei changed the plot away from the original novel that women’s roles were added more to the series. Fans criticized this as disrespect to the original version. Apparently, the series was not successful and received bad critics.



Since the novel was already well known, there was no need to say more about their relationship. Instead, the production hid “easter eggs” in the scene. Not only that it was save from violating the government’s regulation, it also was a part of the fun for audience to crack the code and share to social media. The symbolism used to signify meaning in the series will be explained more in the coming section.

3.2 The Y Plot Formula

Thai Y series usually followed certain stages as previously mentioned to complete their plots. Compared to Thai Y series, this danmei based c-drama adaptation complied with the same scheme.

3.2.1 Bad Impression: When they first met, Wei Wuxian of the Jiang Clan and Jan Wangji of the Lan clan did not get along. Growing up from a strict family, it was his nature that Lan Wangji was reserved and introvert. He was serious with his cultivation practice, so it was disturbing to meet the care-free and playful Wei Wuxian who enjoyed teasing people, having fun, and drinking. Even though Wei Wuxian wanted to make friend, Jan Wangji repelled him off.

3.2.2 Attraction: Although they cannot get along well at first, their cultivation duty obliged them together and through ups and downs they had been through together, the special bond between them gradually grew.

3.2.3 Initial Strike: Then the audience were heartbroken that the best buddies were separated by death. Wei Wuxian was repressed when he was standing up against the Wen clan who planned to rule over all the 5 clans. With his personalities and acts, he was tortured with ordeals that he turned to the dark side, practicing black magic to defy the Wens. In the grand battle against the Wens, he died, feeling guilty about all the mistakes he had made.

3.2.4 Honeymoon: After 16 years of his death, Wei Wuxian was resurrected by a mysterious ritual. When Lan Wangji found him, the two reunited and fought side by side again to solve mysteries from the 16-year past. In this part of the series, Lan Wangji changed himself that he did not care about the 3,000 rules of his clan to take care and protect Wei Wuxian because he did not want to lose him again. Many of the passionate moments were delivered here to service to audience who were waiting for sensational moments.

3.2.5 Ultimate Strike: After the mysteries were exposed, the two men had to be apart again. In the series, it was only explained that each of them had a personal mission to complete and they just took a different path, literally, and walked away, bidding goodbye with hope to meet again in some good day.

3.2.6 Happy ending: About a minute away from the farewell scene, the two reunited. The set and costume hinted that time must have passed for several years. Wei Wuxian

was standing on the cliff playing his infamous flute tune, then there was a voice calling his name, and he turned back smiling at the voice's owner. This is actually how the series ends. Audience knew for sure that it was Lan Wangji and they were together again and it must be for good.

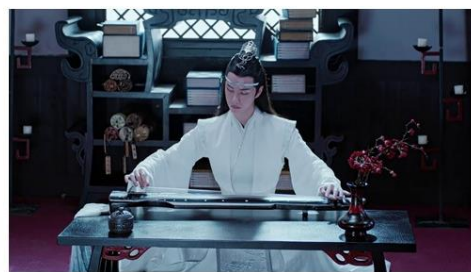
In fact, the plot was not in chronological order; however, it contained all the moments as in Thai Y series. Fans of Y series were all very well familiar with and enjoy these moves. The actual plot of the series opened with the death of Wei Wuxian and then his resurrection. After he came back from death, there were mysterious cases and that lead to the joining again of the two. Then it was a flash back to when they first met, and the story went on to the death of Wei Wuxian. Then the scene was cut back to present, 16 years after his death until the end.

3.3 Hidden Easter Eggs

3.3.1 music: The practice of Lan clan included music. According to their practice, music had power to serve several purposes of the player. When the dark side took control over Wei Wuxian, Lan Wangji played the music called "Cleansing" to relief the pain and calm his "friend" down. In the series the tune of the "Cleansing" song was very similar to one of the 80s retro Chinese song called *Qi Ni Bu Dong Wo De Xin* 其實你不懂我的心 (1989), as translated "You Don't Understand My Heart" in English. Apparently, the music was the hint to show how Lan Wangji really felt for Wei Wuxian who never understood him. To the audience, this was to confess his love to Wei Wuxian, and to the production company this was also a way to avoid violating the government's regulation, while the message of the characters was delivered, at least to the audience if they can crack this code. Additionally, there was another music usually played by Lan Wangji and Wei Wuxian and it was named "Wang Xian". One of the original soundtracks of the series that was performed by the actors who played the wo main character is named "Wu Ji". Again, both songs hinted the intimately closed relationship between the two. Presented in figure 1. are the recording of *Wu Ji* and the scene of the Cleansing Music Performance of Lan Wangji.



Wang Yibo and Xiao Zhan recording "Wu Ji"



Lan Wangji performing "Cleansing Music"

Figure 1. The recording of *Wu Ji* and the scene with Cleansing Music of Lan Wangji.

3.3.2 body language: Along the story, the two characters exchanged the body language such as eye contacts, body touch, embrace, tear drop, etc. This nonverbal language may seem normal to other characters, but the characteristic of Lan Wangji was depicted as insensitive at first, so when he expressed emotional act for Wei Wuxian, it was meaningful. Furthermore, some of the body contacts and emotional expression were not normally exhibit by a man to or for another man, for example when Wei Wuxian was laying down leaning his back on Lan Wangji's body when Lan Wangji embraced him with one hand. Some of the body language captured are presented in figure 2.



Figure 2. The body language that represents the intimate and more-than-friends relationship.

3.3.3 cultural background: The cultural elements were repeatedly used as a hint to signify the relationship of the two. In the novel, it had been 13 years that Wei Wuxian died and Lan Wangji was trying to make contact with his spirit and other spirit to ask for his news. In the series, this timing was changed to 16 years. This 16-years' time was the exact time that Yang Guo was waiting for his wife, Xiaolongnu. Yang Guo and Xiaolongnu were characters from the classic novel of Jinyong, the one of the greatest Chinese novelists. The novel *Shen Diao Xia Lu* told a story of the true love that stood against social norm since the man was 6 years younger than the woman; moreover, she was his kung fu master that he called her aunty. The relationship like this that was rebellious to social norm. It was similar to the "friendship" of Lan Wangji who was considered the paragon of man and Wei Wuxian who was judged to be evil. In addition, Carman Lee the actress played "Xiaolongnu" in the 1995 version of the series "*Shen Diao Xia Lu*" was a guest star in the Untamed 2019 as Lan Yi, the only female leader of Lan clan and now the guardian

of the Stygian Iron alone in the secret cold cave. This shared similarity that Xiaolongnu was living in the secret dwelling since she was young, and she spent another 16 years alone in a cold secret valley to heal herself from a poison until reunited with her man again. Figure 3. present the picture of Carman Lee and “Shen Diao Xia Lu” which resembled several characteristics of “the Untamed”.



Figure 3. *The Untamed*'s promo poster, Carman Lee in the *Untamed*, and Carman as Ziaolongnu in *Shen Diao Xia Lu*.

Another example was when they visited the residence of the Jiang clan where Wei Wuxian grew up in, they both bowed three times to show respect in front of the shrine of the Jiang ancestors. This could be interpreted that the production intentionally gave clues of wedding ceremony according to Chinese culture.

3.3.4 reference to the novel: Unlike in the series, their relationship was not hidden at all in the novel. Moreover, the sexual intercourse they have was wild that the novel stated they enjoyed biting each other's lips while they were kissing. Out of the blue, there was a scene that these two characters appeared with a small wound on their lips together for no reasons or background. It can be assumed that the series was giving hints that their relationship was just like in the novel even though it was not presented on screen. Only novel fans could crack this nutshell. Once it was cracked it went on all over social media and other fans who never read the novel were so excited about this fact. In an anniversary of the broadcast, one of the directors gave an interview that the actors were so serious and hardworking with the roles that they got an accident and there was a wound on their lips. Fans did not seem to care for this explanation when their own fantasy was more ecstatic. Figure 4. presents the wound that appeared on the lips of both characters in the series.



The scandalous wounds on the lips of Wei Wuxian and Lan Wangji.

Figure 4. The wound on the lips of Wei Wuxian and Lan Wangji.

3.4 Off-Camera Promotions

Beside the broadcast of the series, the production company boosted the hit of the series by several means. In the series, the affection of the two characters were not accepted by the society in the fiction. In the real world, the image of homoerotic was prohibited by the government. As a result, the space for Y factors on screen was limited. The company open alternative spaces so that the audience can work and fulfil their appreciation by themselves.

3.4.1 behind-the-scenes and promo scoops: The scoops contained interview, chitchatting, game playing, scene rehearsing, and actors teasing each other. Mainly, the focus was of course on the two main characters. The two actors playing Lan Wangji and Wei Wuxian were filmed to make reports and scoops. These short scoops of about 4-8 minutes were pictures of these two were having fun and spending time together during their break from the shoot. The scoops imply to the audience that these actors were really close and had a good time working together. These behind-the-scenes image strengthened the audience's emotional attachment to the series since they either were convinced or convinced themselves that the two actors actually had intimate relationship and were fond of each other.

3.4.2 social media: The scoops previously mentioned were usually posted on several social media platforms, first by the official social media of the company and then shared by fans. Social media were the platforms that fans shared their opinions, feelings, information, media, etc. All the easter eggs were revealed and shared here, so the missing piece of information can be fulfilled to decode the Y factors in the series. Especially, the cultural hints and language pun, it was important that the audience who were not Chinese natives had to look for comments and posts to understand specific language puns or cultural elements from certain scenes.

3.4.3 variety show: When a series was being on air, it was normal that actors would visit a variety show to promote their works. Apart from interviews, these actors usually exhibited the Y factor among them such as taking good care to each other, siting so close by each other's

side, body touching, eye contacts, etc. Sometimes, it was the actors who initiated these moves and there also were times that the show host asked them to do so. Apparently, the fans liked this image and that resulted in a higher rating and streaming statistics, both of the series and the show.

3.4.4 fan-meet events and concerts: While the show was on air and after the broadcast of the last episode, the company arranged several fan-meet events and concert as to express their gratitude to the audience. The event comprised of songs from the series, games, interviews, shows, etc. Of course, again these actors serviced their fans by the Y acts. Even though the broadcast was over, there were residual profits the company will be earning from the content. Netflix bought the content to stream for its streaming client. WeTV, the streaming application of Tencent continually earned from sponsors while streaming *The Untamed* (2019). Money was still rolling in, so it was important to continue with the promo event even after the broadcast finished. For instance, the fan meeting concert of *The Untamed* (2019) cast in Thailand was a huge event. Ticket prices were 2,500, 3,500, 4,500, 6,000, and 7,500 baht, and all were sold out.

All these off-camera media and events were contributable to the fulfillment of the Y fantasy to audience while the official broadcast can only give hints. It didn't matter that the broadcast was all over because the series can be consumed over and over again on streaming application and social media community. Even though the show was over in 2019, there will be anniversary celebration among fan communities. Until now the information and media regarding the series were still be posted and shared on social media. In addition, the company released the "special edition" of the show. The edited version focused mainly only on the part of Wei Wuxian and Lan Wangji with several unseens added. The image of Y was intensely depicted both by the company to audience and, in the other way round, by audience. It reinforced the Y image in this seemingly c-drama about manly friendship. Presented in figure 5. are the captured moment of the two actors by fans and official media of the company.



The moment that was captured by fans and official media of the production.

Figure 5. The captured moments of both main actors.



4. Discussion and Conclusion

There were lots of fans of Y fiction or as called “danmei” in Chinese. As the demand existed, supply was serving in response. Productions of Y fiction and media however had to be careful since image of homosexuality was strictly prohibited in China and actually some other countries in ASEAN, too. Recently in August 2021, there was official announcement that the Chinese government will ban the appearance of effeminate men in media seeing it as cultural crackdown (Haring, 2020). Asking the Y audience, they never categorized Y fiction as homosexuality. The Y characters were not gay to them. Instead, they defined the concept as the normal man who had a specific affection to the specific man and created a special bond just between this two. Somehow, this definition made no difference. Hence, the production of the Y series had to hide easter eggs into the image of “friendship” between two men and the fans learned well how to decrypt such puzzles as music, body language, cultural background, and original novel reference. The Y factors were not only secretly added to the series but also by other means of promotion such as special scoops, fan-meet events, social media, and concert.

Even though there were no effeminate men in *The Untamed* (2019), the image of a man who was fond of another man was still too risky to be banned as there was a case before. Even so, these actors still exhibited the Y factors in front of and behind the camera to serve to audience during the promo; however, it was interesting that after the Farewell Concert on 1st and 2nd November 2019, which signified the official closure of the series, there had rarely been the picture of the two main actors together in the intimate fashion as before during the promotion of the series. Some of the actors even posted on his personal social media to say goodbye to the fictional character he played. It was safe to assumed that the government’s regulation must be really effective.

Evidently, repression on same sex relationship existed. Even with such repression, literature and its adaptation always found a way to express themselves one way or another. It was also interesting to observe that in the modern world with advancement of technology, access to restricted information and media was not impossible. There is doubt whether regulative controls by governmental rules and law can always overcome the instinct to communicate and the call for freedom for good.



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