

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted at Capiz State University - Mambusao Satellite College during academic year 2022-2023. The study aimed to conduct a content analysis of the poems in the *Ladlad 3: An Anthology of Philippine Gay Writing* compiled by J. Neil C. Garcia. Specifically, to find out the following: (1.) What are the common themes, emotions, and societal commentaries present within the anthology? and (2.) What are the implications of the poems as they reflect and challenge societal norms, gender roles, and discrimination faced by the LGBTQIA+ community in the Philippines? The poems include *Distance*, *Between Sleeps*, *The long History of Kissing Boys*, *Pneuma*, *Unstill Life*, *Your Name*, *Ecce Homo*, *Gift*,² *Alice and the Small Door*, *The Gaze*, *Love*, *Malate Night*, *The Renewal of Self*, *Behind the Monastery Walls*, *The Garden of Saint James*, and *Prayer*. This study is based on Klaus Krippendorff's content analysis which focuses on understanding and interpreting the constructed meanings within textual data. It is anchored on queer theory, and social constructionist. The data analysis involved organizing, and summarizing the data. This analysis was guided by the research questions and theoretical frameworks such as queer theory, and social constructionism. Ethical considerations were followed throughout the study. The analyzed poems explore themes of love, longing, and connection within LGBTQIA+ relationships, challenging societal norms and expectations. The analysis reveals the deep-seated human need for physical closeness and challenges societal expectations and norms surrounding relationships. It highlights the power of empathy, understanding, and the validation of LGBTQIA+ experiences and relationships. The poems in the content analysis emphasize the profound emotional and communicative aspects of physical intimacy. The study highlights the longing, pain, and complexities

experienced by individuals separated from their loved ones in gay relationships. The study encourages society to look beyond appearances and stereotypes, fostering a more inclusive and accepting environment. It promotes a shift in perception towards a more positive and appreciative outlook, emphasizing the power of empathy, connection, and love to overcome pain and find meaning in life.