

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH PROSECURES AND DATA PRESENTATION

The chapter contains methodology of the research that explains the research questions, research method, subject of the research, stages of the research and description of characters in *The God of Small Things*.

3.1 The Context

This study is an analysis of Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* within a postcolonial framework. It raises an issue about power and focuses on investigating the power relations negotiated between the characters in the novel. The characters involved are the powerful/powerless that are presented by the roles of the Touchables and the Untouchables.

In order to achieve the aim of this study, the writer formulates questions as guide to complete the research. It comprises questions to figure out *the types of power, the forms of resistance from the Untouchables, and the outcomes of power relations to the Untouchables.*

3.2 Research Method

The method applied in conducting the research is qualitative approach in the form of a descriptive method. By using this method, the writer attempted to define and describe data collected. Gay L.R states that a

descriptive method is a method of research that involves collecting data in order to test hypothesis or to answer questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study. The descriptive study determines and reports the way things are.

To collect the data, the writer applied two techniques, namely library research and textual analysis. Library research is to get information about the theory and the novel. While textual analysis is a technique to analyze the information gathered from the novel.

3.3 Subject of the Research

The present study used a novel entitled *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy. It was first published in 1997 by Flamingo, London and consists of 340 pages. The writer employed both English and Indonesia-translated version of the novel. The second version was published by Yayasan Obor Indonesia in 2002 and consists of 417 pages. The novel too won the prestigious Booker Prize in October, 1997 and were sold to 21 countries.

The God of Small Things is about an upper-caste Christian family and the intertwined conflicts they face. One member of the family named Ammu, a mother of a fraternal twins – Estha and Rahel – breaks the rule by loving a man, a member of the Untouchables which is actually outside the caste-system, named Velutha. The effects of the ‘forbidden love affair’ between Ammu and Velutha are horrible. Ammu is banished from her home

and die at the age 31. Velutha is beaten to death by the police given that he breaks the social rules and caste system.

As the novel is the 'representative of real life', and so is *The God of Small Things*. The caste-system is a very deep-rooted problem in India. The discrimination toward the Untouchables continues until now, though the Untouchability had been declared illegal in 1955 (Ratcliffe, 2000). Through *The God of Small Things* we come to realize that apparently there are people that somehow we forget and considered worthless. Those who are only 'small things', the God of small things.

3.4 Stages of Research

The writer takes some steps in the process of completing the analysis. In the beginning, is the process of reading and rereading the novel to get a clear understanding about the issues it is presented. The second step is a decision making of the issue that will be raised, which is about the Untouchables and its power relations. The third step includes researching and studying some relevant theories from books or other references in order to get a deep comprehension. The theories applied in the present study are the postcolonial literary theory and Foucault's ideas on power. The fourth step is formulating some research questions that are designed to analyze the power relations among characters in the novel. The fifth is the process of quoting some textual evidences that showed the relationships of power between the characters which is limited only to the relationships involve the

Untouchables. The sixth step is making table of characters and power relations in the purpose of making the data collected are easier to identify. The process followed by listing textual evidences that are found into the table then categorized each of them into the ideas of power proposed by Foucault. Before the categorization process, this step is initialized by identifying who are the powerful and the powerless involved in each relationship.

After the steps above are completed, the next step then is discussing and interpreting the analysis mentioned in the previous steps in order to answer the research questions. Eventually, the analysis process ends by drawing conclusion and suggestions for further research.

3.5 Description of Character on *The God of Small Things*

Character	Descriptions
Rahel	Estha's female fraternal twin. Much of the story is told from Rahel's perspective as a seven-year-old girl and as a thirty one-year-old woman. She has a instinctive connection to Estha, and as a child she could share experiences and memories with him unconsciously. She grows up in Ayemenem but, as an adult, lives in the United States with her husband, Larry McCaslin. After their divorce and upon hearing of her brother's return to Ayemenem, Rahel goes home herself (p. 2, 14, 18, 20)
Estha	Rahel's male fraternal twin. His full name is Esthappen. After his cousin's death, he is sent to live with his father, Baba, in Assam. At the age of thirty-one, he moves back to Ayemenem. Estha stopped talking one day when he was a child and has not said a word since. He is considered crazy by the other inhabitants of Ayemenem except for Rahel (p. 2, 9, 10, 36, 130)

Ammu	Estha's and Rahel's mother. She married Baba in a glamorous ceremony, but she soon became disillusioned with their marriage because her husband was an alcoholic. After he tried to propose her into sleeping with his boss, Ammu left Baba and settled back in Ayemenem with the twins. She has an affair with the Untouchable handyman, Velutha, so she is banished from her own house. She dies at the age of thirty-one while out of town on business (p. 3, 40, 42, 43, 159, 334, 161)
Mammachi	Estha's and Rahel's blind grandmother. She is unhappily married to Pappachi, who beats her terribly until Chacko defends her. She plays the violin and generally keeps to herself, except when Ammu's and Velutha's affair is exposed (p. 35, 47, 48, 50)
Pappachi	Estha's and Rahel's grandfather. He beats Mammachi with a brass vase frequently, until Chacko forces him to stop. His prize in life is his sky-blue Plymouth. His biggest regret is not having the species of moth he discovered named after him (p. 35, 47, 48, 49)
Baby Kochamma	Rahel's and Estha's grandaunt. She has a degree in ornamental gardening, but in her old age she simply watches television and writes in her diary. Baby Kochamma has a vindictive and manipulative personality; she accuses Velutha of raping Ammu and then pressures Estha to confirm it (p. 2, 26, 27, 259, 318)
Chacko	Rahel's and Estha's uncle, and Mammachi's and Pappachi's only son. He was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and he is a self-proclaimed Marxist. He took over Paradise Pickles & Preserves from Mammachi (p. 4, 38, 57, 65)
Velutha	An Untouchable Paravan who serves as a handyman for Ammu, Mammachi, and the rest of the family. He has a close relationship with Estha and Rahel, whom he treats lovingly but never condescendingly. He is the father figure they never had. Velutha has an affair with Ammu, rowing across the river to see her each night. After he is accused of raping Ammu and kidnapping the children, the police beat him nearly to death. They leave him to die in a prison cell, which he does, but not before Estha is tricked into confirming his guilt (75-77, 176, 259, 308, 320, 333-340)

Vellya Paapen	Velutha's father and an old, fond acquaintance of Mammachi. When he discovers Velutha's affair with Ammu, he goes to Mammachi immediately and offers to kill Velutha with his bare hands in retribution for the shame he thinks Velutha has brought to Mammachi's family (p. 73, 78).
Kuttappen	Velutha's paralyzed brother. He helps Estha and Rahel figure out how to fix their boat (p. 206, 210)
Kochu Maria	The vinegar-hearted, short-tempered, midget cook, the house servant who, until the twins return, is the only other person living in the Ayemenem House with Baby Kochamma (p. 15)
Comrade Pillai	Leader of the Communist Party in Ayemenem. Comrade Pillai does not like the fact that Velutha is a Communist, because he does not want to be allied with him. In fact, he turns Velutha away on the night of his death and is therefore the last to see him before the police beat him (p. 13, 262, 278, 287)
Inspector Thomas Matthew	The police inspector who interviews Baby Kochamma on the night Velutha dies. He is somewhat ambivalent about his men's practices of beating Untouchables nearly to death without having a validated reason (p. 259, 314)