

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Questions

1. How is the Plot constructed in *Checkers*?
2. How is the blank constructed in this novel?

3.2 Methodology

This research applies content analysis to analyze the data. In content analysis, researchers use documents as their major source. Holsti (1969:1, cited in Merriam, 1988:104) defines documents “in the broad sense of any communication” and includes examples as novels, newspaper psychiatric interview, newspaper, song lyrics, and the like. The basic assumption implicit in content analysis is that an investigation of messages and communication gives insights into the people who receive the messages. The result of content analysis is more descriptive rather than explanatory. Berger (1982) notes advantages of content analysis use, they are:

- It is inexpensive
- It is usually relatively easy to get material
- It allows closeness to text that can alternate between specific categories and relationship and also statistically analyze code the coded from the text.
- It can deal with current events or past events, or both.

There are several previous studies that employed content analysis in literary researches, *Young Adult Literature and Censorship: a Content analysis of Seventy-Eight Young Adult Books*

written by Horton (1986) for instance. The study aimed at analyzing representative seventy-eight current young adult books to determine the extent to which they contain items which are objectionable to would-be censors. Each book was analyzed, and matched for occurrence of six categories, including profanity, sex, violence, parent conflict, drugs, and condoned bad behavior.

Another example of content analysis research is written by Roberts (1987) the title of the research is *A Content Analysis of how Male and Female Protagonists in Newbery Medal and Honor Books Overcome Conflict: Incorporating a Locus of Control Framework*. The purpose of this content analysis was to analyze the Newbery Medal and Honor books in order to determine how male and female protagonist were assigned behavioral traits in overcoming conflict as it relates to an internal or external locus control schema. Robert used all of the fictional books of Newbery Medal and Honor which met his study's criteria. A total of 120 male and female protagonists were categorized, from Newbery books published from 1922 to 1986. Based on the previous studies of content analysis, the researcher intends to apply the method to analyze a novel.

The researcher will analyze a novel by applying content analysis method. The title of the novel that is analyzed by the researcher is *Checkers*. *Checkers* is a very powerful book that manages to combine complex and detailed themes into a short concise novel. It is written in an honest, direct language and concentrates mainly on human behaviors and the attitudes that people have. The author, John Marsden, manages to give the reader an effective insight into the mind of the main character, while also being careful not to reveal too much. John Marsden is known as a famous Australian author. He mostly writes teenage books. Some of his book has become best seller in Australia including the 1988 Book of the Year Award, the Allan Marshall award, and the Christopher award, among others.

3.3 Data Analysis

This research utilized Reader-Response theory in analyzing the plot of *Checkers*. The reason for choosing the Reader-Response theory is because this research points out the interaction between the reader and the text. It also helps detecting blanks in plot structure of the novel. Reader may fill the blanks in the plot using his/her own imagination and knowledge in order to bridge the asymmetry between reader and the text.

The data will be analyzed by applying transaction process to construct plot structure and fill the blanks or plot holes in the novel.

- **Blanks will be analyzed by Isser's theory.** Text is what it's written and unwritten.

Written text is a media to give the knowledge for the reader and unwritten text is an opportunity for the reader to picture item in the text. Isser (1980:212) claims, "the literary work has two poles, which we might call the artistic refers to the text created by the author and the aesthetic realization accomplished by the reader." These poles cause asymmetry between reader and text. What an author means is not always the same as reader's interpretation to the text. As the text unfolds as living events, reader relates to his/her own living experience as a consequence, it leaves blanks on the text. Isser (1980:216) stated that whenever the flow of the story is distracted and the reader is brought in unexpected directions, the opportunity is given to the reader to bring into play his/her own knowledge for establishing connections—for filling the gaps left by the text itself. Reader fills the gaps by using his/her imagination, by using his/her life experience.

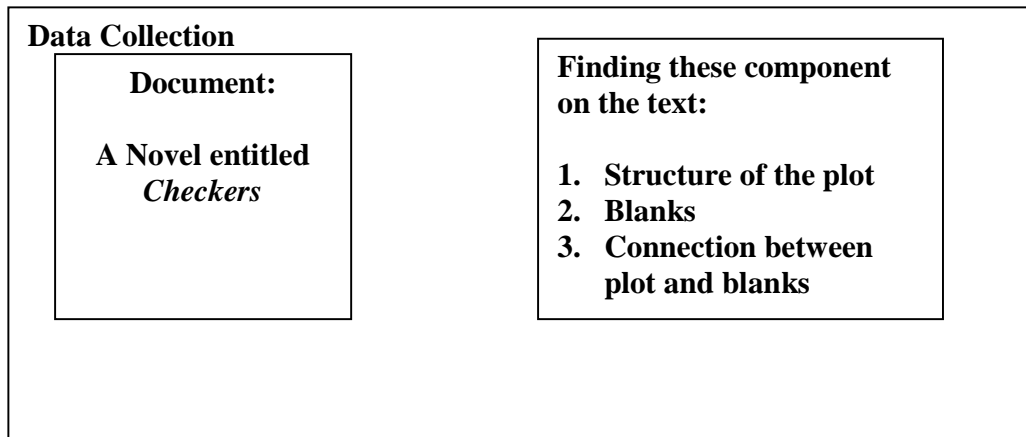
- **Plot structure will be analyzed by Freytag's theory.** Freytag divides the plot

structure into *Exposition*, it is information related to something that is about to tell on the next chapters. *Inciting moment*, the reader is first introduced to the conflict. *Rising action* is where the character finds the obstacle to reach his/her dreams. *Conflict* is the primary problem or dilemma in a story. *Climax* is the point at which one opposing force overcomes the other and the conflict is resolved is. *Falling action* generally happens after climax. It occur to chill the tension it usually a sign the story is about to resolve. *Denouement or resolution* is the very end of the story

Practically, this research combines these major aspects with the structure of plot and blank in the novel. The result of this combination is construction of the plot, construction of blank and the connection between plot and blanks in the novel chosen.

The procedure of collecting and analyzing the data is represented on the figure bellow:

Chart 3.1
Data Collection Procedure



Analysis

1. Construction of plot
2. Construction of blanks
3. Connectability of blank and plot

The procedure of analyzing the novel are:

1. finding out the structure of the plot
2. constructing the plot
3. finding the blank in the plot
4. constructing the blank