

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the method of the research, which includes the research questions, the research subject and context, research method, data collection, analysis and presentation. The discussion of topics above is presented in the following parts.

3.1 Research Questions

The research is conducted to answer the following research questions:

1. How are male characters constructed in the text?
2. How are the constructions of male characters viewed from the perspective of masculinity?

3.2 Subject of the Research

The subject of the research is a novel entitled *The Boy Next Door* written by Meggin Cabot. The novel was first published in 2003. The story is narrated through emails sent between the characters of the novel. To give a brief information about the novel, the synopsis and the author are explained in the following section.

3.2.1 The Synopsis

The story begins when the main character Melissa Fuller discovered her next-door neighbor, Helen Friedlander, a multi-millionaire old lady, face down on the floor, the victim of an attempted murder. Now that Mrs. Friedlander is in a coma, it was up to Mel to look after the old lady's pets. Looking after these pets is becoming a serious hazard for Mel, which effects her constant tardiness. In desperation, she contacted Mrs. Friedlander's nephew, Max Friedlander, her only living relative to come in and take care of the matter.

Elsewhere, Max is a famous photographer, who is too busy trying to score with Vivica, a hot supermodel, rather than to care about his wealthy aunt. So he sends his friend, John Trent, to impersonate him for a while. John moves to Mrs. Friedlander's apartment and meets Mel. Instead of acting ignorant as Max, John prefers to be himself. They get off to a good start after sharing mutual affections for not only each other but other things as well.

John is instantly attracted to Mel and can tell that she likes him too. John found Mel's incredibly refreshing despite the fact that Mel thinks he is Max and that he works for a rival newspaper.

3.2.2 The Author

Meggin Cabot was born in 1967 in Bloomington, Indiana. Cabot has written many novels for children, teenagers and adults, under several pen names: Meg Cabot, Meggin Cabot, Patricia Cabot, and Jenny Carroll. Cabot has also written many types of novels, including historical romances, contemporary chick

lit, and young adult series with themes of mystery and paranormal suspense. Her books have sold over 15 million copies in the world. In October 2004, Cabot was named by The Guardian as the author of the month. Cabot has written and published over fifty books, and is best known for *The Princess Diaries*.

3.3 Research Method

In conducting this research, the qualitative approach is chosen to analyze the text because of its capacity in examining the hidden information. In addition, the qualitative approach gives more detail information compared to the quantitative approach. It is in line with the idea stated by Bodgan and Taylor (cited in Wiratmo and Gifari, 2008) that a qualitative method as a research procedure which results in descriptive data in the form of written words or spoken from people or behavior that can be observed.

The qualitative data are chosen because qualitative research principle asserts that every (temporary) finding is based on data, therefore findings becomes more valid before stated as a theory (Alwasilah, 2006). As Miles and Huberman (1987) state that:

“Qualitative data is in the form of words rather than numbers, they are attractive and source of well-grounded, rich descriptions and explanations of processes occurring in local contexts. With qualitative data one can preserve chronological flow, assess local causality, and derive fruitful explanations.”

So, from the explanation above, the writer believes that this qualitative data is able to describe the data about the representation of male characters in the text in more detail because of its capability in obtaining rich explanations.

3.4 The Stages of the Research

The technique of this research engages through the following steps:

1. Reading the images of male characters in the novel entitled *The Boy Next Door* by Meggin Cabot.
2. Conducting library and internet research to collect and comprehend references which are related to the research.
3. Formulating research questions.
4. Finding the connection between the characters, encounters, and ideas in the novel.
5. Making the table of content analysis which describes the character's encounters with the other characters, events or ideas in the novel about the issue occurs in the novel.
6. Finding some textual evidences through the table which are related to the research question.
7. Analyzing the data related to theoretical framework being used.
8. Discussing the findings and drawing conclusions.

3.5 Data Collection

This study utilized a novel as the source in obtaining the data in order to answer the proposed research questions. The data is taken in the form of textual evidences in the novel. To arrive at this, the writer reads the text thoroughly and carefully for an in-depth analysis. The data which was gained is about how the male characters are constructed in the text.

3.6 Data Analysis

The way of analyzing the male characters in this study is by revealing their characterizations and their descriptions based on textual evidences found in the text. This analysis of the novel elements are employed to gain the valid information and to arrive at the comprehensive understanding of the issue in the novel. After analyzing all the textual evidences collected from the novel, the writer analyzes those findings based on the related theories proposed in the previous chapter.

3.7 Data Presentation

The collected data are presented in this subchapter. The data showed that the characterization of the male characters that are portrayed in several features. The features were identified through their physical appearance—how characters look, how characters act and how other characters in the text react to these characters. The features are represented as follow:

Table 3.1 Examples of character analysis of Max Friedlander

Features	Character traits	Textual evidences	Analytical notes
Looks	Fashionable	But while you're being me, could you PLEASE not dress like a grad student? I am begging you: No Grateful Dead T-shirts. And stone-washed jeans? Yeah, those are OUT, John. And those deck shoes you always wear? Would something in a tassel kill you? And for the love of God, invest in a leather jacket. Please. I know it will mean touching some of those precious millions in that trust fund your grandfather left you, but really, something NOT from the GAP would be good (p.67)	The text illustrates that fashion and style has become priority for Max. He knows what is in and branded goods, this implied that he knows well about fashion and applied in his daily life.

Desirable person	Popular	Apparently, he's some up-and-coming photographer with pictures in the Whitney, or something. At least, according to his aunt. And quite popular with the ladies....ergo, the unlisted number, I assume so the ladies husbands can't track him down. (p.43)	The text shows that Max is a popular person, especially with the ladies.
Masculinity	Inconsiderate	Let me see if I've got this straight: Your aunt was the victim of a brutal assault, and you don't even care enough to postpone your vacation? That is cold, Friedlander. Really cold. (p.61)	The text shows that Max prefers to have fun rather than to care about her aunt condition.
	Cruel	I think Max Friedlander is going to try to kill his aunt! I think he tried to do it once before, but loused it up. We've got to stop him. Can you come over right away? (p.479)	The text shows how other character think about Max, that he is a kind of cruel person.
Romantic tendency	Playboy	Max's modus operandi: very intense until he gets a girl into bed, then he starts backing off. By that time the young lady is usually besotted, and cannot understand why the formerly attentive Max stops calling. Pathetic scenes ensue, in which cries of Why haven't you called? And Who was that woman I saw with you the other night? Are answered with Stop suffocating me, and I'm not ready for a commitment. Variations on this theme include: Can't we just take this one day at a time? And I'll call you on Friday. I swear it. (p. 117)	The text shows that Max loves to play with girls.

Table 3.2 Examples of character analysis of John Trent

Features	Character traits	Textual evidences	Analytical notes
Looks	Not fashionable	I mean, from what I'd heard, about the modeling shoots and everything, I was expecting a real smooth operator, you know? But what kind of smooth operator goes around in a Grateful Dead T-shirt? And he had on jeans. And deck shoes with no socks. I expected Gucci loafers at least. (p.79)	The textual evidence illustrates how John dresses ordinarily.
	Good looking	I would say six foot one or two. Big shoulders. I mean really big. Dark hair, but not too dark. Hazel eyes. You know the kind. Sometimes green. Sometimes brown. Sometimes searing into my soul.... Just kidding. (p. 79)	The text indicates that physically John has a good look.

Desirable person	Generous	And that's because every other time a girl has grabbed my hand, it's been to drag me towards a store window so she could point to something she wanted me to buy her. Every other time. (p.201)	The text indicates that in relationship, John is a generous person; he buys everything his mate wants.
	Lovable	You will just love him. He is just so funny and nice and sweet and smart and handsome and tall and everything, you will just DIE when you meet him. He is so much better than Donnie Richardson could ever ever be. Even Daddy will like him, I'm sure. (p.295)	The text shows John is a lovable person.
Masculinity	Caring	Anyway, Nadine, I'm so glad you made me get in touch with him! Because he said he didn't feel right about me walking Paco with my hurt shoulder and all, and that he was going to move in next door, to take care of the animals and sort of keep an eye on things. Can you believe that? A man who actually takes care of his responsibilities? I am still in shock. (p.81)	The text shows that John cares about Mel who has sincerely taken care of Helen's pets until he come.
	Hard-worker	You know, you could have a job in your grandfather's office if you wanted one. Ditto a personal assistant. I don't know about a team of pool maintenance workers, as, living in the city, you don't have a pool. But everything I've got you could easily have if you would just give up this absurd quest you've embarked on to prove you can get along without Mim's money. (p. 113)	The text shows that John is a hard-worker person. Yet he inherit his grandparents' wealth, he still make a living by his own.
Romantic tendency	Romantic	I told you he'd call. Only he did better than calling. That's the biggest bouquet of roses I've ever seen. So, what does the card say? (p.272)	The text shows that John is a romantic person. He sent flowers in expressing his feeling.
	Committed	You couldn't just sleep with somebody. I mean, yeah, you could, but it never worked out. I WANT THIS TO WORK OUT. That's why it's important that BEFORE we sleep together, we establish a warm and loving friendship. (p.246)	The text shows how John appreciates a relationship.