

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Method

This Research observes and analyzes chick-lit novel. The form of the study was conducted through qualitative method. As stated by Denzin and Lincoln (1998:14), a qualitative research is:

Multimethod in focus, involving an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of or interpret phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them. Qualitative research involves the studied use and collection of a variety of empirical material-case study, personal experience, introspective, life story, interview, observational, historical, interactional, and visual text- that describe routine and problematic moments and meaning in individual's lives.

From the definition above, the qualitative method is employed in this research because of its capability in understanding the phenomena and involvement in the various empirical materials such as visual texts.

Furthermore, supported by Bogdan and Biklen (cited in Sara, 2010:25) there are six characteristics of qualitative methods: (1) the research is in a natural setting; (2) the researcher is the key instrument in the research as the data collector which involve directly wit the respondent; (3) the research is in descriptive and the data is in the form of words rather than numbers; (4) the process is more important than the outcome; (5) the meaning as the main purpose in the research; (6) the research tends to be inductive.

According to those characteristics, qualitative method is the most appropriate approach for the research since all the characteristics mentioned above are employed in this research.

It includes the object of the study is in the form of words; which is literary works such novel is used in this research. Then, the researcher is the instrument and the research is in descriptive data in form of written words.

Along with using the qualitative approach, this research also employs a descriptive method. As evoked by Creswell (1994) that the descriptive method of research is to gather information about present existing condition. The aim of descriptive research is to test hypotheses or to answer question concerning to the current situation of the research. This method is also applied to describe the nature of a situation, as it exists at the time of the study and to explore the cause of particular phenomenon. Thus, descriptive method is regarded relevant to this study since it has purpose to describe the existing phenomenon in the novel *Getting Rid of Matthew*.

In brief, the method used in this study is an approach of feminist literary criticism to analyze the novel. According to Budianta (cited in Aminudin, 2002:201) "Feminist Literary Criticism is an ideological criticism towards the point of view which ignores the issue of gender inequality and discrimination in social roles and identities based on the distinction of sex". The model of literary analysis proposed by Beauvoir called Existentialist Feminist is used in this study as a study of women as writers provide critics with four models concerning the nature of women's writing that help answer of the chief concerns of feminist literary criticism (Bressler, 1994).

The four areas of investigation in this model analysis covers: (1) the presentation of female body image in a text; (2) the language of female; (3) the psychological situation of women and the relationship to the writing process; and (4) the cultural forces around women that put emphasis how society shape women understanding of themselves, the society, and the world around them (Bressler, 1994:109). Therefore, this study only investigates the presentation psychological situation of main woman characters based on the conflict focused on the cultural forces around women.

3.2 The Stages of the Research

In analyzing the subject of the research, which is *Getting Rid of Matthew*, a novel by Jane Fallon, Existentialist Feminist analysis which focused on portrayal of woman based on conflict is used as the tool of analysis. In carrying out the research, several stages will be taken:

1. Determines the subject of the research that is *Getting Rid of Matthew* by Jane Fallon,
2. Deciding the phenomenon of the research, which is portrayal of the main woman characters based on conflict revealed in the novel,
3. Seeking the relevant theories from textbook, thesis, journal, internet resources, and literature,
4. Formulate research questions

Read the novel repeatedly and carefully (1st reading aimed to find general meaning of the stories, 2nd reading is to find in depth information and meaning

- of the stories, 3rd highlighting the textual evidence to the research questions),
5. Classify the textual evidence and categorized in the form of tables according to each point analysis. In terms of characterization, this table consists of columns named characters, characterization, textual evidence, and interpretation. While, in terms of conflict analysis the table consist of columns named conflict, event, textual evidence and interpretations,
 6. Textual evidences are descriptively analyzed and interpreted based on Existentialist Feminism until conclusions and suggestions based on findings of the research are made.

3.3 Technique of Data Collection

This research uses chick-lit novel as the source in taken the data to answer proposed research questions. The data is taken in the form of textual evidences in the novel by reading carefully and thoroughly. Locating the issues of characteristic and conflict of main woman characters in portraying their characterization are chosen.

The issues arouse in the novel then will be categorized and assessed in the relation to the study.

3.4 Technique of Data Analysis

Firstly, the main woman characters in the novel are analyzed, the analysis of main woman characters is used to gain the valid information about the novel and to

comprehend what the author wants to extend and author attitudes towards the characters. Secondly, conflicts faced by the main woman characters are analyzed to reveal the issue of woman position in the society. The way of analyzing the main woman characters and conflicts will reveal in the form of textual evidences. Afterwards, the findings in the form of textual evidences will be analyzed by using feminist literary criticism which will be focused on Existentialist Feminism perspective. The result of analysis is discussed in the next chapter along with the interpretation of the data.

3.5 Synopsis of “Getting rid of Matthew”

Getting Rid of Matthew is about Helen a thirty five years woman who has affair with Matthew a married man. She always wonders three things in life: a highly paid job in public relations, a flat of her own and a man, also belonging to her exclusively. Instead, Matthew is actually her Boss; he is a married man with two children.

Helen spends years trying to persuade him to leave his wife, Sophie, and move in with her. When Matthew finally leaves his family to be with her, Helen realizes that the reality is not quite how she imagined it, and decides she doesn't want to be with him anymore.

Everyday when the alarm rings on 8pm Matthew getting up and getting ready to leave the house. He is not simply leaving for work; he is going home to his beautiful house, his lovely wife Sophie, and his two beloved daughters. Helen's life

is small and pitiful- her career has been downsized because of her affair- she transferred to a different department, thus being labeled as difficult. She has one friend and virtually no social life. She's self absorbed, shallow and petty, and she's constantly begging Matthew to leave his wife.

Matthew has agreed to see her over a long holiday weekend, but completely forget about it during the festivities at his house. He steals away to call her behind closed doors and she realizes he's forgotten. They have a fight and she refuses to see or talk to him for a couple weeks, during which time she makes up her mind to end the relationship. But before she can end it, Matthew tells his wife everything and shows up on Helen's doorstep with his bags in hand. Rather than being honest, she decides to give it a go, and because she's flattered that he left his family for her. He regularly reminds her of his great sacrifice.

As Helen and Matthew's relationship goes public, the office turns to be chaos, the gossip spreads out along the people in the office. Helen is disturbed that people see Matthew as an old man, not the see him as she always thought him to be, and she is embarrassed by that.

The conflict emerges when she desperately finding ways to get rid of Matthew, and ends up relationship, and making friendship with Sophie, in disguise, Helen decides the only way to get rid of the old man is to get him back together with his wife. Soon she is stalking Sophie and through a series of unlikely events, be friend of her under the fake name of Eleanor. Eleanor (Helen) and Sophie begin a friendship and it isn't long before that friendship becomes more important to Helen

than the relationship with Matthew. Sophie wants Matthew back, so Helen uses that to her advantage and plots to get the two back together.

3.6 The Author

Jane Fallon was born in December 9, 1960 in England. besides a novelist, she is also an English producer, most famous for her work on popular series *Teachers* (2001), *20 Things to Do Before You're 30* - (2002), *Single* - (2003), *Massive Landmarks of the 20th Century* - (1999), *Undercover Heart* - (1998), *This Life* (1996 - 1997) and *EastEnders* (1985 - 1994)

Jane Fallon is a well-known producer and chick-lit novelist who have tendencies in writing about woman relationship with man and its complication love and marriage stories. She has published three novels: *getting rid of Matthew* (2007), *got you back* (2008), and *Foursome* (2010). According to thebookseller.com, Fallon's *Getting Rid of Matthew* was part of the 2007 Summer Read, and has sold 3,510 copies on average through the market to date. Her second novel, *Got You Back*, was released earlier in 2008 in a mass-market edition and has more than 13,000 copies sold.

Her first novel, *Getting rid of Matthew*, is one of the influenced chick-lit hit of the year in British and some of the bestselling authors of chick-lit have already analyzed about it such as Jamie Lee Curties; an American actress and famous author of children books, and Elizabeth Burchan, the author of revenge of the middle-aged woman.