

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses the research method, research design and research procedure, subject of the research, data collection and data analysis.

3.1 Research Method

This study aims to investigate how gender roles are subverted in Bernhard Schlink's novel *The Reader* within the perspective of liberal feminism. This study is qualitative in nature and employs textual analysis approach. Qualitative research is one of the methods of research which does not need exact numbers and form in presenting the data. The writer can use any procedure in conducting the data base on the needs.

In line of that, Thomas (2003) says that qualitative methods involve a researcher describing kinds of characteristics of people and events without comparing events in terms of measurements or amounts. Moreover, Myers (2006) states that:

Qualitative research was developed in the social sciences to enable writers to study social and cultural phenomena. Qualitative data sources include observation and participant observation (fieldwork), interview and questioner, documents and texts, and the writer's impressions and questions.

Myers (2006).

As explain by Semi (1990) the important thing in qualitative research is deep comprehension towards the analyzed data, thus literature as one of the social

problems could be analyzed better by using qualitative research. There are at least five characteristics of qualitative research method:

1. Natural setting as the data source: the writer get involved directly in collecting the data;
2. Descriptive analytic: the data is described through words or picture not in numbers;
3. Understanding the process than the product: the result of the research depend on the process;
4. Data analyzed inductively. There is no hypothesis; the writer construct the concept clearly in the middle of research process; and
5. Understanding meaning: the writer should comprehend the subject of the research accurately and deeply.

One of the characteristics in qualitative approach is descriptive. It is used as a method to analyze the data. As mentioned above that in descriptive method the data is presented in words. It means that writer gave detail explanation of the analyzed data. It is supported by the statement of Ratna (2004) that qualitative research on the whole is a research that makes use interpretation ways in a descriptive method.

Thus, by seeing the facts above, the most suitable method to analyze the data found is by using qualitative research and descriptive method. In addition, since this research dealt with the text and feminism perspective, it is more suitable to use qualitative research and descriptive method. As proposed by

Sugihastuti and Suharto (2002) that descriptive method can be used in feminist literary criticism.

The writer used this method by collecting information to analyze the data. In order to comprehend deeply the subject of the research and to make this study more comprehensive and reliable, the writer explored the source books and articles, read and found out more about feminism literary theory. This method was used to make the description in which the textual evidence was sketched systematically, factually and accurately.

To analyze the literary work—a novel entitled *The Reader*—textual analysis is then used. Textual analysis is a study that attempts to analyze documents to find out their meaning. Therefore, this research will involved a close reading and critical reading of the text. In line with that, according to Escote (2008) on the philosophy of textual analysis, the textual analysis and literary criticism can not be separated each other, they are exceedingly necessary to understand and advanced in interpreting the text. And the textual analysis provides information which will assist mental illustration in human mind to enhance and enrich the interpretation of the text (Bamberg, 2002).

The writer use this textual analysis because the writer tried to look up into specific gender issue in the novel *The Reader* related to the portrayal of gender roles in Germany during 1939-1945.

3.2 Research Procedure

In doing the research, the writer conducted some steps which follow:

1. Determining the subject.

The first step of doing the research was determining the subject that is the novel *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink. Then the writer read the whole part of it repeatedly and thoroughly in order to gain comprehensive understanding.

2. Deciding the core issue in the novel.

The second step, the writer decided the core issue that is the gender issue of the main female character.

3. Formulating research question.

The next step, the writer formulated research question regarding the portrayal of German women in Schlink's novel and chooses the textual evidences that are relevant to the formulated research question.

4. Taking notes textual evidences

After the writer formulated the research question, the next step was taking note of the textual evidences regarding the issue to develop tentative perceptions.

5. Undertaking library research.

Then the writer undertook library research by searching out, collecting, and comprehending the references regard to the gender issue and liberal feminism.

6. Analyzing the data by means of feminist literary criticism and correlating them with feminism issues and issues related to the portrayal of gender roles in Germany during 1939-1945 as evident in the novel.

The next step is the writer reanalyzed and interprets the data gained by means of gender theory and feminist literary criticism, notably liberal feminism.

7. Sketching conclusions and suggestions.

Finally, the conclusion and suggestion were given based on the findings.

3.3 Subject of Research

The subject of the research was the novel entitled *The Reader* written by Bernhard Schlink. The novel is published in 1995 by Vintage International, a Division of Random House, Inc. The novel is chosen to be analyzed because it reveals the problem faced by women that have to struggle for getting the equal treatment in her life and in the society.

This novel also shows the fact that women not only have a traditional role in her life, but also a place in the society. The novel itself reflects the reality of working woman's life.

3.4 Data Collection

The data collected in the form of textual evidences which identify the portrayal of German women in Schlink's novel which will be based on its gender issues. Those data are derived from the textual evidence found in the novel in form of some utterances, expressions, attitude, thought, etc. The data then classified in accordance with the portrayal of German women. The novel as document of the study is the main sources from which the data could answers the proposed research question.

3.5 Data Analysis

The data were collected from the textual evidence found in the novel. The textual evidence was taken from the novel in the form of explicit utterances, women's thought and action, and other commentary towards gender issues in the novel.

Liberal feminist perspective as one of the part of feminist literary criticism will be used as the framework to analyze the data in this research. Finding that related to the research question is connected to other sources from which inferences are taken.

The gender roles of main women character in the text will be analyzed first. It is used to gain the valid information about the text and enable the writer to comprehend the author wants to extend. The analysis will start with identifying the issues of gender roles in political setting in which the main female character is positioned.

Afterwards, the findings in the form of textual evidences will be analyzed by using feminist literary criticism which will be focused on liberal feminist perspective and gender theory. The result of the analysis is discussed in the next chapter along with the interpretation of the data.

