

Research Methodology

a. Research design

This study was qualitative descriptive because it aimed to construct the room created in the texts to voice women's experiences in their relationships with their husbands. According to Heal (2023), a qualitative analysis involved interpreting textual, graphical, or audio/video data and can be driven by the data or a conceptual framework. The study used a textual analysis on "Lamb to the Slaughter" and "The Story of an Hour." The method was used to understand language and symbols that exist in pieces of analyzed texts in order to gain information on how meanings might be built by the texts (Allen, 2017). This technique was suitable for analyzing these short stories because, affirming Byrne (2001), a textual analysis might reveal the influences on qualitative interpretation, revealing hidden meanings and gaining an understanding of human nature.

b. Procedures of data collection

The data were compiled in the forms of textual evidence from short stories entitled "Lamb to the Slaughter" by Roald Dahl and "The Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin. The stories shared similar features in that they portray women who have questionable relationships with their husbands. "Lamb to the Slaughter" by Roald Dahl was published in 1953. The short story is about Mary Maloney, a seemingly well-mannered housewife. Mary incidentally kills her husband with a frozen leg of lamb because she is shocked by her husband's intention to leave her, but she quickly composes herself and develops a plan to conceal her crime. "The Story of an Hour" is a short story by Kate Chopin, first published in 1894. Louise Mallard is a housewife who receives news of her husband's death in a train accident. She experiences a mix of grief and unexpected liberation. Mrs. Mallard is secretly relieved because of her husband's death. However, her husband returns alive, and the shock leads to her own death.

From the two stories, the researcher collected data from the characters' dialogues and monologues. The data were identified from indications of a space (room) made specifically for the female characters.

c. Procedures of data analysis

This study used a qualitative descriptive approach and textual analysis technique. To analyze the data, the researcher aligned the process with the research questions. There were four steps in comparing and analyzing Mary Maloney and Mrs. Mallard. First, the dialogues and monologues that indicate the construction of a room for the characters were identified. Second, the findings were categorized. Third, the findings were interpreted by applying Woolf's feminist perspective (1929) and the concept of anagnorisis plot twist.