CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter explains the method of this research which includes elaborations of the research design, the subject of the research, the stages of the research, and the process of data collection and analysis.

3.1 Research Questions

As elaborated in the study background earlier in the first chapter, the problems of the study are formulated into these following questions:

a. How do the focalizers describe the main character?
b. How do the focalizers describe the character's portrayal of motherhood?

3.2 Research Design

In order to reach the aims of a textual study, this research employed a qualitative research method in descriptive form. Different from quantitative approach, qualitative method is a flexible approach which focuses on a particular phenomenon that is not common and not comparable but it tends to have 'internal validity' and 'contextual understanding' (Alwasilah, 2009). The aims of this design are to understand, describe, find, and reveal a hypothesis.

Since the present study is focusing on finding the character presentation through focalization, it applies the narratology theory proposed by Genette (1983) as the analytical framework. Additionally, to help answering the second research question, this study also applies feminist theory of motherhood. There are three procedures in transcribing the data using the analytical framework. Those include description, interpretation, and explanation. Description is when related words and

clauses from the novel are described as textual evidences. Interpretation is the next step where collected data are interpreted for a deeper understanding of meanings. Explanation is a process where assumptions are made and linked with social concerns.

3.3 Object of the Research

The object of this study is a novel by Paulo Coelho entitled *the Witch of Portobello*, translated into English from Portuguese by Margarete Jull Costa. The novel tells a story of Athena, or Shirene, known as a witch whose life is sequenced through a series of recorded interviews with people who took part during her difficult time. This novel is chosen because the story, which is centered on Athena, is delivered by many characters. This makes the descriptions to have multiple perspectives. Precisely, there are fourteen perspectives from fourteen characters. Finding a novel with more than two perspectives is not easy, hence using the novel. Those perspectives also bring out a complicated issue of motherhood in which Athena, who is also a single parent with one child, has to deal with her interest in paganism and raising a much loved son without involving him in her practices.

3.3.1 Synopsis of *The Witch of Portobello*

Narrated in the form of a series of recording transcription, *The Witch of Portobello* novel reveals a life story of a woman with paranormal abilities told by some people who are closely or barely related to her during her difficult life. Sherine Khalil or Athena, a daughter of a gypsy, was adopted by Samira Khalil and her husband when she was still a baby. Since she was a child, Athena has been different from other kids. Athena grows up being a single parent with a child. Besides trying to be a good mother, Athena has an urge to find out her origin by tracking her gipsy mother. Not only that, Athena spends her life doing a spiritual quest which turns her into a clairvoyant and people start calling her the witch of Portobello. At the end of the story, the news reports that Athena has died

by being brutally executed for her supernatural practices. It turns out that Athena fakes her death in order to save herself and to keep her close with her son. However, only certain people know about the truth while others, including some people who used to be close to her, are quite certain that Athena has died.

3.3.2 Perspectives

As explained before, this study aims to investigate the presentation of the main character in *The Witch of Portobello* through focalization. In this case, the novel unravels fourteen focalizers who share their own perspectives regarding the character of Athena. The focalizers are listed below:

1. Heron Ryan (44, Journalist)
2. Andrea McCain (32, Actress)
3. Deidre O'Neill aka Edda (37, Doctor)
4. Lella Zainab (64, Numerologist)
5. Samira R. Khalil (47, Housewife, Athena's Mother)
6. Lukas Jessen-Petersen (32, Engineer, Ex-Husband)
7. Father Giancarlo Fontana (72, Minister)
8. Pavel Podbielsky (57, Owner of the Apartement)
9. Peter Sherney (47, Bank Manager)
10. Nabil Alaihi (Unknown, Bedouin)
11. Vosho "Bushalo" (65, Restaurant Owner)
12. Liliana (Unknown, Seamstress)
13. Antoine Locadour (74, Historian)
14. Unnamed Narrator (Policeman)

These characters knew Athena during her difficult life of being a clairvoyant. Each of them provides their own views and interpretations about the character based on what they heard, felt, saw, and experienced.

3.4 The Stages of the Research

There are steps to be taken in conducting the research in order to reach the conclusion, they are as follows:

1. Determining the subject of the research which is a novel by Paulo Coelho entitled *The Witch of Portobello*.

2. Conducting a close-reading of the novel.

3. Selecting words, phrases, and sentences that might be evidence for the analysis.

4. Classifying the text in relation to the perspective of the narration in which way the main character is presented.

5. Analyzing the data by investigating the main character as portrayed by the focalizers and how the character is presented as a mother.

6. Interpreting data and draw a conclusion based on the findings in the last chapter.

3.5 Data Collection

This research uses a novel entitled *the Witch of Portobello* as the data source. The data was collected in the form of textual evidences. To find these textual evidences, the first step to take is close-reading the novel. By close-reading, we will be able not only to understand the plot, but also to catch the ideology shown or hidden in the text. The next step after doing a close-reading is taking notes of sentences, words, or phrases that might be helpful to strengthen the arguments on the portrayal of motherhood of the central character and also to describe the novel perspectives.

3.6 Data Analysis

The data that have been collected were categorized based on the perspectives presented in the novel. They were analyzed based on Genette's (1983) theory on

focalization in order to find out how the main character is presented by different focalizers and how they view her not only as a paranormal but also as a mother who is raising a child. Finally, after investigating the character presentation and analyzing the issue assigned to the central character in the text, the next step is concluding the arguments and providing suggestions for further related research

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3.7 Data Presentation

In order to accomplish the data analysis, the collected data are presented in the form of tables. This data presentation is categorized into two which are data for character presentation and the portrayal of motherhood. The samples of the data presentation are presented below.

Table of 3.7.1 The Main Character's Presentation:

No.	Focalizers	Textual Evidences	Page	Exposition
1.	Heron Ryan	No one lights a lamp in order to hide it behind the door .. No one sacrifices the most important thing she possesses: love .. No one places her dreams in the hands of those who might destroy them. No one, that is, but Athena.	1 - 2	Athena had suffered much. She would even sacrifice the most important thing in her life. This was because she was a kind of person who was willing to take risks just to satisfy herself.
		Knowing her as I did, she would have battled on to the end, wasting her energy and her joy on trying to prove something that no one, absolutely no one, was prepared to believe.	5	Athena lived trying to prove a tradition that not everyone in the society could accept. Although she knew that, she just would not stop. When she believed, no one could tell her otherwise.
2.	Andrea Mccain	..she herself behaved quite differently because she used and manipulated me with no consideration for my feelings … I	7-8	Athena had an ability to twist other people's feelings, making her almost impossible to resist

		realized it was one of her many ways of getting us to drop our guard and surrender to her charm … Athena played with other people's feelings in a quite terrifying way		no matter how much a person might dislike her.

Table of 3.7.1 The Main Character's Portrayal of Motherhood:

No.	Focalizers	Textual Evidences	Page	Exposition
1.	Lukas Jessen-Petersen	Athena noticed my increasingly strange state of mind, but instead of helping me, she focused her energies on Viorel and on music.	36	This passage supports the notion of Viorel being Athena's first priority.
		I tried to be adaptable, but I felt I was losing Athena because of the child. Our arguments became more frequent, and she threatened to leave because she feared that Viorel was picking up the "negative energy" from our quarrels.	37	Athena would even leave her husband just to keep Viorel safe. This shows how devoted Athena was to her child.
2.	Father Giancarlo Fontana	" … And that energy is asking me now to have a child, so that I can give it what my birth mother never gave me: protection and security." (Athena to Father Giancarlo)	33	This passage shows Athena's intention to have a baby that was to protect him.