

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter explains the methodological aspect of the research. It consists of research question, research design, research subject and context, research procedures, data collection, data analysis and data presentation.

3.1 Research Question

The research is geared towards answering the following questions:

1. In what ways are hybrid identities of the main characters constructed as evidenced in the novel?
2. How do the main characters manifest their hybrid identities?

3.2 Research Design

This present research employs a descriptive qualitative method to achieve the aims of the study. This method has been chosen because the data for this research are in the form of words rather than numbers. As Maxwell (1996) states, the qualitative research focuses on textual or visual data rather than numerical data. According to Creswell (2009), qualitative

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The Construction of Hybrid Identity in

Julia Alvarez's How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

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method aims to explore and understanding the meaning of social phenomena by developing the theoretical lens. More explain, Maxwell (1996) describes the purpose of qualitative research is to discover the meaning of the events or situations; to understand the particular context; to understand the process by which the events take place; to identify unexpected phenomena and generate new “grounded” theories; and to develop causal explanation.

3.3 Research Subject and Context

The subject of this research is a novel entitled *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*. The novel, which consists of 307 pages, is the first novel of a Dominican-American writer, Julia Alvarez. It was firstly published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill in 1991. The novel is divided into three chapters in which each chapter consists of five sub-chapters.

This research is aimed to figure out how hybrid identities of the main characters are constructed in the novel and how the main characters manifest their hybrid identity. The focus of this research is the main characters (Garcia sisters) named Carla, Sandi, Yolanda and Sofia who undergo hybrid identities as the impact of their migration from Dominican Republic to the United States. Further, the research is framed by concept of hybridity as proposed by Bhabha (1994).

3.4 Research Procedure

The research is generally aimed to investigate the issue of hybrid identity in the novel *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* (1991) by Julia Alvarez. To do that, the novel is analyzed using the concept of hybridity proposed by Homi Bhabha (1994). Besides, this research employs a descriptive qualitative method to achieve the aims of the study.

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The Construction of Hybrid Identity in

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3.5 Data Collection

The data in this research were collected from the novel entitled *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* (1991) by Julia Alvarez. The collected data are in the form of utterances, actions, thoughts and attitudes of the main characters (the Garcia Sisters), which are critically selected and analyzed as the textual evidence to answer the research questions.

3.6 Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed using the framework of hybridity as proposed by Homi Bhabha (1994). In conducting the research, the following steps have been taken:

1. Reading thoroughly and repeatedly to achieve comprehensive understanding of the novel.
2. Finding and collecting the textual evidence from the novel *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* containing the issue of hybrid identity.
3. Analyzing the collected data by addressing the concept of hybridity proposed by Homi Bhabha (1994).
4. Interpreting the data
5. Drawing conclusion and suggestion.

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3.7 Data Presentation

The following tables are the samples of the analyzed data which reveal the hybrid identity construction and the characters' ways in manifesting their hybrid identity.

TABLE 1

Hybrid Identities Construction of the Main Characters

1. In -between Past and Present

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Julia Alvarez's How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

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No	Main Characters	Chapter/Page	Textual Evidence	Comments
1	Carla	Trespass/ 151	Carla thought yearningly of the lush grasses and thick-limbed, vine laden trees around the compound back home. Under the <i>amapola</i> tree her best-friend cousin, Lucinda, and she had told each other what each knew about how babies were made. What is Lucinda doing right this moment? Carla wondered.	The moment when Carla recalled her memories shows that she could not forget her old home in Dominican Republic even though she now lives in the United States. This indicates that Carla is trapped between her past memories and her present life.
2	Sandi	The Floor Show/ 174	Sandi realized with a pang one of the things that had been missing in the last few months. It was precisely this kind of attention paid to them. At home there had always been a chauffeur opening car door or a gardener tipping his hat and a half dozen maids	Sandi is trapped in her past memories that appear in her present life in United States. The passage tells that Sandi misses the special attention she got in Dominican Republic, that she does not get in America. Her yearning towards the special attention indicates that she could not shed away her past life in Dominican Republic.

Resti Siti Nurlaila, 2014

The Construction of Hybrid Identity in

Julia Alvarez's How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

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			and nursemaids acting as if the health and well-being of the de la Torre-Garcia Children were of wide public concern.	
3	Yolanda	The Drum/ 290	There are still times I wake up at three o'clock in the morning and peer into the darkness. At that hour and in that loneliness, I hear her, a black furred thing lurking in the corners of my life, her magenta mouth opening, wailing over some violation that lies at the center of my art.	Yolanda's hallucination about the Mother Cat symbolizes a connection with her childhood in Dominican Republic. It indicates that Yolanda could not overlook her past life, even though she already left the Island many years ago. This may show that Yolanda is also trapped between the memories of her past life and her present life.

2. In-between Dominican and American

No	Main Characters	Chapter/Page	Textual Evidence	Comments
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Resti Siti Nurlaila, 2014

The Construction of Hybrid Identity in

Julia Alvarez's How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

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1	Sandi	The Floor Show/ 181	As Mrs. Fanning turned to follow, she leaned towards Sandi's father and brushed her lips on his. Sandi didn't know whether to stand there foolishly or dash in and let the door fall on this uncomfortable moment... Relieved, she now felt the full and shocking weight of what she had just witnessed. A married American woman kissing her father!"	At the early years of migration, Sandi and her family had dinner with the Fannings in a Spanish restaurant. During those years, Sandi was not used to American life and cultures. Sandi feels uncanny as she witnessed Mrs. Fanning, who was drunk, suddenly kissed her father. In Dominican Republic, it is unconscionable for married woman to have an affair, or to do such an inappropriate action toward another man. Sandi's surprised feeling indicates that Sandi is in-between her old and new cultures: Dominican and American.
2	Yolanda	The Four Girls / 48	"The lover knew Yolanda would not have wanted him to know about this indelicacy of her body. She did not even like to pluck her eyebrows in his presence. An immediate bathrobe after her bath. Lights out	The passage tells that as an Americans, Yolanda made love with her lover, Clive. It is common for the Americans to have premarital sex. However, as a Catholic and Dominicans, Yolanda protects the holiness of her body by turned off the lights after she made love or

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The Construction of Hybrid Identity in

Julia Alvarez's How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

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			<p>when they made love. Other times, she carried on about the Great Mother and the holiness of the body and sexual energy being eternal delight. Sometimes, he complained he felt caught between the woman's libber and the Catholic señorita. "You sound like my ex," she accused him." (p. 48)</p>	<p>immediate bathrobe after bath. In Dominican Republic, women must protect their bodies like hidden treasure. This shows that Yolanda is trapped between American and Dominican religious cultural practices.</p>
3	Sofia	A Regular Revolution/ 120-121	<p>"This," Manuel Gustavo says, holding the book up like a dirty diaper, "is junk in your head. You have better things to do." He tosses the book on the coffee table.</p> <p>Fifi pales, though her two blushed-on cheeks blush on. She stands quickly, hands on her hips, eyes narrowing, the Fifi we know and</p>	<p>Sofia spends a year at Tia Carmen's house in Dominican Republic as the 'punishment' of having a bag of marijuana. After a year staying in Dominican Republic, Sofia is beautifully acclimated to life on the Island. During her exile, Sofia met Manuel, her illegitimate cousin whom she was dating. She was surprised when Manuel stopped her from reading a book, and then she resisted. As a common Americans, Sofia has the</p>

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The Construction of Hybrid Identity in

Julia Alvarez's How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

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		<p>love. “You have no right to tell me what I can and can’t do!”</p> <p>“¡Que no!” Manuel challenges.</p> <p>“No! “Fifi asserts.</p> <p>One by one we three sisters exit, cheering Fifi on under our breaths. A few minutes later we hear the pickup roar down the driveway, and Fifi comes sobbing into the bedroom.</p> <p>“Fifi, he asked for it,” we say. “Don’t let him push you around. You’re a free spirit,” we remind her.</p> <p>But within the hour, Fifi is on the phone with Manuelito, pleading for forgiveness.”</p>	<p>freedom to do what she wants. However, Dominican Republic exhibits a strong, male oriented-culture much of which was inherited from Spanish colonialist. It means that women in Dominican Republic are expected to obey their fathers or husbands. The fact that Sofia pleads for Manuel forgiveness shows that she felt wronged about her resistance; she thought that as a Dominican women she should obey what Manuel says. This indicates that Sofia is trapped between the American culture and Dominican machismo culture.</p>
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TABLE 2

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The Characters' Ways in Manifesting Their Hybrid Identities

No	The ways of dealing with hybrid identity	Chapter/ Page	Textual Evidence	Comments
1	Adopting American Life	A Regular Revolution/ 108-109	We learned to forge Mami's signature and went just about everywhere to dance weekends and football weekends and snow sculpture weekends We could kiss and not get pregnant. We could smoke and no great aunt would smell us and croak. (Garcia Sisters)	The Garcia sisters manifest their hybrid identities in three ways: adopting American life, embracing American values and preserving Dominican cultures. The ways of adopting American life is depicted as the sisters were having premarital sex, smoking marijuana and cigarette, and drinking alcohol. The fact that the sisters kiss and smoke indicates that they try to develop American teenage life and begin to lose the traditional values of Dominican Republic which are more rigid toward social interactions. In Dominican Republic, girls must be chaperoned at all times, so that they cannot kiss

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The Construction of Hybrid Identity in

Julia Alvarez's How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

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				or smoke freely like in the United States
2	Embracing American Values	The Antojos/ 9-10	<p>“I can’t wait to eat some guavas. Maybe I can pick some when I go north in a few days.”</p> <p>“By yourself?” Tia Carmen shakes her head at mere thought.</p> <p>“This is not the States,” Tia Flor says, with a knowing smile. “A woman just doesn’t travel alone in this country. Especially this day.”</p> <p>.... “I can take care of myself,” Yolanda reassures them.</p>	The passage indicates that Yolanda could not hide her American identity, although she is in Dominican Republic. At that time in Dominican Republic, woman does not travel alone. However, the fact that Yolanda wants to pick guavas alone in Dominican Republic shows that Yolanda ignores the Dominican cultures and develops the American value which is being an independent woman.
3	Preserving Dominican Cultures	The Rudy Elmenhurst Story/ 99-100	<p>Instead, I did something that even a lapsed Catholic I still did for good luck on nights before exams. I opened my drawer and took the crucifix I kept hidden under my clothes, and I put it under pillow</p>	In contrast with previous evidence, the sisters also manifest their hybrid identity by preserving the Dominican cultures such as following Catholic tenets like mentioning God in a pray and refusing to sleep with boys, keeping a crucifix, and embracing the customs of

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The Construction of Hybrid Identity in

Julia Alvarez’s How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

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			<p>for the night. The large crucifix had been a “security blanket” I took to bed with me after years coming to this country. (Yolanda)</p>	<p>Dominican woman which is traditional, passive and obedient. This passage shows that even though Yolanda already left Dominican Republic for many years, Yolanda still maintains her religious Dominican cultures by keeping the crucifix in the drawer and putting it under pillow for good luck in exams.</p>
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