

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter contains research methodology which demonstrates the methodological aspects of the research that are used in this present study. As steps in finding the answer, this chapter covers the research question, the object of the study, synopsis of the novel, research methodology, data collection and data analysis, also data presentation.

#### **3.1. Research Questions**

The writer formulates a single research question that has been mentioned previously in the introductory chapter which is:

How does the female subjectivity construct “happiness” for the female character in the novel *Arrival of Dawn*?

The conducted study focuses on seeking what the female subjectivity portrayed of that narrow interest of happiness meaning inside the novel story of *Arrival of Dawn* by Pensri Kiengsiri.

#### **3.2. The Object of the Study**

In this present study, the writer conducted an analysis of a novel entitled *Arrival of Dawn*. The analyzed novel is written by Pensri Kiengsiri, well-known as productive novelist, translator and short-story writer in Thailand. The novel was

published in the year of 2000, in English version and consists of 212 pages divided into 15 chapters. This study was conducted by analyzing subjectivity portrayed in this novel and finding what happiness is according to the novel as the result of the female subjectivity. This novel was selected because this novel portrayed subjectivity of woman who was subjected under her parental authority in patriarchal system and this novel also describes about happiness' construction as the prominent issue. The mother, who possesses the absolute power to manage all the things, counts on her eldest daughter in every problem, but consequently, Oraphan becomes subjected as the unhappy one. The study focused on how the characters' subjectivity in the story constructs the female happiness in accordance to main characters' experiences in the story using *Subjectivity* theory proposed by Judith Butler (2002) and concept of happiness by Nicholas White (2006).

### **3.2.1. Synopsis of Arrival of Dawn**

One of the Asian novels adapting a story about women is a Thai novel of family conflict and politics by Pensri Kiengsiri entitled *Arrival of Dawn*. The novel itself distinctly describes about Oraphan, the first-born daughter in a Thai-Chinese family who lived in Phra-khanong District in Bangkok. She suffered living under her mother's control since her father died when she was just eighteen years old. The father, Ekamphorn, came from a moderate family and left some property, twenty pawnshop houses and their own living house. The mother, Malee, was a beautiful and persistent lady but came from a poor family. The mother had four children and each one was two years older. They were Oraphan (female), Thanya (male), Wikanda (female) and Malin (female). Under Malee's patriarchal system, Oraphan must carry all the family needs through life. Instead of having Thanya, the only man of the family, the mother burdened Oraphan without proper consideration until she lost all of her happiness in life. Oraphan gave up her career in Civil Service when she was 23

Firdha Rizkya Rahma, 2015

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years old in Foreign Trade Section of the Ministry of Commerce because her mother wanted her to run the family business alone. The other brother and sisters were nothing than spoilt and demanding persons.

Malee not only ruled over her life but she also ruled her right to love. Oraphan had boyfriend named Niwet while she worked in Civil Service. She again gave up her love whereas her age was apparently adequate because her mother was against to Niwet because of his financial condition. After that, troubles came more over the family. Thanya made a girl pregnant and he asked for a house to live separately; Wikanda married a poor handsome guy yet a bouncer and the man often beat Wikanda for money and Malin got herself out of control as party goes.

As the mother got older and weaker, Oraphan handled over responsibility to manage the family. She was exhausted and unhappy remembering that her only friends are her two employees. In her loneliness, a man named Nopphorn approached her and again her mother did not agree because Nopphorn's mother has big pawnshop nearby. These mothers' ego became an obstacle for Oraphan relationship for second time, even Nopphorn's mother sent her son to London to continue his life there and also for separating him from Oraphan. She was never truly got her own happiness because of her submission to mother. As the time went by, Wikanda and Malin had to face single parent's duty while the mother's condition was getting worst due to their irresponsible husbands. But then again, Oraphan were the only one who cared.

After her mother died, Nopphorn came back to Bangkok but he told Oraphan that he already had a pregnant wife. Such news cut her heart and she became sadder than before. In her grand age, 45, Oraphan felt exhausted to sacrifice her whole life for serving her family, especially her sisters who were still in her nursing. One day, she decided to visit a lady psychiatrist and told all her stories. As the visits passed on, Oraphan found brand new perspective of life and finally turned her life into Buddhist way. In her forties, she gave up her devotion to business family, the pawnshop that

had given regular allowance for brother and sisters. She also let two sisters and their sons had their own place and took care of their own needs. In the end, she lived alone in that big house. Her understanding of the importance of dividing responsibilities, rights and duties of life in portion gave her light as the arrival of dawn every day.

### **3.3. Research Methodology**

This present study applied descriptive qualitative method within textual analysis in form because the analysis investigates the character's subjectivity experience in her point of view. Descriptive method means the explanation would be related to process or relation of something (Kalidjernih, 2010). Basic knowledge of methodology is required to find the best research design and inquiry approach therefore the descriptive method analysis formed in interpretations of all data which has been selected in data analysis. The urgency of the use of research methodology is to give perspective of research and set boundaries or the range of the research (Emilia, 2009). Since the Thai novel entitled *Arrival of Dawn* talks about family interaction involving different characters, there are a lot of issues, such as Marxism, feminism, power relations, cultural studies and another action that may lead into another field of literary studies. Then, the selected data were limited to texts which have narrow interest of subjectivity and happiness concept.

Alwasilah (2002) believes that a concept could be understood by using qualitative method in analyzing process, in this case that subjectivity process, which is available in the story. In line with Chaedar Alwasillah, Nazir (1983) also says that the research about relational process and system of thought should use descriptive method for the best result. In accordance with research question and the aims of the study, this study requires textual analysis to understand the meaning discovery. Alwasilah (2002) states that textual analysis is understood process of interpretation

which reversely connecting a reader with a text. This understanding process is needed because text is made of multiple writings which are derived from various cultures as structuralism notion. Nazir (1983) adds that seeking work of meaning in a text, in this case happiness concept can be investigated by language expression, speech, act and utterance. A good textual analysis can be done by analyzing specific data with the result that also specific; specific and new in terms of seeking perspective. Alwasilah (2002) agrees that research using qualitative answers can gain new perspective on things that already known or little known yet to be understood by the reader of that research. Then the new perspectives can be assumed as new information in literary research.

Therefore, textual analysis is appropriate in this present study to uncover a concept of happiness through female subjectivity in the novel, which is based on an assumption of the framework theory of *subjectivity* proposed by Judith Butler (2002) and White's conception of happiness (2006).

### **3.4. Data Collection and Data Analysis**

The collected data in this study were taken from the novel entitled *Arrival of Dawn* by Pensri Kiengsiri (2009), which tells about an eldest daughter of Thai-Chines family lived in Bangkok who mostly conflicted by her mother's desire. The data were collected by finding textual evidences which are relevant to the construction of happiness through female subjectivity in the story. The data were presented in the form of words. Close reading, interpreting and text analyzing are the main steps taken to get thoughtful understanding of the issue inside the story, especially the view of happiness concept until the answer of the research question found.

The collected data then are analyzed by using secondary resources related to theories of subjectivity. Through textual analysis approach, the writer tries to get the

best interpretation in order to answer the research question. The writer has done close reading the novel for several times in order to find evidences that can lead the analysis to answer happiness definition. The sorted texts necessarily must have particular criteria, which are indicated as expression of subjectivity or happiness in defining. The collected data which is formed in dialogues or narration had been categorized and analyzed using *Subjectivity* theory by Judith Butler in Sara Salih's book *Judith Butler* (2002) and happiness concept by Nicholas White (2006). In addition, there are some theories which support the analysis of female subjectivity, such as from Freud, Foucault, Lacan, Kristeva and Nick Mansfield. This research did not only focus in female subjectivity but also worked on Thailand culture and values because woman (Salih, 2002) could be constructed by acculturation process and the practices of certain power. Eastern and Western culture are known to be different in some aspects according to history and social demography. Thailand as one of the Eastern countries within the people who are mostly Dharma's adherent possibly save information in unique form on perspective of happiness, which is assumed little yet known. Thus, as Polkinghorne (2005) says that data used in qualitative research are not simply lying about on the surface ready to be gathered up; rather, the researcher is required to dig below the surface to bring up experiential accounts. The first act of production (as described in the previous section) is selecting from all of the possible sources that are available that are most likely to inform the researcher about the character of the experience being explored. The second act of production occurs in drawing out from these sources the data that serve to render a refined and rich description of the experience under study.

### **3.5. Data Presentation**

To accomplish the analysis of the study, the writer presented the data in two different sections in order to answer the research questions related to the ways

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how the author represents subjectivity and female's happiness concept in the novel. The data presentation was collected and presented in some forms of table, for example, as follows:

**Table 3.1.**  
**The Representation of Happiness Concept through Female Subjectivity**

Table 1		
1.	Character	Oraphan
2.	Textual Evidence	<b>Mother was strict in every way with me, but with my brother and sisters, especially with Thanya, her only son, she was easy and accommodating.</b> It could be said that Thanya was spoiled rotten by her doing.
3.	Page	9 line 25
4.	Analysis	Oraphan feels that the mother becomes more explicit to her than to other siblings. For Thanya, the only son she admires, the mother would be more cooperative and accommodating.
5.	Interpretation	Oraphan gets another different treatment. She also thinks that the mother makes Thanya, the only son, more special than the daughters. According to the novel, the author tells that in Thai culture, a male will carry the family name so the male must get the best 'service' and accommodation from the parents. Oraphan disagree with this idea. This Thai culture embraces patriarchal system in family institution.

1.	Character	Oraphan
2.	Textual Evidence	All in all, it was only me, <b>the most ordinary looking ... far from pretty, that couldn't give her any pride ...</b> It was as If I were not born to have a family life and some happiness of my own!"
3.	Page	11 line 10
4.	Analysis	The main character sees herself as an ugly woman and her ugliness brings disappointment to her mother. This fact makes Oraphan unhappy and unwanted
5.	Interpretation	One of the female happiness urge is appear in perfect image of beautiful and attractive shape. She finds no such thing like that inside her until she believes that her mother's different treatment is because of her ugliness. However, this eldest daughter wants to be the mother's pride which indicates that Oraphan's assumes her mother as her priority, big deal, great importance as far enough to be impressed.

**Table 3.2.**

**The Conflicts of Happiness Concept of Malee and Oraphan**

Category	No.	Oraphan (Daughter)	Malee (Mother)	Conflicts
Desires	1.	As the eldest daughter, she wants to be a dutiful kind daughter	As the eldest daughter, she wants Oraphan to be a dutiful kind daughter who	Being the first-born children seems to be the hard thing for Oraphan

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		<p>without being burdened by the entire household matters, especially her siblings' personal problem which she thinks it is none of her business. Her happiness is a career, a marriage, some achievements, having social intercourses and 'me time' instead of being mother servant all the time.</p>	<p>taking cares of the younger siblings by solving all of their problem, funding, and be the main pillar of the house. She wants to keep Oraphan close to her management. Malee's happiness is to be live in peace by Oraphan helps.</p>	<p>because her mother counts on her about solving every household problem. Oraphan finally feels the oppression under Malee's education to become parents' substitute. Oraphan wants to be a good daughter according to social legitimate but Malee exceedingly brings the household responsibility over her personal life causing internal conflicts in Oraphan's heart</p>
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				and mind. Malee keeps Oraphan disengages her own happiness under her subjugation because harmony of aims is failed.
2.	She admires slight achievement in her life by working in an office, even though as a typist. She enjoys working in an office outside home, having friends and communed. As a stiff woman, it does not matter for her to be paid with low salary as long as she	Malee wants Oraphan to be the only familial assistant to help her works. Malee orders Oraphan to quit her job for soon running the pawnshop business at home.	The late father inherited pawnshops to the family and Malee must run the whole business as income sources. Instead of Thanya, the only man of the house, she chooses Oraphan to stay there. Oraphan negotiates her desire to work in Foreign Trade Section because	

		can have friends and another life outside pawnshop.		she doesn't want to give up career. But Malee don't want to understand even calls her selfish. Oraphan back down and accepts the job she doesn't like. Since that, gives way her desire in order to obey Malee's desire
<b>Self-Esteem</b>	<b>1.</b>	As the eldest daughter, Oraphan wants to be the best role model for the younger ones and makes Malee proud of her by her kindness and handiness. She tries so hard to	Malee seemingly takes advantages of her dutiful daughter. After the father died, all power falls into Malee's hand. She loves four children but she tries to be firm to show father's figure under her	Happiness comes from appreciation which Mill's conception calls 'human worth'. This human worth measurement relates to someone who has influence

		<p>be wise and less demanding not as the three other siblings do in order to get appreciation, rewards or even present from the one whom she cherish. Her confidence is in mother's appreciation</p>	<p>matriarchal system. She flares it to poor Oraphan until she cannot stand for her own happiness. What makes a leader is a follower, it is in her self-esteem.</p>	<p>over the subject. Mother matters for daughter as how a student wants to make her teacher proud by the exam score. In the <i>Arrival of Dawn</i>, Oraphan was very dutiful until she conflicts her worth in front of mother. It stressed her out although Malee finally mentions to Oraphan about her love saying which satisfy Oraphan and. It is happiness which makes her forget about pain and her spinster status that</p>
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				usually bother her before
2.	Oraphan does not demand much but she would feel happy and appreciative if Malee treats her children equally. She also finds that Thanya, the only son, is served too much by the women of the house. Oraphan disagree about nearby paradigm that woman must serve man and obey man's wishes.	Mother wants to give the best of the best for the only man of the family, Thanya. Malee thinks that man should get higher education and highly regarded job. It is the esteemed for the whole family especially the parents. Other sisters except Oraphan are clever in using sweet words to compliment Malee and she likes it.	The truth that mother could be easier and accommodating to her sisters and brother rather than to her is hurtful for Oraphan. She is the one who becomes neglected. Even mother let the younger Wi married before Oraphan. Thanya gets special attention because he is a man and the other sisters always make mother flattered by the use of words whereas Oraphan is the one who helps much than other	

			children. This unequal love makes she hates herself.	
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