CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter explains about the methodology used in this study. It consists of the research design, research procedures, research question, and the synopsis of the novel used as the data of the study.

3.1. Research Design

In an attempt to answer the research question, which is, “How is the intellectually diffabled character constructed in the Forrest Gump novel?”, this study employs the content analysis method, which “focuses on the presence of certain words or concepts within the text or set of texts” and “involves the inspection of patterns in written texts, often drawing on combinations of inductive, deductive, and abductive analytical techniques” (Duke and Mallette, 2011). White and Marsh (2006, as cited in Duke and Mallette, 2011) also state that content analysis is a flexible method for analyzing, describing, and interpreting texts, also other written artifacts of society. Neuendorf (2002, as cited in Duke and Mallette, 2011) states that there are several steps which are typical in any content analysis. They are:

- Theory/rationale. The research must identify the focus for the analysis in terms of key variables and a theoretical framework. A hypothesized relationship or set of predictions may be posed. Alternatively, the research may rely on a set of questions that guide the study. This study is based on the research question, “How is the intellectually diffabled character constructed in the Forrest Gump novel?”

- Conceptualizing decisions. The researcher may limit the focus for the content analysis to a particular purpose or set of variables. These decisions are described explicitly and with a rationale. This study limits its focus only on the Forrest Gump novel.
- **Operationalizing measures.** The researcher defines each variable, construct, or process to be used to guide the analysis of the targeted texts. These definitions must be described in relation to the theoretical framework and explicit enough to guide possible replications. This study employs focalization which is proposed by Genette (1972) and Fludernik (2009) and the theory of characterization proposed by Minderop (2005) to see the construction of intellectually diffabled character in *Forrest Gump* novel.

- **Selecting/identifying a coding scheme.** The coding scheme may be computer based or rely on human analysis. The scheme may be drawn from previous research, adapted from previous research, or constructed for this study. This study employs several relevant studies which talk about intellectually diffabled character. Those studies become a scheme for the findings of this study.

- **Reporting.** The research reports on the analysis procedures, including reliability, leading to the findings. The analysis is stated in the Research Procedures part.

  Krippendorff (2004, p. 87) also states that content analysis, or qualitative content analysis, is compatible to the text interpretation. He also states that content analysis may result in verbal answers to a research question and can adopt multiple interpretations and construct contexts for the analysis, in the pursuit of the research question and in the adoption of analytical constructs based on available literature or prior knowledge about the contexts of the given texts.

  This method is chosen since this study deals with the data that appear in the word form and this study looks for the meaning that is tracked down from the presence of certain words or concepts within the text. Since this study also has a relation with intellectual diffability, the definition of intellectual diffability from several articles and books are used as the tool to interpret the data.
3.2. Research Procedures

There are two procedures in this study. First, how the data are collected. The data come mostly from the *Forrest Gump* novel. The novel is chosen since this novel has different ways in describing the construction of intellectually diffabled character by using first-person narration (the main character’s point of view) in telling the story. The collection of data will be focused on the views of the main character shared by other characters in the novel, the views of the main character shared by the main character himself, and the characterization of the main character.

Second, after the data are collected, then the data from the novel are analyzed using focalization approach from Gerard Genette and then interpreted by using secondary sources defining about intellectually diffabled character. The steps of the analysis are as follows:

1. Doing multiple reading of the novel and find the characterization of the main character and the views of the main character shared by other characters and the main character himself in the novel.
2. Selecting the characterization of the main character and the views of the main character shared by other characters and the views of the main character shared by the main character himself.
3. Analyzing the evidence by using focalization approach from Gerard Genette which is based on the one question, 1) How the narrative is focalized?
4. Evaluating the data analysis by checking the accuracy of the analysis.
5. Interpreting the results by using the secondary sources defining about intellectual diffability.
6. Drawing the conclusions and make several suggestions.

3.3. Sample of Data Analysis

The data is presented in the form of tables, for example:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>‘Special’ Treatment (Incidents in the Novel)</th>
<th>Context of the Incidents</th>
<th>Way of Portrayal</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The other day, I'm walkin down the street an this man was out workin in his yard. He'd got hissef a bunch of shrubs to plant an he say to me, &quot;Forrest, you wanna earn some money?&quot; an I says, &quot;Uh-huh,&quot; an so he sets me to movin dirt. Damn near ten or twelve wheelbarrows of dirt, in the heat of the day, truckin it all over creation. When I'm thru he reach in his pocket for a dollar. What I shoulda done was raised Cain about the low wages, but instead, I took the damn dollar an all I could say was &quot;thanks&quot; or somethin dumb-soundin like that, an I went on down the street, waddin an unwaddin that dollar in my hand, feelin like a idiot.</td>
<td>Forrest was asked by someone to help him. But, he is not well paid, but he doesn’t complain about it. He feels like an idiot.</td>
<td>Internal focalization</td>
<td>p.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In this table, the incidents in the novel are analyzed by relating them to the contexts of the incidents, and then the way of portraying those incidents is also described and seen, along with the pages where the incidents happen.

3.4. Synopsis of the Novel

*Forrest Gump* (1986) is a novel which was written by Winston Groom, an author who also has written seven books, including *Better Times Than These* and *Shrouds of Glory*, two of his great books, along with *Forrest Gump*. This book was published by Perch Creek Realty and Investments Corp. in 1986, and in 1994 Paramount Pictures makes the film version based on this novel. Even though the film version gets many achievements, the book version is not quite well-known.

This novel tells a story about Forrest Gump, a man who is considered as an intellectually diffabled. Since he was born, his IQ is near 70, which qualifies him as an intellectually diffabled person. As a result, he is hard to think logically, and it happens when he is asked by someone to move a dirt. He does not complain when he only gets low wages after moving many barrels of dirt. He is also bullied by others since he was kid. His friends do not want to play with him because they think that Forrest is weird.

Even so, he has so many talents. For example, he becomes the football stars and makes the All-State team when he was in high school. Because of his achievement as the footballer in high school, he is recruited by Coach Paul Bryant from University of Alabama. In Alabama, he meets Bubba. Bubba teaches him to play harmonica, and Forrest can play harmonica better than Bubba.

Forrest also gets a Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic action saving Bubba in Vietnam War. During his time of treatment in the Army hospital, he plays ping-pong. Then, he wins the ping-pong tournament in the Army hospital, and he is sent to Beijing to join Olympics as the ping-pong athlete. He also becomes popular
since he becomes a wrestler named “The Dunce” and becomes a good chess player after learning how to play chess from Big Sam, his friend from New Guinea.

However, he also gets many problems in his life, such as when he breaks up with Jenny when she knows that Forrest becomes a wrestler and when he is trapped in New Guinea among the cannibals. In the end, he finally recognizes that he has a son from Jenny. However, Jenny says that it is better for him to stay away from his son since she does not want to let his son know that his father is intellectually diffabled.

After all the problems above, Forrest can still survive in his life and learn many experiences from those problems. At the end of the story, Forrest starts a small shrimp business. He learns to do it from his experience in Vietnam War. Together with Sue, and Lieutenant Dan, he runs that business and it grows profitable and enormous. He also satisfies and realizes that his life is good and full of experiences, different from other intellectually diffabled persons.