

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodology applied to the research is presented in this chapter. It covers the research questions, the research design, the research procedure which is divided into two sections, data collection and data analysis, and the closure of this chapter is the data presentation.

Research Questions

This research is expected to provide an elaborative answer towards the following questions:

- 1) How does *Legend* depict the way the totalitarian government control the subjects in a dystopian world?
- 2) How do the young adult main characters manifest acts of resistance within a dystopian society?

Data Source

The data presented in the research are collected from the first novel of the Legend trilogy by Marie Lu, *Legend* (2011). *Legend* presents a story set in a dystopian world with two young adult main characters, June and Day. The narrative of the novel is told by June and Day where they constantly take turns narrating the story from first person point of view. Therefore, everything within the narration of the two main characters including dialogue, description and action of the characters are the source of the data for this research. Concisely, the data are taken from the narrative events in *Legend*.

Research Design

Considering the fact that this research utilizes textual analysis towards written documents, in this case fictional novel, this research employs descriptive qualitative method. A qualitative research, according to Bryman (2008) is “a

research strategy that usually emphasizes words rather than quantification in the collection and analysis of data” (p. 366). While Bryman highlights only the substantial feature of qualitative research, Hammersley (2012) provides a rather exhaustive description which contains the basic features of qualitative research. Hammersley defines qualitative research as a flexible data-based research design which generally used to investigate social phenomena, where the data tends to be unstructured rather than statistical, with the purpose of emphasizing subjectivity in the process, and to study uncommon cases in detail.

Looking into Hammersley’s description, some significant features of qualitative research can be pointed out. Starting with its flexible data, qualitative research, rather than tests pre-defined hypotheses, emphasizes on constructing and elaborating description. Also, the categories for the data distribution are generally open-ended and adjustable. The second feature is the unstructured data. What is referred as unstructured in this context is a form of data that is not statistically arranged. The data source often took form of documentary data, including audio record and video footage. The third one is subjectivity. True, the researcher always needs to look upon the theoretical framework, but it does not mean that the research will be clear from personal view of the researchers. The next features are that it focuses on mostly social phenomena and some are even a very rare case. Supported by its flexible nature, phenomenon in ‘natural’ or daily setting can be analyzed through this methodology, even ones that is considerably uncommon.

Research Procedure

Several procedures are applied towards the research to provide a comprehensive an elaborative answer to the research questions, the research. The procedures are roofed by two major procedures: data collection and data analysis.

3.4.1. Data collection

The data is collected through comprehensive reading framed by Foucauldian perspective of control and resistance. Scanning the novel through Foucauldian lens, narratives which embodies symptoms of control and resistance is expected to emerge. Specifically, through protagonist's narration, the depiction of control by totalitarian government within a dystopian society and young adult's resistance manifestation can be collected.

The aspect of control located using the aid of Michel Foucault's discipline techniques which are proposed in *Discipline and Punish* (1977). These techniques are considered applicable to find how control is manifested due to the fact that Foucault's proposition of disciplinary society in *Discipline and Punish* reflects the dystopian society in general. Likewise, the novel will be scanned through Foucauldian lens in terms of aspect of resistance. The data collected from this step in the form of words, phrases, and sentences from *Legend*. In short, the data are the narrative events containing the symptoms of control and/or resistance. The data will be presented as textual evidence along with the categorization and description which is completed in the proceeding research procedure.

3.4.2. Data analysis

After the data are collected through reading comprehensively as well as locating the symptoms of control and resistance in the novel, the following steps are conducted. The collected narrative events is examined in the accordance of the indicator of discipline techniques proposed by Foucault (1987). The narrative events is then categorized under categories Foucault proposes. As each discipline technique embodies its own method, the method manifested in each narrative event is also examined. In the process, the data may increase or decreased if it is found to misfit the technique's indicator. This phase is the step of selecting data in the research.

The identified, selected, and examined data are then compounded to see the most common control phenomenon occurred in the novel. By finding out which discipline technique is applied most frequently in the novel, the controlling

strategy employed in the dystopian society within *Legend* can be seen. The result is then followed by elaboration and interpretation.

Meanwhile, the second research question about resistance manifestation is answered through the following procedures. The novel is scanned using Foucauldian's perspective of resistance. The indicator used to determine which part in the novel indicating resistance is Foucauldian understanding of the concept of resistance. The data will also be examined to see what type of oppressing power it is against, following Foucault's categorization of resistance. Although the resistance in the novel is predictably presented by several parties, the main focus of the resistance analysis is ones that are manifested by young adult characters. After a number of data containing symptoms of resistance is collected, each data is examined in order to decode the inferred message within it. The ending result of the research is expected to provide an elaborative answer regarding how young adult manifest act of resistance within a disciplinary environment, like depicted in a dystopian novel.

Data Presentation

The data is presented in the form of excerpts from the novel along with descriptive explanation. It is described in the form of the following tables. The table covers the information of the source of the data (the page number, the narrator), the excerpts from the novel as the textual evidences, the categorization of discipline technique or the indicator of resistance, and comment column which contains eloquent elaborations.