

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Question

This study proposes a guiding question:

- What ideologies are constructed in the novel?

3.1 Research Method

This study employs descriptive qualitative method, where the basis concept of this method is that the data take the form of words and the analysis depends on explanation. However, the characteristics of the method also include that the researchers have to take more attention in comprehending reality in itself and there are a lot of alternatives explanations rather than if the researchers use numbers (Elliot & Timulak, 2005, p. 147). Tesch (as cited in Dey, 1993, p. 3) expresses that the method is “oriented to providing thorough descriptions and interpretations of social phenomena.” It also can be employed to make the aspects or features of the topic categorized (Neville, 2007, p. 2).

Descriptive qualitative research is suitable to this study since this literary study focuses on the ideology in social life, the classification of ideologies and the description on the characteristic of ideologies that are constructed in society.

3.2 Object of the Study

Footsteps, the third novel of Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *Buru Quartet*, is the object of this study. This novel continues Minke's journey in *Children of All Nation* into the new settings: Jakarta/Batavia, Bandung, and Buitenzorg/Bogor. This time he starts realizing the importance of the establishment of an

organization in order to liberate the people in Dutch-Indies. However, it is not an easy task for him as there are a lot of obstacles made either by the colonialist or the Javanese reactionary. It is evidenced by Minke's apprehension in the end of the novel. In spite of all those things, this novel shows Minke's maturity of his political ideas, as well as the intellectuals' resistance to the despotism of the feudalism and the Dutch colonialist, which dominate the society

3.3 Characters in *Footsteps*

- Minke: The main character who is also the narrator of the novel. He aims to liberate the people and develop the economy and political condition of the colonized through trading and organization (*Syarikat Dagang Islamijah*). He resists not only the domination of the Dutch colonial government, but also the Javanese feudalism in order to reach his goals.
- Minke's parents: His father is an aristocrat, Bupati of city B. Minke's mother is portrayed as a loyal wife to her husband. Both of them can be seen as loyal to the ideas of Javanese feudalism. Although they support Minke in the end of the novel.
- Ter Haar: A Dutch reporter who teaches Minke new knowledge about politic. He is described as the supporter of the Liberals and their ideas.
- Thamrin Mohammad Thabrie: A government employee. However, he is really helpful when he is asked by Minke to found *Syarikat Dagang Islamijah*. One of Minke's comrades who is often asked for his help and advice in the organization.
- Van Kollewijn: The leader of the Liberals. Minke meets him when Ter Haar invites Minke to attend a meeting in the Harmony Club. He is the one that proposes the repayment program in the meeting.

- Raja of Kasiruta: The Raja that is exiled to Java Island. He asks Minke to help him about this exile problem, although Minke eventually can do nothing about it. He becomes Minke's father-in-law later in the novel.
- Raja's daughter/prinses van Kasiruta: She is also exiled from her country along with her father. She becomes Minke's third wife later in the novel.
- Raden Tomo: Former schoolmate of Minke. The founder of *Boedi Oetomo*.
- Sadikoen: Minke's old friend and the member of *Boedi Oetomo*. He is also holds the feudal title, *Raden Mas*.
- Hendrik Frischboten: Minke's comrade who is also a legal adviser. He works with Minke in *Medan* newspaper.
- Mir Frischboten: Minke's old friend. An Indisch who has the liberal ideas. She is Hendrik Frischboten's wife.

3.3 Research Procedures

3.3.1 Data Collection

The source of the data in this study is collected from one of the Pramoedya's *Buru Quartet*, *Footsteps*. The data focus on main character's narration and characters' dialogues which show the conflicts that are occurred in the text. Then, the conflicts are divided and limited to three kinds of conflicts, which are:

1. Conflicts between the colonialist and the colonized;
2. Conflicts between the feudalists and the commoner;
3. Conflicts of organizations.

The categorization in here involves the ideas that are owned or uttered by characters instead of involving physical or title criteria. For example, the common people are not specified to the people who do not have any title of nobility or

degree in this study. Persons or characters that are against feudalism and take side with the common people can be considered the latter, even though he/she has the title of nobility. The same case occurs if there are any characters from the colonized people that support the colonialist interest. The characters are considered as part of the colonialist since they take side with the colonialist.

The aforementioned conflicts are the conflicts which contain the advantages and privileges groups/classes get that can affect or maintain the dominant classes' interest politically or economically. The conflicts are also limited to the kinds that show the ideas, values, cultures, actions, or norms that support the dominant class ideologies domination over society. These conflicts, then, enters the analysis process.

3.3.2 Data Analysis

There are several steps in analyzing the data in this study. First, the data are obtained by identifying main character's narration and character's dialogues which show the conflicts. Next, the conflicts divided into three kinds of conflicts, which are: (1) conflicts between the colonialist and the colonized, (2) conflicts between the feudalists and the commoners, and (3) conflicts of organizations. The conflicts that can be identified to construct ideologies in the novel are the conflicts that contain the advantages and privileges groups/classes get that can affect or maintain the dominant classes interest politically or economically, and also the ideas, values, cultures, norms, or actions that can maintain the dominant ideologies domination over society. The third step is to categorize and analyze the textual evidences based on Eagleton's Marxian (1991) theory on ideological features: unified, action-oriented, rationalization, legitimation, universalization, and naturalization. Fourth, is to construct the dominant class ideologies from the categories. The next step is to make meaning from the analysis by referring them to Marxist theory. The last step is to make the conclusion of the study.