

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter elaborates the methodology of this research which consists of the research questions, research design, data collection, data analysis and data presentation.

3.1 Statement of Research Problem

This research was conducted in order to investigate the types of power that are exercised among the characters in Sara Shepard's young adult novel *Pretty Little Liars* (2007) and to find out the reactions of the characters towards the power.

3.2 Research Design

This research employs qualitative method with textual analysis approach. According to Hancock, Ockleford & Windridge (2007), qualitative research focuses on description, interpretation and data that cannot be expressed numerically. In relation to that, the research were conducted by collecting, categorizing, interpreting, and analyzing the textual evidence in the form of dialogues and narratives in order to reveal the types of power occurring in the book and the reactions of the characters towards the power.

3.3 Data Collection

The data were collected from the first book of the series with the same title, *Pretty Little Liars* (2007), written by Sara Shepard in the form of narrations and dialogues which serve as textual evidence for the exercises of power in the whole book. The collected data were then categorized in a table according to the types of power proposed by Raven (2008), the narrative events, the characters involved

and explanation of each event. Then, the data were interpreted and analyzed to find out the reactions of the characters towards the power.

3.4 Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed using the theory of power proposed by Raven (2008). In analyzing the data, the following steps have been taken:

1. Categorizing the collected data according to the theory of the six bases of power proposed by Raven (2008). The previously marked textual evidences are categorized into: coercive power, legitimate power, reward power, referent power, expert power, and informational power.
2. Interpreting and analyzing the collected data to investigate how such power affect the characters involved. An act of using/abusing power may trigger someone's reaction in one way or another, resulting in whether the target comply or resist the person who has power over them.
3. Drawing a conclusion and making a suggestion for further research.

3.5 Data Presentation

The data were categorized and presented in a table as follows:

Table 3.1 Data Presentation of Power Exercises in *Pretty Little Liars*

No	Types of Power	Cases of	Narrative Events	Notes
1.	Legitimate Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily • Emily's father 	<p>'You're supposed to be grounded.' Her father put on his glasses, as if he needed to see Emily to scold her. 'We only let you out last night because you were going with Ben. We hoped he'd get through to you. But bike rides are off limits.'</p> <p>'Well,' Emily groaned, standing up. If only she didn't have to explain things to her parents. But then... whatever. She wouldn't. Not now. She threw her leg over the bar and</p>	Emily insisted that she should go somewhere. Her parents were trying to stop her because she was still grounded but she did not listen to them.

			<p>sat on her seat.</p> <p>‘I have somewhere to go,’ she mumbled, pedaling down the driveway.</p> <p>‘Emily, come back here,’ her father yelled gruffly.</p> <p>But Emily, for the first time in her life, just kept pedaling. (p. 189)</p>	
2.	Expert Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spencer • Wren 	<p>‘Is it your shoulder?’</p> <p>‘I think,’ Spencer said, trying to rotate it. ‘In field hockey, you spend so much time bending over, and I don’t know if I pulled it or what...’</p> <p>‘I bet I could fix it for you.’</p> <p>Spencer stared at him. She suddenly had an urge to run her fingers through his shaggy hair. ‘That’s okay. Thanks, though.’</p> <p>‘Really,’ he said. ‘I’m not going to bite you.’</p> <p>Spencer hated when people said that.</p> <p>‘I’m a doctor,’ Wren continued. ‘I bet it’s your posterior deltoid.’</p> <p>‘Um, okay...’</p> <p>‘Your shoulder muscle.’ He motioned for her to come closer. ‘C’mere. Seriously. We just need to soften the muscle.’</p> <p>Spencer tried not to read into that. He was a doctor, after all. He was being doctorly. She drifted to him, and he pressed his hands into the middle of her back. His thumbs dug into the little muscles around her spine. (p.67-68)</p>	<p>Spencer hurted her muscle after a hockey practice. Wren noticed her winced in pain so he tried to help her since he is a doctor.</p>

As seen above, the collected data are presented in a table consisting of columns of the types of power, the characters involved, narrative events, notes on the context of the events, and the effect of power over the characters. Further discussion on the types of power among the characters will be presented in the following chapter.

3.6 Research Subjects

To analyze the power relations in the novel, it is necessary to figure out the roles of the characters in the story and their relations with one another in order to find out their positions of power.

3.6.1 Alison DiLaurentis

Alison is described to be an easy-going popular student in her high school. Her popularity gains attention and admiration, as well as hatred. She manipulates people to get what she wants by blackmailing them with their secrets.

3.6.2 Aria Montgomery

Aria Montgomery is the daughter of Byron and Ella Montgomery. She has been struggling with finding out her self identity and trying to fit in to her surroundings. However, her father's infidelity and family problems only make things harder for her and her brother, Michelangelo.

3.6.3 Emily Fields

Emily is an uptight, shy and obedient girl who joins her school's swimming team. Her parents, Wayne and Pam Fields, are very supportive toward her and her sister, Carolyn. However, Emily starts to feel that her obsession for swimming does not come from herself, but from her parents' expectations.

3.6.4 Hanna Marin

Hanna is described to be a spoiled and reckless girl. Hanna's mother, Ashley Marin, is a single parent who works very hard to make ends meet for

Hanna and herself. Unfortunately, Hanna always seems to get herself in trouble, not only in her school but also with the police.

3.6.5 Spencer Hastings

Spencer is the most diligent and passionate girl among the group. She is one of the two daughters of Peter and Veronica Hastings. Coming from a wealthy and respected family, her parents always push her and her sister, Melissa, to excel in education. However, Spencer feels that her parents love Melissa more since Melissa always beats her achievement in everything.

3.7 Synopsis of *Pretty Little Liars*

The story of *Pretty Little Liars* tells about five best friends Spencer Hastings, Aria Montgomery, Emily Fields, Hanna Marin and Alison DiLaurentis in a small upper-class town called Rosewood. Alison is the type of person that the boys love and the girls admire in her school, in spite of her bossy and manipulative attitude. One way or another, Alison seems to always manage to know other people's secrets, which makes other students afraid of getting in her way.

One day, Alison went missing. She was with her four best friends the other night but nobody knew where she went. Police officers and local news reporters were seen around the house of DiLaurentis, since Alison came from a very wealthy family. Three years passed without any clue of her existence until finally there was a new family moving into the house that used to belong to the DiLaurentis. Alison's four best friends were finally trying to continue living their lives and forget the past. Emily became very close with the new girl in town, Maya St. Germain. Aria fell in love with a guy she met at a bar, Ezra, who turned out to be her new English teacher. Hanna was involved in a series of crimes, from shoplifting until stealing a car and driving under the influence of alcohol. Spencer continued on her rivalry with her perfect sister, Melissa, and had an affair with Melissa's boyfriend, Wren.

The four best friends could almost forget about their missing friend Alison, until one day each of them started to receive blackmails from an unknown sender, who left an initial “A” on every message.