

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter focuses on the research methodology which includes the explanation regarding the method applied in the study. It revolves around the research design, research question, research procedures, and data presentation.

3.1. Research Design

In order to fulfill its purpose, this study used descriptive qualitative method that involves a critical analysis which sought answer to the questions by examining various aspects of the novel (Sandelowski, 1991; Riessman, 1993). As Creswell (2003) suggested, the collected data that were used in this study were in the form of words, phrases, and sentences. They were selected as textual evidences to be reported in a subjective way.

The principle of qualitative research emphasizes that every finding must be based on data; therefore findings become more valid before stated as a theory (Alwasilah, 2002). In addition, according to Hancock (2002), the data which are collected by using qualitative method are used to develop the theories that people used to comprehend an issue or subject in a study.

Therefore, the descriptive qualitative method was suitable for this study because it helped to discover and explore mimicry as a postcolonial issue in Tanizaki's *Naomi*.

3.2. Research Question

This research focused on the issue of mimicry of the central female character named Naomi in Tanizaki's *Naomi* to answer this following question:

- How does mimicry shape the construction of the central female Japanese character in Junichiro Tanizaki's *Naomi*?

3.3. Research Procedure

The procedure of the analysis of how mimicry shapes the construction of central female Japanese character in *Naomi* revolves in at least five steps.

The first step was reading the novel to understand what it was about in general. The focus was on who the characters were, the connection between the characters, and the plot of the story.

The second step was doing close reading to *Naomi* and paying attention to seven devices of mimicry which were analyzed: appearance, housing, food, language, education, etiquette, and reading preference. The results of the close reading were presented in the form of textual evidence. The evidences were collected and categorized into the seven devices by using tables to make the process of analysis easier.

The third step was identifying Naomi's character development by seeing Naomi's response to the exposure of Western's influences. Some selected conflicts and social interactions between Naomi and her surrounding were also interpreted and analyzed in order to see how they contributed to Naomi's transformation socially. The seven devices were categorized into four aspects as the findings: physical resemblance, materialism and consumerism, intelligence, and etiquette.

The fourth step was interpreting the character of Naomi as evident in the four main points using the postcolonial perspective. In this step, Bhabha's (1984) theoretical perspective of ambivalence to see Naomi's attempts in constructing her sense of self was applied.

Lastly, conclusion was drawn after the analysis was conducted to see how mimicry shaped Naomi's identity construction in the novel, and whether or not Naomi had successfully westernized.

3.4. Data Presentation

The data were presented in the form of table to show the events in which the issue occurred, the textual evidence to support the interpretation, the ambivalence and

mimicry based on the textual evidences, and the devices in which mimicry were applied. The design of the tables is presented as follows:

Table 3.1. Naomi's Ambivalence in Perceiving Western Values

No	Events	Textual Evidence	Ambivalence	Mimicry	Device
1.	Joji tries to resemble Naomi with a Western actress.	<p>"N A O M I, you look like Mary Pickford."...</p> <p>"Oh?" She didn't seem particularly pleased. She Looked at me quizzically, as if to ask why I should say such a thing out of the blue.</p> <p>(p. 10)</p>	Naomi is not proud to look like a Western actress.	Naomi ends up wanting to be like Western actress	Appearance
	Naomi tries to resemble herself with Western actresses.	<p>"Don't you think I look like a Westerner when I do this?"</p> <p>... Pickford laughs like this, she'd say; Pina Menicheli moves her eyes like this; Geraldine Farrar does her hair up this way.</p> <p>(p. 36)</p>	However, in the end she exaggerates not only one, but many Western actresses' styles and behavior.		