

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the methodology used in conducting this research. The methodology is applied to answer the research question formulated in Chapter I. It consists of research objectives, research procedures, data source and also data collection. The research procedures talk about qualitative research design, and the idea of normalcy in a brief explanation. There are also stages of research detailing steps taken in this study. Furthermore, as the device of analysis, the aspects of madness as suggested by Foucault (1964), become the basic to analyze the text.

3.1 Research Procedure

This study is a descriptive analysis which is a qualitative design. According to Maxwell (1996), a qualitative research focuses on specific situation or people and it focuses on word rather than numbers. Moreover, Alwasilah (2002) says that, “qualitative research provides an understanding by scrutinizing a certain phenomenon in details which context vitally influences the meanings of the phenomenon” (54). The aims of qualitative research design are to better understand a social problem in a complex representation, to further understand the meaning of events, conditions, and actions, to identify the phenomena and influence and generate new concepts. The function of the research is to understand the causal explanation of the phenomenon.

The writer examines normalcy as presented in the novel. Normalcy in this case is determined with reference to the accepted opposition of normalcy that is madness. Madness is identified among characters who live in a mental institution. Characters with madness are analyzed with reference to Foucault’s (1964) aspects of madness. The aspects are (1) Mania (2) melancholia (3) hysteria and (4) hypochondria. After identifying the characters, the characters’ aspects of madness are classified and defined by Foucault’s theory.

3.2 Data Source and Collection

The source of data is a novel entitled *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* penned by Ken Kesey. The data are collected based on the identification of characters’ aspects of madness.

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Becoming Normal: An Analysis of Normalcy in Ken Kesey’s One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest

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There are eight characters with respective madness: Ruckly, Ellis, Pete Bancini, Cheswick, Mr. Taber, Mr. Sefelt, Bromden and Billy Bibbit. Besides the characters, the narrator's opinions are also used as an important part of the data. This novel was chosen by the writer as the main data source because it is one of the outstanding novels which takes the issue of normalcy and madness.

3.3 Data Analysis

In data analysis, there are several steps that are conducted by the research. First, the researcher starts to collect the data from the novel. The data are descriptions or dialogues which indicate the four aspects of madness.

Considering on the data collection, the textual evidences of this research are in forms of dialogs and expressions of characters involved in the story, and also the situation. Those evidences contain traces signifying the question of normalcy to be revealed. To find out the idea of normalcy, it can be seen from the aspects of madness proposed by Foucault (1964) which have been explained in the previous chapter. The writer also focuses on the context of when the issue of normal is being contested in the novel.

After analyzing the representation of madness, the writer then categorized the characters' clues of madness into four types, which are: (1) Mania (2) Melancholia (3) Hysteria and (4) Hypochondria. In categorizing the concept of normalcy, the writer pays attention on characteristics of each type of madness which are owned by the characters in the novel.

Characteristics of mania and melancholia are: "people who, apart from their complaint, are prudent and sensible, and who have an extraordinary penetration and sagacity. Thus Aristotle rightly observes that melancholics have more intelligence than other man." (Sydenham in Foucault 1964, p. 118). Then, characteristics of hysteria and hypochondria are: "hypochondria among the adynamias, or diseases which consist of a weakness or a loss of movement in the vital of animal function; hysteria among the irregular affections of the natural functions." (Cullen in Foucault 1964).

Furthermore, Sauvages classify hypochondria among the hallucination—"hallucination among the health—hysteria among the forms of convulsion (Sauvages in

Foucault 1964). Then finally, the writer draws a conclusion on how the idea of normalcy is

| No. | Name | When does it happen | Characteristics of madness | What do people say | Treatment | The condition after having treatment(s) |
|-----|------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|---|
|-----|------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|---|

constructed in the text by looking from the relation between the characters at the novel.

The data are presented in two different sections based on the aspects of madness contain in the data. Then, the data that have been categorized before they were discussed by using some conception on the idea of madness proposed by Foucault (1964). In this part, the writer analyzes the construction of madness and what meanings can be derived by the idea of madness and normalcy presented in the novel. Considering the data as textual evidences, it includes a framework as an indicator, the example of the analysis is:

| | | | | | | |
|----|--------|------------------|---|---|--|---|
| 1 | Ruckly | A few years back | “he was being a holy nuisance all over the place, kicking the black boys and the students nurses on the leg” (p.16) | Colleague (Bromden) “...so they took him away to be fixed. They strapped him in this table, and the last anybody saw of him for a while was just before they shut the door on him” (p.16) “The staff, now they consider Ruckly one of their failures” (p.17). | They brought him back to the ward two weeks later, bald and the front of his face an oily purple bruise and two little button-sized plug stitched one above each eye. (p.16) | Ruckly sitting there fumbling and drooling over his picture. He never does much else. His dwarf black boy gets a rise out of him from time to time by leaning close and asking, “Say, Ruckly, what you figure your little wife is doing in town tonight?” Ruckly’s head comes up. (Chapter 1. p. 17) |
| 2. | Ellis | A few years back | “Now, he’s nailed against the wall in the same condition they lifted him off the table for the last time, in the same shape, arms out, palms cupped, with the same horror in his face. He’s nailed like that on the wall, like a stuffed trophy. (p.16) | Colleague (Bromden) “But there are some of us Chronic that he staff made a couple of mistakes on years back, some of us who were Acutes when we came in, and got changed over. Ellis is a Chronic came in an Acute and got fouled up bad when they overloaded him in that filthy brain-murdering room that the black boys call the “Shop Shock”. (p.16) | They pulled the nails when it’s come to eat or time to drive him to bed when they want him to move (p.16) | Now, he’s nailed against the wall in the same condition they lifted him off the table for the last time, in the same shape, arms out, palms cupped, with the same horror on his face. He’s nailed like that on the wall, like a stuffed trophy. (Chapter 1, p. 16) |

(Table 1. Sample of Analysis)

The third step is data display, which allows the researcher to present and analyze the data. Then, the last step is data conclusion, which allows the researcher to draw a conclusion from the analyzed data.

3.4 One Flew Over the Cuckoo's NestSynopsis

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest consists of three distinct parts. It tells about the story of life in the asylum toward eyes of the third person named Chief Bromden. He has been a half-Indian patient of Oregon psychiatric hospital for ten years. He pretends to be deaf and dumb for ten years because he wants to be unnoticed by people around him, since he knows that the hospital regulations are not good. The patients of the hospital are all men. They are divided into two groups: Acutesand Chronics. The Acutes are patients who can be cured, while the Chronics are patinets who cannot be cured. They are all ruled by "The Big Nurse" named Ratched, she is a former army nurse who runs the ward with strict and harsh mechanical precisions.

The first part tells about the main character, a new patient named Randle McMurphywho comes to the hospital as a transfer from the Pendleton Work Farm, Chief feels that he is different, he senses that there is something hidden by him. The time he arrives, he makes everything becomes out of control, he makes a rebellion toward the hospital's rules because he knows that the Nurse and the other staffs of the ward do not treat the patients in a right way.

The second part generally tells about how McMurphy tries to fight The Big Nurse's rules at the ward. McMurphy knows that all the mental institution staff's do cannot heal the patient's mental illnesses. Instead, they make the patients become even crazier than before. McMurphy and the narrator (Chief Bromden) have witnessed so many unfairness in the mental institution. McMurphy tries to fix the regulation but he is not powerful enough. The Big Nurse's power is greater than he is expected.

The third part tells about McMurphy's plan to escape from the ward because he feels tired of the regulation and what the entire ward's staff do toward the patient. Unfortunately, his plan to escape is ruined because the staff find the mess in the next morning. The Big Nurse angry and tries to threat one of the patients until he commits to suicide. McMurphy is very angry realizing that his friend is die. He starts to attach The Big Nurse by strangling her.

In revenge, he has him lobotomized and he loses his consciousness and sanity. However, The Big Nurse loses her power because of that event, but, McMurphy becomes a total dumb after that. The other patients decide to get out from the ward. The narrator, Chief Bromden smothers McMurphy in his bed, allowing him to die with pride rather than live as a symbol of The Big Nurse's power. Chief too, escapes after that.

3.5 Closing Remarks

This chapter has presented the methodology of the study. It consists of the data source, the novel entitled *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Kesey, 1962), data collection (how to collect the data), the data analysis and also the synopsis of the novel.