CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This chapter provides the explanation on objects of the study, design of the study, procedure of the study, data collection, and data analysis. As mentioned in the previous chapter, this study employs Seeman's four out of five alienation aspects to reveal alienation issues in the object of study.

3.1 Objects of the Study

There are three short stories taken from Haruki Murakami's *Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman* which are selected to be the objects of the study. These stories are:

1) A Folklore for My Generation: A Pre-History of Late-Stage Capitalism: a story about love and loss of a guy with his high school sweetheart, an enigmatic girl who insistently refuses to have sex with him and that she is only okay with it if she is already married to some older man. They break up and meet again someday when the girl have been married only to find the guy do not feel the same way anymore about the girl. As a result, he leaves her for good.

2) Tony Takitani: a despondent fable-like story which narrates the life of Tony Takitani and his isolation from the people around him. The story ends with the death of Tony's wife who leaves a myriad fashionable clothes that seem like her late wife's shadows for Tony.

3) Firefly: Toru Watanabe's life will never be the same when his friend commits suicide at the age of 17 and leaves his girlfriend, Naoko, emotionally wounded. Everything is complicated when years after that Toru runs into Naoko and ever so naturally they hang out together.

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These three short stories are selected because the writer found them as the most representative ones on the issue of alienation.

3.2 Design of the Study

The theories applied in the study is Seeman's aspects of alienation namely powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, and social isolation. This theory is used as the framework to analyze the selected short stories from a collection of Haruki Murakami's short stories *Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman*: "A Folklore for My Generation: A Pre-History of Late-Stage Capitalism," "Tony Takitani," and "Firefly." The writer selected some part of the narration and some dialogues which are critically chosen in the short stories with the intention of showing what alienation aspects found in the selected stories and how they manifest.

3.3 Procedure of the Study

This study employs Seeman's alienation aspects as a tool in analysis. The four out of five aspects which are considered to be indicators of alienation are powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, and social isolation. This study will analyze the object of the study in order to look for the mentioned alienation aspects which engender alienation.

The writer conducted the study by applying following procedures: first was close reading done on the three short stories entirely. The second step is taking some notes on parts that show the expressions that indicate one alienation aspect or more. The next step was to collect the textual evidences of the expressions. Fourth, after the data of alienation expressions were collected, they were classified into one or more alienation aspects: whether it was powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, or social isolation. Lastly, the writer examine how these aspects manifest from the viewpoint of contemporary world circumstances, specifically in contemporary Japan. The collected data are analyzed and classified into columns of table (see Appendices)

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that divides the data based on alienation aspects and textual evidences. Here is an example:

No.	Alienation Aspects	Textual Evidences
1.	**POWERLESSNESS** Powerlessness indicates individual's comprehension that, through his own behaviour, he cannot control the circumstances of the results or supports he pursues (Seeman, 1959, p. 784).	"We were **merely observers**, getting totally **absorbed in exciting movie**, our palms all sweaty, only to find that, after the houselights came on and we exited the theater, the thrilling afterglow that coursed through us ultimately **meant nothing whatsoever**. Maybe **something prevented us** from learning a valuable lesson from this? **I don't know"** (p. 61).

3.4 Data Collection

The collected data are information in the form of narrations and dialogues in three selected short stories gathered from short story collection *Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman*. The collected narrations and dialogues are the textual evidences which are analyzed by using Seeman's alienation aspects as a tool to reveal the issue of alienation.

3.5 Data Analysis

The following are the steps in analyzing the collected data:

1) The writer search for narrations and dialogues that reveals alienation expressions.

2) The textual evidences that reveals alienation expressions then will be classified into one or more of these alienation aspects: powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, and social isolation.

3) The writer examines how these aspects manifest from the viewpoint of contemporary world circumstances, specifically in contemporary Japan.

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4) Drawing conclusion. It is formulation of the interpretations of what has been observed and discovered throughout the research and its contribution to academic field, especially on alienation.