

## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the methodology in conducting the research. It comprises of research questions, research method, research procedures, data collection, data analysis, research subject, and synopsis of the novel.

#### 3.1. Research Design

In an attempt to answer the research question “What categories of motherhood are constructed in the novel?”, the research employs qualitative descriptive method that centers on the qualitative content analysis. Morgan (1993, as cited in Sandelowski, 2000) states that qualitative content analysis is “a dynamic form of analysis of verbal and visual data that is oriented toward summarizing the informational contents of that data” (p.338). Furthermore, White and Marsh (2006) state that content analysis is a flexible method for analyzing, describing, and interpreting texts and other written artifacts of society. The qualitative descriptive method is chosen for the research because the main data that are analyzed are in the form of novel which entails the words, phrases, and sentences of the novel. The textual evidence from the novel is taken to support the interpretation in analyzing the data. Furthermore, the use of qualitative descriptive method is useful to describe and explore the textual evidence from the novel which then are analyzed and related with certain theory to establish a new interpretation. Since the research uses the theory of motherhood in examining the data, the definition of motherhood and categories of motherhood from the previous research and journals are used as a tool to interpret the data.

## 3.2. Research Procedures

The procedure of the research is divided into two main steps. Firstly, data are collected from Emma Donoghue's *Room*. The novel is chosen because it has different ways in portraying motherhood in an oppressive situation. Data collection focuses on the mother character's views and other characters' views towards the mother character. After data from the novel are collected, then they are analyzed and interpreted to define categories of motherhood. The steps of the analysis are as follows:

1. Doing close reading of the novel. The result of the close reading of the novel is data as textual evidence on the issue of motherhood that is based on the theories that are used.
2. Seeking for indicators of motherhood based on theory of social goals on motherhood by Harwood et al (1999, as cited in Cavalcante and Magalhaes, 2013), cultural goals on motherhood by Chang (2007), and mothering by O'Reilly (2010) as the tools for analyzing.
3. Categorizing the indicators into the categories of motherhood based on Rich's theory.
4. Making meaning of the categories of motherhood to construct the categories of motherhood in the text.
5. Concluding the findings and making several suggestions.

### 3.2.1. Data Collection

The research focuses on motherhood in the novel *Room*. The textual evidence presented in the next chapter are in the form of sentences and dialogues that describe motherhood practices in the novel. The writer selects textual evidences that are related with the theory to be analyzed in the next chapter, then clusters the textual evidence into three tables and then put them in the appendices: indicators of motherhood, textual evidence, and category of motherhood. The first table consists of the indicators of motherhood. The second table shows motherhood practices in the novel-it provide the dialogues and statement of the narrator. The third table shows the category of motherhood based on Rich's theory.

The textual evidence which are related to the construction of motherhood are collected from the sentences, the statements of the narrator, and dialogues of the characters.

### **3.2.2. Data Analysis**

From the selected data, analysis is conducted to the data which are categorized into two main parts using Rich's theory. The first part is motherhood as institution and the second part is motherhood as experience in which each category is divided into parts considered as features of each motherhood category. From the textual evidence, the writer interprets it by examining the most significant of motherhood categories, then reveals how and when motherhood appears in the novel. Furthermore, the writer makes meaning by considering the context of the event and makes the meaning beyond the text about the motherhood constructed in the novel.

### **3.3. Sample of Data Analysis**

The data are presented in the forms of tables to show motherhood that becomes the focus of the research. The table is categorized into several categories which include indicator of motherhood, the description of the event, exposition, and the page number of the textual evidence. The design of the table is presented as follows in the next page:

**Table 3.5.1 Indicators of Motherhood**

No.	Indicators of Motherhood	Textual Evidence in the Novel	Exposition	Category of Motherhood	Page
1.	Emphasizing self-expression	Because of my birthday I get to choose what we wear both. I choose her favorite blue jeans with the red stitches that she only puts on for special occasions because they're getting strings at the knees. For me I choose my yellow hoody." <i>(Room, 2010)</i>	Ma practices Jack asserting his self and it strengthens his self-esteem in deciding things.	Motherhood as institution	16
2.	Affirming self-improvement	"One game of Parrot, that's good for vocabulary." "OK." She goes over and switches to red couch planet... "Parrot," shouts Ma and she mutes them with the button. <i>"Most poignant aspect, I think for all our viewers that's what's most deeply moving about what you endured—" I run out of words. Good pronunciation," says Ma. Poignant means sad"</i> <i>(Room, 2010)</i>	Ma gives Jack a vocabulary practice by playing a game of parrot.	Motherhood as institution	94
3.	Implementing individual agency as a mother	"I'm still thirsty, I lift her T-shirt again and this time she puffs her breath and lets me, she curls me against her chest. ...A she person comes in and tells the Captain something. Ma says, "Is there a problem? No no," says the Captain. Then why is she staring at us?" Her arms goes around me tight.	Ma still Breastfeeds Jack although Jack is five years old now	Motherhood as experience	180

---

I'm nursing my son, is that OK  
with you, lady?" (*Room*, 2010)

---

### 3.4. Synopsis of the novel

This novel tells us a story about a mother, called Ma, and a son who are trapped in a room. Ma has become a victim of kidnapping and rape when she was still in high school by an old man, called Old Nick. She is imprisoned in a room since the first time she was kidnapped until she gave birth to a child, named Jack. Ma and Jack only live in a small room and never came out then. They do everything in that room like eating, sleeping, taking a shower, learning, watching television, telling stories, dancing, and all together. Old Nick only visits them in few days in a week and he comes only at night. However, Ma never lets him see Jack because she is worried that Old Nick would hurt him. So, when Old Nick comes, Ma puts Jack to sleep in the wardrobe.

Room is home and the world to Jack, but to Ma, it is the prison where she has been trapped for seven years. Jack never knows how it is to be outside, the true world. One day, Jack turns five years old and Ma thinks that Jack has grown up enough to help them escape from room. Ma has a plan and tells Jack what to do. Jack has to pretend to be sick so that Old Nick will bring him out to the hospital then Jack can shout for help. Unfortunately Old Nick only gives him medicine and does not let Jack to go out of room. The next day, Ma has another plan in which Jack has to pretend to be dead so that Old Nick will bring Jack out to bury him. Then, Old Nick believes it and carries Jack out and put him in the back of his pickup truck. The truck stops in the middle of the way, Jack jumps out from the truck and runs away. Old Nick tries to catch him, but there is a man who sees them and Old Nick runs away. The man calls police than Jack is brought into a police car and asked of what has happened. Jack screams for his Ma. The police ask him where his mother is and Jack only answers what he knows about the room. After searching along the road, the police find the room and save Ma. Ma and Jack are brought to a hospital to get treatment. After that, Ma and Jack live in an apartment and get used to do activities like normal people.