

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the methodology used in this study as a tool to answer the research questions in the earlier chapter regarding the construction of Matilda's identities and what meaning can be derived from the construction of her identities.

3.1 Research Questions

This study has been formulated into two research questions:

1. What identities for the main child character are constructed in *Matilda* (1996)?
2. What meaning can be derived from the construction of her identities?

3.2 Research Design and Procedure

In conducting the study, the method used is textual analysis. Textual analysis is used because the study treats the film as a text. As stated by Frey, Botan, and Kreps (1999), textual analysis is defined as a method that is used by researchers to describe and interpret the message in a text. Similarly, according to McKee (2003), textual analysis is defined as a way for researchers to understand how the audience interpret a text through its elements and context. Thus, it can be said that textual analysis is a method used by researchers to know how meaning is made from texts by looking at their contents and elements. As such, a film in this study is treated as a text. In general, a film consists of narrative and cinematic aspects. Thus, this study analyzes the main child character's identities in *Matilda* (1996) with consideration of narrative and cinematic aspects. Narrative analysis is focused on characterizations which are based on actions, dialogues, dramatic foils, and reaction of other characters. Cinematic analysis, on the other hand, is focused on sounds, shot, and *mise-en-scene*.

There are several procedures in conducting this study. First, watch the film for several times. Second, make the segmentation that consists of the sounds related to Matilda's identities with notes. Third, take screenshots of selected scenes that

show Matilda's identities in terms of cinematic aspects. Fourth, categorize the selected scenes based on the bases of identities theory proposed by Burke and Stets (2009). Fifth, analyze the selected scenes with the concept of characterizations in the films by Boggs and Petrie (2008) and film style theory proposed by Bordwell and Thompson (2008). Finally, make the interpretations and draw the conclusion from the analysis.

3.2.1 Data Collection

The data were obtained from the selected scenes and the transcript of sounds related to Matilda's identities. In collecting the data, there are several steps included. First, the sounds in the film related to Matilda's identities are transcribed with notes. After the sounds related to Matilda's identities were transcribed, the second step is to take screenshots of the scenes related to Matilda's identities. Then, the screenshots of the scenes were analyzed based on the concept of characterization by Boggs and Petrie (2008) which are based on actions and dramatic foils, and film style theory proposed by Bordwell and Thompson (2008) which are shot, angle, *mise-en-scene* namely setting, lighting and color. Last but not least, the screenshots related to Matilda's identities were grouped based on Matilda's bases of identities which are person and role identities, and a group identity.

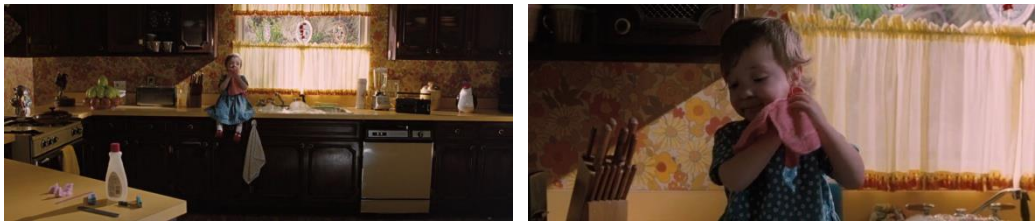
3.2.2 Data Analysis

The data were analyzed by using Burke and Stets's (2009) bases of identities theory since this study focuses on what identities for the main child character construct. In terms of narrative analysis, this study employs the concept of characterizations in the films which are based on actions, dialogues, dramatic foils, and reactions of other characters by Boggs and Petrie (2008). Moreover, the theory of film style proposed by Bordwell and Thompson (2008) was also used to analyze the data since the cinematic aspects are considered important in supporting the construction of Matilda's identities. The analysis of cinematic aspects is focused on shots, angles, and *mise-en-scene* elements which consist of lighting and setting. The theory of

color psychology proposed by Wright (1995) was also used to support the analysis of *mise-en-scene* elements.

3.2.3 Data Presentation

The data are presented in the form of tables to show the construction of Matilda's identities based on the bases of her identities. An example of the table can be seen in the following.

Matilda's Person and Role Identity: A Self-Reliant Daughter	
 <p style="text-align: center;">(a) (b)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(00:02:58 – 00:03:03)</p>	
Description: Two-year-old Matilda wipes her mouth with a pink napkin.	
Characterization: Through external action	Analysis
Shot: (a) long shot, (b) medium shot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bases of Matilda's identity in this scene are person and role identity which is a self-reliant daughter. Her person identity being a self-reliant child is reflected on her action. Meanwhile, her role identity is based on where she is. In this scene, she is at home. Thus, her role identity is being a daughter. In terms of narrative analysis, Matilda's identity can be seen through her external action. In this scene Matilda is seen alone in the kitchen of Wormwood house. She wipes her mouth with a pink napkin. In terms of cinematic aspects, the long shot in figure (a) is used to show the setting in the wide range. From the scene, it can be seen that Matilda is alone at the
Angle: Horizontal camera angle	
<i>Mise -en-Scene</i> : The setting is in the kitchen of Wormwood house. The lighting looks bright, the dominant color in the scene is yellow.	

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THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAIN CHILD CHARACTER'S IDENTITIES IN THE FILM MATILDA (1996)

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	<p>kitchen without other characters such as parents who supervise her. It aims to emphasize her action that she does not need help from others. Meanwhile, the figure (b) uses medium shot to make the audience can see clearly what she does. The dominant color in this scene is yellow to present optimism, confidence, and self-esteem. The dominant color is also used to create a pleasant mood rather than unpleasant one.</p>
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As shown in the table above, Matilda's identity is seen as a self-reliant child in her role being a daughter of Harry Wormwood and Zinnia Wormwood. In terms of narrative analysis, her actions show that she is capable of doing things by herself without adults' supervision. It is supported by cinematic aspects which are setting and shot. The setting is in the kitchen of Wormwood house. The scene is taken with a long shot to provide a wide view of the kitchen. From the scene, it can be seen Matilda is alone without adults who accompany or supervise her.

From the analysis, it can be inferred that Matilda is constructed as a non-mainstream child character. This is because her character is portrayed capable of doing many things without adults' supervision notably her parents. As a result, her character is seen more mature than her real age because she gets used to do things by herself. In other words, it can be said that her character defies the stereotype that children characters are helpless.

3.3 Concluding Remark

This chapter has explained the methodology used in this study. The methodology used in this study consists of several sections which are research questions, research design, and research procedure that is divided into three sub-sections which are data collection, data analysis and data presentation.