

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter presents the methods used in the study. This chapter consists of the explanation of the research design, the data source, the process of data collection, and a brief explanation of how the data is analyzed.

3.1 Research Design

This research is qualitative in nature which involves critical analysis to seek answers to the questions by taking into account various aspects of the novel (Riessman, 1993; Sandelowski, 1991). The critical analysis is done to a textual data which as suggested by McKee (2003) meant to understand how many elements the text can be meaningfully interpreted into the theory. In addition, Creswell (2003) suggests that data which are collected in the form of words, phrases, and sentences are to be reported as the textual evidence and reported subjectively. As for the theoretical analysis, the writer uses Jaeggi's alienation theory (2014) which is deemed to be suitable for this study due to its concise and helpful nature in exploring and discovering the issue of alienation in Haig's *How to Stop Time* (2017).

3.2 Data Source

The data source of this study is a novel by Matt Haig (2017) titled *How to Stop Time*. It is a science fiction novel that follows a man named Tom Hazard who has been living for more than five hundred years. Tom is diagnosed with a congenital condition called *anageria*. *Anageria* allows someone to live for hundreds of years and makes the sufferer age slower around 1:15 in ratio. The condition also gives the sufferer a heightened immune system towards many viral and bacterial infections. However, it does not protect the sufferer from malnutrition nor an external direct threat to vital organs such as gunshot or knife stab. Despite the advantage of the condition, the main character is forced to live his life in fear. He is a refugee of time, living his years

running from one place to another in order to avoid other people discovering his condition while trying to find his sole reason to stay alive; to find his long lost daughter who suffers the same condition.

How to Stop Time was published in the UK in 2017 by Canongate. This novel won *The Sunday Time Best-Seller*, *A Richard & Judy Book Club Pick Winner*, and *2017 Book are My Bag Readers Awards* for popular fiction. In addition, the film rights of this novel have been acquired by SunnyMarch and Studiocanal right after the novel was published. The film will be starred by Benedict Cumberbatch whom as well acts as the executive produce through SunnyMarch, along with Jamie Byng, CEO of Canongate (Cited in Haig, 2018). This novel is selected because the writer found it as a good representative of the issue of alienation since the main character and his fellow associates in *Albatross Society* provides a perspective from people that have lived for hundreds of years and adapted in various kinds of society in different places and different times.

3.3 Data Collection

The data of alienation aspects were collected from the novel *How to Stop Time* in the form of characters' narrations, dialogues, and/or situation which represent alienation based on Jaeggi's (2014) perspective. The selected alienation data were then classified into the most suitable aspect of alienation out of three aspects of alienation. The data are then placed into columns of a table which consist of alienation aspects, textual evidence, and contextual notes. The data were collected and ordered and classified as suggested by Cresswell (2003) so that it could provide the required information and helps the reader to understand it better. The following table shows how the data are ordered and classified.

Table 3. 1 Example of alienation aspects classification

No	Alienation Aspect	Textual Evidence	Notes
1	The Intertwined Powerlessness and Meaninglessness “... <i>alienated relations are those in which we are disempowered as subjects An alienated world is a meaningless world, one that is not experienced by us as a meaningful whole.</i> ” (Jaeggi, 2014, p. 42).	- “... And then I see it, on the other side of the road – the place where we must have lived. It is now a windowless red-brick building, with a blue and white sign outside. HACKNEY PET RESCUE SERVICES. <u>It is depressing to feel your life erased.</u> ” (p. 15).	- The main character takes a walk home from school and he passes on the street where he used to live. He sees that the place which used to be his house has changed into an animal rescue place.

3.4 Data Analysis

This study aims to discover the answers for the research questions by performing a close reading, gathering textual evidence and scrutinize the collected data through the concept of alienation proposed by Jaeggi (2014). The process of close reading was carried out four times. The first time was meant to read the novel as a whole and grasp the big picture of the story. The second time of close reading process was carried out after the writer got familiarized with the concept of alienation in order to spot the potential presentable examples of alienation cases in the novel. The third close reading process was done together with the data classifying process based on the three aspects of alienation through color-coding method. The last close reading process was carried

out together with the analysis of the classified collected data to find what issues were being shown by the alienation in the novel.

3.5 Summary of the novel

How to Stop Time is a novel written by Matt Haig and published in the UK in 2017 by Canongate. This novel won *The Sunday Time Best-Seller*, *A Richard & Judy Book Club Pick Winner*, and *2017 Book are My Bag Readers Awards* for popular fiction. In addition, the film rights of this novel have been acquired by SunnyMarch and Studiocanal right after the novel was published. The film will be starred by Benedict Cumberbatch whom as well acts as the executive produce through SunnyMarch, along with Jamie Byng, CEO of Canongate (Cited in Haig, 2018).

How to Stop Time tells a story about a man suffering from a congenital condition called *anagaria* which allows him to live for hundreds of years. The man lost most of his loved ones due to this condition. Has been living since the 15th century, the man still walks the world until today. The current time setting of the novel sets in 2017 in London, but the man takes us to his journey across the ages and places witnessing history first-handedly from the perspective of an ordinary man and meeting prominent figures such as Shakespeare, Scott. F. Fitzgerald and Captain Cook from a different perspective. *How to Stop Time* shows the writer that it may take hundreds of years for someone to learn how to live and how to love (Cited in Haig, 2017).