

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the research methodology used in the study. It consist research question, research design, research procedure, data collection, data analysis, and summary of the novel.

3.1. Research Question(s)

This study is conducted in order to answer this question:

- How is power exercised in the novel?

3.2. Research design

This study uses descriptive qualitative design to analyze the power relation in Kanae Minato's novel *Confessions*. As explained by Hancock, Ockleford and Windridge (2007), qualitative research design put its focuses on data, description, and interpretation which cannot be expressed using numerical research design. Textual analysis is applied in this study to explore and discover the meaning behind how power is constructed in the novel by analyzing the word choices, phrases, and sentences that contain the evidences of exercised power. Regarding the explanation, this study is conducted by collecting, categorizing, and interpreting textual evidences which contains the events of power relation in the novel. The collected textual evidences are used to identify how power is exercised in the novel, and also to identify the characters' reactions toward the exercised power. In order to conduct the research, Foucault's framework of power relation theory is used to understand the meaning of power.

3.3. Research Procedure

The procedures which are applied in the data collection of this study include the following actions. The first part is to wholly read the novel while making notes on the parts which shows the character relations and conflicts between characters. The reading process is conducted for approximately more than six times in order to fully understand the novel. The second part is to collect the data which imply power

relations. The third part is to categorize the collected data into tables which are classified into the cases of characters in the novel. Lastly, the categorized textual evidences are analyzed in order to find and discuss the deeper meaning behind the constructed notion of power relation in the novel.

3.4. Data collection

The data is collected from an English translated edition of a Kanae Minato’s novel titled *Confessions* by Stephen Snyder (2014). The novel is written in first point-of-view of the five main characters which are Yuko Moriguchi, Mizuki Kitahara, Naoki Shitamura, Naoki’s mother, and Shuya Watanabe. Each of the chapter shows the truest feeling and confessions of each character regarding the main conflict of the story. The data are taken in the form of dialogue, monologue, and the actions of the characters. The collected data are classified into tables that include the narrative event, the base of power which is used, the character’s reaction toward the exercised power, and the consequences from the action that the character received from the subject of power he/she exercised power unto.

3.5. Data analysis

The novel is analyzed using Foucault’s theory of power, also helped by using Card’s guide in *Characters and Viewpoint* (1988). This study explores the reactions toward exercised power in the novel. The collected narrative events are divided into two parts which are power exercised by the media and power exercised by the society. The collected data will be categorized and presented in table as follows:

Power Exercised	Narrative Events	Explanation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The media to society 	<p>I suspect you remember a more recent incident, the story of the poisoning of that whole family last year. The young girl who did it was just your age, thirteen, and in her first year</p>	<p>Media exercised power to society thought Lunacy’s portrayal by creating a sense of relation or referent power to young audiences around Lunacy’s age, indicated with</p>

	of middle school. (p 17)	“just your age, thirteen, and in her first year of middle school”.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The media to society • Shuya Watanabe to media and society (Resistance) 	<p>The day I was interviewed, however, a seventh grade girl in some nowhere town committed a crime. The Lunacy Incident. ...The TVs in the store played nonstop coverage of the Lunacy Incident. The girl’s home environment, her behavior at school, her grades, the clubs she had belonged to, her hobbies, her favorite books and movies...if the TV was on, the details came pouring in. (p 116)</p>	<p>Media exercised its power by producing repeated and abundant news transmissions about Lunacy, indicated with the phrase “...The TVs in the store played nonstop coverage of the Lunacy Incident.” And “... if the TV was on, the details came pouring in.</p> <p>Shuya who resisted it argued that Lunacy was less important than him by referring Lunacy as a girl in “some nowhere town” and reduced her sensational murder as simply “a crime”.</p>

3.6. Summary of the novel

After her daughter is murdered by two of her junior high students (Shuya Watanabe and Naoki Shimomura), Yuko Moriguchi decided to give a gruesome revenge to the murderers. She declared the beginning of her revenge by explaining to the whole class about murder case and also revealing the identity of the murderers. Despite being the murderers’ teacher, as revenge she confessed that she had injected blood of HIV/AIDS sufferer into Naoki and Shuya’s milk cartons in hope to slowly kill the two students. As a result, Naoki was heavily traumatized by the statement and isolated himself in his room while Shuya kept going to school despite of bullying

actions from the other students. Moriguchi eventually resigned from the school, yet in order to keep surveillance on Naoki and Shuya, Moriguchi used her husband fame in order to make the new teacher, Yoshiteru Terada, to unconsciously follows her 'orders'. She also used her information of the students' contact in order to anonymously persuade the students to 'punish' both murderers by bullying them. As the story goes, under the heavy stress of Moriguchi's indirect presence, Naoki had a mental breakdown and killed his own mother. Differently from Naoki, Shuya freed himself from the power of other students' actions of bullying. Later he planned to make a suicide/mass murder by detonating a bomb at the school. Later it was explained that the reason why Shuya had murdered Moriguchi's daughter is because he wants to reach out to his divorced mother. He planned murders because he thinks that the media will widely cover his crime on news like the news about Lunacy. But in the end Moriguchi took the bomb and replaced it in Shuya's mother's office. In the end Shuya killed his mother when he activated the bomb. Thus Moriguchi's revenge had been successfully delivered.