

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The chapter presents the research method used in this study. It consists of the research question, research design, data source, data collection procedure, and data presentation.

3.1. Research Question

As mentioned in chapter one, the purpose of this study is to analyze how the issue of whiteness is represented in the novel *Invisible Man*. Hence, the research question for this study has been formulated:

- How is whiteness represented in the novel *Invisible Man*?

3.2. Research Design

In order to analyze the representation of whiteness in the novel *Invisible Man*, this study used textual analysis approach. This approach was chosen since the data of the representation of whiteness is based on the text in the novel. According to Bernard and Ryan (1998), textual analysis involves the examination of words, sentences, paragraphs, ideas, meanings, paralinguistic features, documents, and another aspect that is missing in the text. Subsequently, the researchers should interpret, mark, retrieve, and count the information they have gathered based on the text by using numerical and interpretative analysis.

In relation to Bernard and Ryan (1998), textual analysis, according to McKee (2003), is an approach where the researchers gather information about how people make sense of the world. In other words, textual analysis is a method where researchers make an “educated guess”; the interpretation is created based on the analyzed text. Furthermore, he explains that textual analysis is not used to find a single correct interpretation. There are many interpretations that may be considered closer to be treated as ‘the true interpretation’ in certain circumstances. The approach offers a different conclusion since the point of view of the researcher is also considered as unique. Thus, between one researcher and other researchers may have a

different conclusion as it based on the theory they use to evaluate the text. Textual analysis approach aims to give an insightful and thoughtful reading to help the reader understand the text in a new and refreshing manner.

Thus, the writer believes that this approach is suitable for the research since it focused on analyzing the representation of whiteness based on the text of the novel by finding the features that support the existence of whiteness.

3.3. Data Source

The object of this study is a novel entitled *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison. The novel was first published in 1952 by Random House. This novel is regarded as African-American literature since it features a strong presence of the life of African-American people. Since African-American is the crucial element of the novel, especially African-American who lives in American society, it raises the issue of whiteness.

In this study, the writer chose to use the 2nd edition printed version of the novel; published by Random House in 1995. The novel has 581 pages and consists of 24 chapters with prologue and epilogue. As already mentioned, the novel is about African-American people who live in American society. Thus, the writer intends to analyze how is whiteness represented by using the novel as the data source.

3.4. Data Collection Procedure

The data of this study were collected through reading and re-reading of the novel *Invisible Man* several times. In the first reading, the writer tried to picture the overall story-line. In the second reading, the writer focused on finding the elements of whiteness: the existence of African-American in American society and how society responds toward them. In the third reading, the writer gathered textual evidence that proves the existence of whiteness and how it is represented in the novel. Since the novel focuses explicitly on the issue of racism done by White, the writer categorized the textual evidence into four types of whiteness: whiteness as terror and supremacy; whiteness as a kind of absence; whiteness as values, norm, and capital; whiteness as contingent and hierarchies.

The collected data were in the form of sentences and paragraphs, which specifically represents the existence of whiteness. They were gathered in order to analyze how is whiteness represented in the novel.

3.6. Data Presentation

The collected data were interpreted and described using whiteness theory coined by Garner (2007) in the form of narrative as presented in the following pages:

Table 3.1. Example of the analysis of whiteness in *Invisible Man*

No.	Types of Literary Depiction	Textual Evidence	Types of Whiteness	Page
1.	Verbal depiction	The next day I saw his picture in the <i>Daily News</i>, beneath a caption stating that he had been “mugged.” Poor fool, poor blind fool, I thought with sincere compassion, mugged by an invisible man!	Whiteness as terror and supremacy	5
2.	Verbal depiction	I passed on to a window decorated with switches of wiry false hair, ointments guaranteed to produce the miracle of whitening black skin. “You too can be truly beautiful,” a sign proclaimed. “Win greater happiness with whiter complexion. Be outstanding in your social set.”	Whiteness as values, norms, and cultural capital	262
3.	Verbal depiction	Some were still crying and in hysteria. But as we tried to leave we were stopped and ordered to get into the ring. There was nothing to do but what we were told. All ten of us climbed under the ropes and allowed to be blindfolded with broad bands of white cloth.	Whiteness as a kind of absence	21
4.	Verbal depiction	“I was sent here by a friend of his. You read the letter, but still you refuse to let me see him, and now you’re trying to get me to leave college. What kind of man are you, anyway, What have you got against me? You, a northern white man!”	Whiteness as contingent hierarchies	189

The data were then analyzed by using the theory of representation proposed by Young (1999) and Whiteness by Garner (2007).

3.7. Data Analysis

Based on the example of the data as presented in table 3.1., the data is then linked to the three literary depictions proposed by Young (1999) and with the theory of whiteness proposed by Garner (2007). The main focus of the analysis is the relation between the two theories. A new perspective and understanding regarding the issue of whiteness that appears in the novel are expected to enrich the study of whiteness in literary works. Thus, it is best to analyze the issue with the assist of the representation theory.

Verbal depiction indications can be recognized by looking at the context of the textual evidence. Young (1999) states that verbal depiction involves the thoughts and utterances expressed by the characters related to the specific issue; furthermore, it shows the state of mind of the characters. One of the evidence of verbal depiction that is found in the novel is the utterances of The Narrator. The Narrator's reaction about the news which is published in *Daily News* that states a white man had been mugged shows the tendency of the issue of whiteness.

The next day I saw his picture in the *Daily News*, beneath a caption stating that he had been “mugged.” Poor fool, poor blind fool, I thought with sincere compassion, mugged by an invisible man! (p. 5)

It is interesting how the news position The Narrator, as the assailant instead of being the victim. This evidence represents that Black is labeled as criminal even when they do no harm. Thus, it shows that whiteness plays its role as a terror bringer to the non-white, and emphasize their superiority.

3.8. Summary of *Invisible Man*

Invisible Man is a novel written by Ralph Ellison during the World War II (1945), and took five years to complete the novel with one year off; the novel was published in 1952 by Random House. Ellison straddles two important literary movements which are the Harlem Renaissance and Black Arts Movement. It happens that most African American novels are written as a form of social protest. Besides the literary movements, the novel is also intended to raise the social issues in America which

happened in that era. One of the major social issues that the novel raises is the issue of racism. Thus, looking back at America in that era, Black was socially-discriminated. It can be seen how the society of America unfairly treated Black through right segregation. Through *Invisible Man*, Ellison is the first African American who wins the National Book Award.

Invisible Man is a story of a black man struggling in a white-dominated society. He was a southern educated black man who then in the story moved to the North. As he himself experienced racist act from the society, he chose to join the Brotherhood, a multicultural organization. From the Brotherhood, he expected to make racial equality where no one is discriminated. However, the leader of the Brotherhood, who is named Brother Jack did not even care about racial equality. The Narrator finally chooses to be an invisible man. He chose to be an invisible man not because he was physically invisible; his invisibility was happened because society refuses to see him.

3.8. Concluding Remarks

This chapter has discussed the methodology of the study, which includes the research question, research design, data source, data collection procedure, and data presentation. The next chapter analyzes and elaborates on the data in order to achieve the purpose of this study. The analysis is completed by following the procedure written in this chapter.