

## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter elaborates the methodology of the study being discussed. It contains research method, object of the research, research methods, research procedure data collection and analysis and data presentation.

#### 3.1 Research Question

In attempt to answer the problem, research question is formulated as follows:

1. What roles are expected from men identified in *Kite Runner*?
2. What are masculine attributes identified in *Kite Runner*?

#### 3.2 Object of the Research

The main subject of this study is the novel entitled *Kite Runner* written by Khaled Hosseini (2003). Hosseini is an Afghan-born American novelist. *Kite Runner* has been selected because the book proposes more insight in the perspective of masculinities particularly in Afghan setting.

#### 3.3 Research Method

This study aims to reveal the masculinity roles. The data are in form of words and or images, hence the study employs a descriptive qualitative design. In qualitative research, the research problem focuses on some processes, event or phenomena such as feelings, thought and emotions that are difficult to extract (Bogdan and Taylor, 1998). Bogdan and Taylor (1998), furthermore stated that qualitative methods is a method in analyzing people, system of thought, or another object in current time. The purpose of this method is to describe facts, characteristic, and relationship among the phenomena. From the statement, the approach is considered appropriate to analyze the data deeper.

In addition, technique is also employed in analyzing the novel. Textual evidence in the novel is gained in the form of words, phrases, sentences, expressions, and utterances. Frey, Botan & Kreps (1999), explains that textual analysis is the method that used to explain the content, structure and functions of the messages found in the texts. To conclude, this study is conducted by using the theory of masculinity and gender roles proposed by Brannon (1976), Beynon masculinity (2002) and Afghanistan masculinity roles from Echafez (2016). The data would be answered through textual analysis. It is intended to identify the roles and attributes that are expected from men in Afghanistan society established in the novel.

### **3.4 Data Collection**

The data were collected from the texts that show masculinity issue from the narration and also from main character and other male characters interaction in the novel. In carrying out the research, several steps had been taken. To collect data, several steps are taken.

First, the writer selected the subject of the topic, and read the novel to get the main idea of the story. Second, the writer deciding what kind of issue would be taken in the research. For the third step the writer applied close readings the novel in order to gain comprehensive understanding. Next, is formulating research question. Fifth steps are undertaking library research by searching out, collecting, and comprehending the references with regards in masculinity issues. For example, the data which was needed for the research related to masculinity such as masculinity characteristics or roles from the character interaction. Next, the researcher made notes on the textual evidence which were found in the novel and make a rough categorization into several list revealing the characterizations and the descriptions based on textual evidence found in the text to gain the valid information. Next step is re doing from the third steps until it the research question is answered to make a discussion ad conclusion of the study.

The data were collected in the form of words, utterances, and expressions which serve as textual evidence. And the last continue finding the data in attempt to answer research question before making a conclusion.

### 3.5 Data Presentation

The data are identified through the narration from the characters, dialogues, the way the character is described in the story by the narrator, and characters thought or actions. The examples are represented below:

Table 3.1 Example of roles expectation of men

Expected roles of men	Textual evidence	Explanation
Men should be as the <i>nafaqah</i> for family	Baba asks “and what will you do while you wait to get good and discovered? How will you earn money? If you marry, how will you support your <i>khanum</i> ? (p.146)	One of the roles that important for Afghan men, is that they have to be a <i>nafaqah</i> for family. Men have to fulfill family needs as a honor of being Afghan men.

Table 3.2 Example of masculinity archetypes

Male Value Items	Textual evidence	Explanation
Competitive and Ambitious	I saw the blue kite. All I smelled was victory. Salvation. Redemption. Then I saw Baba pumping both his hand clapping. And that the greatest moment of my twelve years old life	The sentence show the desperation of Amir to fulfill the expectation of masculine demeanors from his father

The complete presentations of the data are available in the appendices. This chapter has discussed the research method which is used to analyze book *The Kite Runner*. Descriptive textual analysis and masculinity theoretical approach as the research method are used to answer the two research questions.

### 3.6. Synopsis

*Kite Runner* is a novel written by Khaled Hosseini published in 2003. The novel is about an Afghan man named Amir, who tells story about him whom looking back to his childhood back in Afghanistan. The story of the mistakes he made that caused him to always regret. The narrator, Amir, was grown up in a luxurious home in Kabul, Afghanistan, with his father Baba. Baba is a Pashtun, a considered a major ethnic in Afghani society, and have two Hazara (a minority ethnic in Afghanistan) servants, Ali and his son Hassan, who was Amir's closest playmate.

In the beginning of the novel, Amir told about his struggled relationship with Baba. Baba is a successful Afghan businessman. He has been known for his bravery and manly conduct by his peers. As a child, Amir desperately wanted his father's approval, which came with being more masculine and could stand for himself. Amir struggled with forging a closer relationship with Baba, because Baba still neglects Amir lacked of masculine demeanor. Amir was lack of qualities in term of being a good Afghan man in Baba's eyes. Baba was worried because he was considered as the model of Pashtun for many relatives and collages. He believes that a father must be role model for the son, and so the son could take example from them.

Despite his struggles, Amir had a quite close relationship with Baba's friend named Rahim Khan. Rahim Khan was depicted have manly conduct but is more soften than Baba in terms of Amir's masculinity lacking. He said that children were not a father's coloring book. However, Baba as the Phastun was not quite fond of Rahim Khan's arguments.

Baba then pursued several ways to gaining some masculine sides to his son. He signed Amir up to soccer teams and often took him to watch Buzkashi tournament. The tournament was considered as the Afghanistan's national passion for most men beside the kite fighting tournament in Kabul, his town. Even though Amir tried his best to follow his father's desire for a better relationship, most of the time Baba still sensed Amir's lacks of genuine interest that rather buried his face in story books. Never quite successful in this effort to prove to him that he was worthy of having been born to such a father, Amir secretly behaved jealously toward Hassan, his best friend, who received more affection from Baba.

Despite his jealousy of Baba's affections, Amir and Hassan were often playing together. They often did flying kites and reading stories together, though Hassan did chores while Amir went to school. One day, three boys named Assef, Wali, and Kamal threatened Amir, but Hassan scared them away with his slingshot. To Amir, Hassan was not best friend yet they always together like family. However, as a child, Amir desperately wanted his father's approval, which came with being more masculine. One way to make his father proud was to take part in a kite fighting tournament which was more like war to those who participate. Amir won the tournament and Baba was super proud of him. According to Amir, this was the best feeling he ever had.

In the meantime of kite tournament, Amir watched Hassan was being sexually attacked by Asseff and friends. Amir hesitated to help Hassan because he torn between his cowardliness and his jealousy toward Hassan. Amir decides to leave Hassan anyway and pretend nothing happened. However this moment became problematic in the story.

Despite his guilty feelings, he knows that this is not a good deed and this cowardliness of him is a foul by the eyes of Baba as a man with pride and honour. Amir instead tried to assert himself by attacking and ignoring Hassan and thus betraying their friendship. However, Amir was not any happier either, in fact it became a huge burden on him. Later on, the invasion of Taliban forces made Amir and his father to flee to Pakistan before immigrates to America for better life, thus separates the boys.

In America, Amir and Baba had a better relationship but Amir know that Baba is struggled. Moving to America gave varies impact to them. Baba, as the traditional Afghan man, was not used to live in a different situation. Amir worried for Baba believes, as his role as the breadwinner might fall apart or hurt him, as Amir narrates in the novel. Years passed by and Amir became a young adult Afghan man. However, he still preferred to pursue his desire as a writer. Baba was no longer live and Amir was married now, but he remember to always tried to stands for himself otherwise he is not a good man, as he learnt from his father.

This realization is led the adult Amir to redeem himself for what he have done to Hassan and try to make up what he had been done and lost, back to Afghanistan. One of them is taking care Hassan's son, Sohrab, as a stepfather. He believes there are always a way to be good again as Afghan man.