CHAPTER III
METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the methodology used to answer the research question in the first chapter regarding how Landon Carter's journey to maturity is depicted in *A Walk to Remember*. It consists of the purpose of the research, research design, data source research procedure, and data presentation.

3.1 Purpose of the Research

This research aims to examine how Landon Carter's journey to maturity is depicted in *A Walk to Remember*, from being an immature person to becoming a more mature man.

3.2 Research Design

This research employs a textual analysis method to show how young adults' maturity is portrayed in *A Walk to Remember*. This method is chosen because the findings will appear in the form of narratives, rather than in the form of numbers. The findings also interpret texts behind the meaning of the story in the novel (McKee, 2003). Different from a typical qualitative method which corresponds with the nature of the research (Mason, 2002), a textual analysis includes selecting types of text which would be analyzed, acquiring appropriate texts, and deciding which particular approach would be used in analyzing them (Frey, Botan, and Kreps, 1999).

In textual analysis, there are four major approaches for analyzing a text: (1) rhetorical criticism, (2) content analysis, (3) interactional analysis and (4) performance studies. In this study, content analysis seems to fit the way the content of the story is obtained. This method is used to identify, calculate, and analyze events of specific messages and message characteristic embedded in texts. In content analysis, moreover, there are two types of content analysis: (1) qualitative content analysis and (2) quantitative content analysis. It is clear that qualitative content analysis is suitable with the study because the researcher is interested in the meaning behind the text than the rather number. In this research, events and specific messages are embedded in *A Walk to Remember*, is analyzed to examine the portrayal of Landon Carter's, the main character, journey to maturity.

3.3 Data Source

The data for this study are collected from excerpts found in *A Walk to Remember*, a young adult novel written by Nicholas Sparks. The novel was ranked first in New York Times Bestselling Books and has been made into a major Hollywood movie in 2002, starring Mandy Moore and Shane West. The book itself was first published in October 1999 by Grand Central Publishing in New York. The author, Nicholas Sparks, has been identified by many critics as one of the world's most beloved storytellers. His works have been translated into more than fifty languages.

As an example of young adult novels, this novel is particularly chosen because it presents an issue of maturity, which is actually a common theme in young adult literature. Therefore, the data that are selected for this study are excerpts that show

Landon's characterization of going through a journey to maturity, from an immature to becoming a more mature person.

3.4 Research Procedure

This research contains two main procedures to answer the research questions. The procedures include the collection and analysis of data, which are as follows:

3.4.1 Data Collection

The procedure of data collection in this study involves at least two steps. The first step is to perform a close reading. Performing a close reading in this study takes at least four stages of reading. The first reading is to understand the whole story. After the story is clearly understood, the second reading is to decide which character will be the focus of this research. Landon Carter is chosen because his personality changes from being an immature person to becoming a mature person. Next, the third reading is performed to find the specific literary elements that are analyzed in this research, which is characterization, from all chapters which indicate Landon's immaturity or maturity. Then, the final reading is performed, in which the data are finally collected through highlighting excerpts which specifically contain a type of immaturity and maturity.

After the data are collected, the researcher then moves on to the next step, which is taking notes of the possible explanations behind Landon Carter's immaturity or maturity. The process of taking notes in this study focuses on three explanatory aspects. The first aspect involves other characters in the novel, including Jamie Sullivan, a character that becomes the main reason behind Landon's personality change from being immature to becoming more mature. The second aspect is any

specific circumstance in the novel that enables Landon to become more mature. The examples of such circumstances are him being the student body president and him playing as the main actor in *Christmas Angel*. The last aspect is any specific conversation that leads to Landon's maturity. This conversation is a combination of how other characters influence Landon and in what circumstance they influence him.

3.4.2 Data Analysis

After the data are collected, the data are then analyzed in at least three stages. First, the writer analyzes the types of immaturity and maturity shown by Landon Carter by using Allport's (1961) theory of maturity. Then, the writer analyzes the journey to maturity experienced by Landon from being an immature person to becoming a more mature person by analyzing certain events in characterization which support his change of personality. The analysis of characterization that shows Landon's immaturity and maturity is based on Reams' theory (2015) that a character can be characterized through his/her physical attributes, actions, reactions, thought and speech. The researcher then analyzes all the conversations and circumstances that may provide reasons for such immaturity and maturity. After that, the analyzed data are presented in form of tables. The tables consist of three columns, which contain specific excerpts from the novel which indicate Landon Carter's immaturity or maturity, types of Landon Carter's immaturity or maturity, types of characterization that appear in his journey to maturity and the descriptive explanations behind such immaturity or maturity. Finally, the analyses are evaluated by interpreting and discussing the findings. The discussion in this study relates Landon's journey to maturity to Bean and Moni's theory (2003) on how young adult readers can gain a

moral value from phenomena depicted in young adult novels from different perspective of what they have read.

Textual Evidence	Types of Maturity/Immaturity	Types of Characterization	Analysis
Me and my friends might sneak out late and soap up car windows now and then or eat boiled peanuts in the graveyard behind the church, but in the fifties that was the kind of thing that made other parents shake their heads and whisper to their children, "You don't want to be like that Carter boy. He's on the fast track to prison." Me. A bad boy. For eating boiled peanuts in the graveyard. Go figure. (p. 13)	Lack of self-insight	Direct Characterization through Speech	In this excerpt, Landon shows his immaturity by proclaiming himself as a 'bad boy' The term he uses indicates his view regarding himself as someone who is above other people in terms of 'badness'. Landon is misunderstood about his own view. He knows that being naughty is considered wrong in the society, but instead of avoiding it, he still does it because he thinks it is what is right for him. This misleading perception is one of the indicators of immaturity.

Figure 3. 1 Table Data

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A JOURNEY TO MATURITY IN *A WALK TO REMEMBER* BY NICHOLAS SPARKS

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