

## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter points out research methodology in this study namely research design, data collection, data analysis, and data presentation.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study is a textual analysis of the psychosocial development of Clay's *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Asher (2007). This study is a descriptive qualitative research because it attempts to deal with words (Flick, 2009). Moreover, the research is meant to discover and describe psychosocial issues in the character Clay. The present study also analyzes how he copes with the issues which may show Clay's psychosocial development. Further, this textual analysis focuses on psychosocial aspect that is different from psychoanalysis. It takes emotions, conflicts, motivation, and traits to analyze (Freud, 1899). This textual analysis with psychosocial approach investigates psychological and social qualities of the character Clay for analysis.

Meanwhile, the research method of this study involves describing the selected narrative events as data and interpreting them to see certain patterns or psychosocial phenomenon. Moreover, this study highlights certain textual evidence in *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Asher (2007) which show the young adult character Clay's psychosocial issues and how he deals with the psychosocial issues.

#### **3.2 Data Collection**

The data for this study were taken from a novel entitled *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Asher (2007). The writer of this study chose the novel because it is included as one of the *NY Times* best-selling novels (McClurg, 2017), and the adaptation of the novel into a Netflix series has invited many good comments, although controversies have also arisen. Accordingly, the writer of this study attempts to find issues in the novel as its original work. The novel also shows the male young adult protagonist character's development, and the writer of this study prefers to analyze the character development. Hopefully, this study may enhance the readers' knowledge regarding a part of young adults' development and psychosocial issues of young adults.

Raden Nur Prasetyo Wibowo, 2019

**A Psychosocial Development of a Young Adult Character in *Thirteen Reasons Why* Novel**

The novel is mostly about Hannah Baker's reasons to commit suicide recorded in a series of tapes. Clay, as one of the listeners, does not only show his feelings towards the story in the recording but also "interacts" with it as how Clay talks to Hannah. This novel is narrated from two points of view: Hannah's and Clay's. While studies on Hannah character have been quite many, the character Clay whose point of view is largely used in the novel is still not much studied. Hence, Clay's dominant consciousness has prompted the writer of this study to analyze his characterization, particularly his psychosocial development.

To find about Clay's psychosocial development, the writer of this study collects data by close-reading the novel several times. During the process of close-reading, the writer of this study highlights Clay's certain narrative events that show his consciousness and dialogue as those may represent psychosocial issues of him and how Clay deals with the psychosocial issues. After the events are highlighted along with notes regarding Clay's psychosocial development, the writer of this study rereads the novel in order to confirm whether the noted events of Clay do reflect his psychosocial issues and development to be considered as data. After that, the writer of this study starts to put the data into a table for further analysis. The analysis was conducted by referring to Bucher and Hinton's (2010) theory of young adults' psychosocial development.

### **3.3 Data Analysis**

The analysis began by firstly interpreting each event of the data. In the process of interpreting, the writer of this study revealed what each selected event showed or implied regarding Clay's psychosocial issues and development by referring to Bucher and Hinton's theory (2010). The next step was finding other events to prove whether Clay coped with the psychosocial issues. The events that showed how Clay coped with the psychosocial issues shall be provided as additional textual evidence. The last step was summarizing the data in order to answer the research questions: what are the psychosocial issues that Clay Jensen experience and how does Clay Jensen deal with the psychosocial issues. In addition, the summary of this study also intends to reveal whether the character Clay develops in terms of traits.

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### 3.4 Data Presentation

This section shows samples of data analysis. These samples consider Bucher and Hinton's (2010) view of young adults' psychosocial development. The italicized font stands for Hannah's transcription voice and the non-italicized ones voice Clay's consciousness.

The form of the table for analyzing data is as below:

**Table 3.1 The Sample of Data Analysis**

Psychosocial Issues	Narrative Events	Analysis	Way/s to Handle the Issues
Anxiety: Tense	<i>When a person has a stellar image, another person's waiting in the wings to tear them apart. They're waiting for that one fatal flaw to expose itself. But not with Clay... Waiting for a flaw. And you found it. And now you can't wait to tell everyone what it is and ruin his image. To which I say . . . no.</i> My chest relaxes, freeing a breath of air I didn't even know I was holding. (p.199-200)	Clay is tense. He has been holding his breath as how he has been anxiously waiting for his part on the tapes until his name is mentioned. He has been curiously waiting Hannah's voice to say about him and to say what he has done that affect Hannah's mental health until she committed suicide.	-
Low Self-esteem	I make my way down the center aisle, buttoning my jacket against the cold, giving each button more attention than required. Any excuse to avert my eyes from the other passengers. I know how I must look to them. Confused. Guilty. In the process of being crushed. (p.59)	Clay feels confused, guilty, and in the process of being crushed. The word "guilty" reflects that he knows that he is wrong and he may be ready to be punished through the phrase "in the process of being crushed". On the other hand, Clay is in the position of making his way through the bus seat rather than arriving himself in a court for trials. The evidence indicates low self-esteem since he cannot accepts himself for the way he is. He tends to look down upon himself and does not even capable to see people around the bus seat but focuses on buttoning his jacket more than necessary	Clay still makes his way through the bus seat even though he thinks that he looks confused, guilty, and about to crush since he is included on the tapes. He faces his low self-esteem on his own. The persons who get the tapes are considered, by Hannah, as those who affect her mental health until she commits suicide.

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