

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses the methodology of the present study. It deals with object of the study, research questions, research design, research procedure, and data presentation.

3.1 Object of the Study

In this research, the writer conducts an analysis of a film script entitled *Mary and Max* (2009). The story presents a penpal friendship between Mary Daisy Dinkle, a lonely 8 years old girl who lives in Melbourne and Max Jerry Horowitz, a 44 years old man who lives in New York and suffers mental illness called Asperger Syndrome.

The story in *Mary and Max* is narrated through several point of views or narrative perspectives: Mary's point of view and Max's point of view. Their point of views is manifested through the letters they send to each other. Besides Mary and Max as the main characters who narrates the story, there is also a narrator who also takes part in narrating the story. Because there are several point of views in narrating the story, therefore the present research focuses on analyzing how the story is narrated through the narrative perspective or focalization used in the film script, which ultimately reveal the underlying themes in the text.

3.2 Research Question

The problem formulation of the present research is:

1. How does the focalization affect the theme of friendship in *Mary and Max* film script?

3.3 Research Procedure

This study employs descriptive qualitative method. The film script was read carefully and the writer took notes from the textual evidences that provide information relevant to research question. To answer the question, the research focuses on the story by analyzing the words, phrases, sentences, that related to how the story is narrated.

3.4 Data analysis

In analyzing the object of the research, the data which is taken from the film script then categorized into zero focalization and internal focalization. The data is analyzed using narratology of Gerard Genette (1980). In conducting the research, the following steps will be taken:

1. Determining the object of the research that is *Mary and Max* film script.
2. Deciding the phenomenon of the research, that is the friendship construction between the main characters.
3. Formulating a research question
4. Collecting the relevant theories from textbook, thesis, journal, and internet articles.

5. Conducting close reading to find the phenomenon then highlighting the textual evidences.
6. Analyzing the textual evidences according to the relevant theories.
7. Drawing conclusion from the analysis.

3.5 Data Presentation

Table 3.5.1 Examples of focalization in the film script

No	Zero focalization on Mary	Textual Evidence	Explanation
1	Mary as an unattractive character	Mary Dinkle's eyes were the colour of muddy puddles. Her birthmark, the colour of poo. (p1)	Mary is physically unattractive regarding the way the narrator associates her eye color and her birthmark with disgusting things like 'puddles' and 'poo'.
2	Mary as a character who takes advantage of the friendship	At university, she shone and took it upon herself to cure the world of mental illness. She did her thesis on Asperger's syndrome and used Max as her case study. Her professors were thoroughly impressed and her writing praised far and wide. Soon, publishers queued to print her unique insight and by her 25th birthday, thousands of copies were ready to be shipped. (p41-42)	The textual evidence above points that Max has inspired Mary to write a book. However, it creates an impression that Mary takes advantage of their friendship although her intention is to find a way to cure Max's illness.

No	Zero focalization on Max	Textual Evidence	Explanation
1	Max as a character who lacks self confidence	..He was 44 and liked "The Noblets" as they lived in a delineated and articulated social structure with constant adherent conformity and also because they had oodles of friends. (p5)	Max's lack self confidence can be seen implicitly from his interest in "The Noblets" cartoon, in this case his discomfort in living his social life. For Max, "The Noblets" portrays such an ideal social life because he has a different life compared to it.
2	Max as a character who has strong feeling to Mary	... Max was sensible with his sudden wealth and had bought a lifetime supply of chocolate and the complete Noblet collection. Two of his life goals had come true... .. Despite achieving all his life's goals, Max still felt incomplete... ..Mary had given Max a taste of real friendship and there was just no comparison. (p31-32)	From the comparison, it can be seen that for Max, Mary is more precious than material things that has completed his life. Max considers Mary as someone who has brought the meaning of friendship to his life or in other words, Mary is someone who is very meaningful in his life.

No	Internal focalization on Mary	Textual evidence	Explanation
1	Mary as the taker of the friendship	Dear Max, our wedding day was everything I have ever dreamt, making up for the terrible year I've had. Although all the guests were Damian's family and friends, I felt very welcome. Damian is so perfect. He even made my wedding dress. And for our honeymoon he took me to Mykonos his favourite island in Greece. (p40-41)	It can be seen that Mary emphasizes Damian as the center of her story. It indicates that Mary has found another pleasure in her life and she only slightly involves Max in her happiness. She also considers her marriage as the happiest thing in her life and does not talk about their friendship which also have been given happiness to her life.

No	Internal focalization on Max	Textual Evidence	Explanation
1	Max as the giver of the friendship	..I find humans interesting but I have trouble understanding them. I think, however, I will understand and trust you. (p14-16)	The textual evidence shows that Max put a big trust on Mary since he found difficulty in understanding others. His belief to understand and trust Mary indicates his sincerity to establish the friendship.

Through the use of focalization in conducting the study, the writer is able to find out how focalization affect the theme of friendship in *Mary and Max* film script. First, zero focalization is useful to show how the narrator tells the basic information about the main characters as the preparation to understand the story. Second, internal focalization is useful to show how the main characters' point of view elaborate the points which have been told in zero focalization. Finally, the result of analysis of each type of focalization is compared and synthesized to obtain the answer of the research question, that is the affect of focalization to the theme of friendship in *Mary and Max* film script.

