

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter elaborates the procedure taken for conducting the research. This includes what the problems of the research are, how the data is gathered for the research, and what kind of approach is taken to interpret the data, or in short the research design. To give a brief idea of how the story goes in the novel, there is also the synopsis of the novel provided in this chapter.

3.1. Research Problem

This research is conducted in order to answer these following questions:

1. How is hybrid character described in Mohammad Sanoesi's *Siti Rayati*?
2. What is the alternative meaning of the hybrid character described in Mohammad Sanoesi's *Siti Rayati*?

3.2. Research Design

In answering the research questions, the writer applies qualitative method in the form of textual analysis. This study employs a qualitative research approach since the data presented here is not in the form of statistic. "Qualitative analysis can refer to research about persons' lives, lived experiences, behaviors, emotions, and feelings as well as about organizational functioning, social movements,

cultural phenomena, and interactions between nations” (Strauss & Corbin - 1998:11)

In addition, qualitative method, according to Given (2008), is “a composite of philosophy, concepts, data gathering procedures, and statistical methods that perhaps provides the most thoroughly elaborated basis for the systemic examination of human subjectivity” (p. 699). Specifically, the researcher analyses Mohammad Sanoesi’s *Siti Rayati* in the context of Post-Colonial theory. In so doing, the writer conducts close reading to gain understandings of the literary text.

3.3. Data Collection

To gather the data from the text, the researcher does a close reading method in order to find the descriptions required in order to answer the research problems. The close-reading is applied to Mohammad Sanoesi’s *Siti Rayati*. The English-translated version of the novel contains 95 pages with the first 25 pages for the introduction by the translator. Although the descriptions of the Indo character can only be found in the second volume, from page 57, the first volume is also read in order to understand the whole story. The data aimed to be found is the Indo character’s descriptions.

3.4. Data Analysis

After all the data is gathered, it is then categorized into four categories. All of the categories cover how the *Indo* character is described in the novel. The first

category is the description of the *Indo* character in superior nature. The second category is the description of the *Indo* character in the manner of being equal. The third category is the description of the *Indo* character in the sense of being in between. The four or the last category is the description of the *Indo* character as being well-influenced by Dutch culture.

After the categories are set, then the researcher sees the descriptions to answer the first question of the research problems. When the descriptions of the character have been gathered, the findings then is analyzed and discussed by relating them to the theories about hybrid character and find out why the descriptions are like that. That is how the researcher answers the second question of the research problems and then concludes the analysis.

3.5. Subject of the Research

The subject presented in the research is Mohammad Sanoesi's *Siti Rayati*. The novel was published in three volumes by Dachlan-Bekti printing house in Bandung from 1923 to 1927. The novel was sold at the cost of 30 cents, 20 cents and 20 cents respectively. The cost differences tell the content differences as well. The first volume, in the researcher's opinion, has a richer content, more detailed story-telling, and a better pace in terms of story flow with more pages.

Although it has some reputation, *Siti Rayati* is seen as a novel that is not artistically outstanding and is called by Rosidi as a "mere synopsis ... far from fully worked out" (1986: 9). Perhaps, it is caused by the author's political program in writing the novel. This kind of simplicity in writing a novel was also

found in other *Bacaan Liar* authors like Mas Marco Kartodikromo and Tirta Adhi Soerjo. This writing style “can be equally sheeted back to habits of the idiom of newspaper reporting” (Coté, as taken from Mukherjee: 2004).

3.6. Synopsis of the Novel

Siti Rayati begins with the introduction of Tuan Steenhart, a Dutch man tea-plantation manager, is in grief because of his departed *Nyai*. Seeing that, Tuan Steenhart’s helper Sastra promises to find him the replacement for the *Nyai*. But before succeeding in finding one, Sastra is then asked to stop because Tuan Steenhart has found a girl that he finds suitable. The girl is a tea-planter named Patimah. Instead of making her the new *Nyai*, Tuan Steenhart rapes her several time until she gets pregnant. When Patimah asks him to admit the baby in her belly, Tuan Steenhart scolds her and calls her with an inappropriate call. Feeling ashamed, Patimah decides to flee her home and when she has reached the skirt of Cirayati village, she delivers the baby there.

The baby girl is abandoned by Patimah because she does not want the baby to live in a miserable life with her. Later, the baby girl is raised by the Wadana and his wife. The baby girl is given a name Siti Rayati by the Wadana. Siti Rayati is raised by them like their own child. Because she really looks like a Dutch girl, Siti Rayati is sent to schools for Dutch. Siti Rayati grows to be beautiful and smart woman. She loves her parents very much without knowing that she is a “foundling child”. When she knows that, she gets shocked. Coincidentally, her true mother Patimah, is the one who works for her as a helper

all this time. When they finally find the truth, Siti Rayati and Patimah reunite after being separated for years.

