

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter explains the research methodology that is being used in the study. It consists of research design, research procedure, data source, data collection and analysis, along with the synopsis of the stories. The chapter then closes with the presentation of an example of data analysis.

3.1. Research Questions

The study is conducted to answer the following questions:

1. What are represented by acts of bullying in Ludwig's three children's books?
2. What meanings can be construed from the representations?

3.2. Research Design

The study will use a qualitative analysis design. According to Adedoyin (2020) qualitative research deals with collecting and interpreting data to find an explanation about social issues. Meanwhile, Mohajan (2018) defines qualitative research as the way people define something and be understandable to the social reality. It allows researcher to explore and interpret certain situation in order to get an insight.

Since the research is aimed at exploring how bullying phenomena in Ludwig's selected texts is constructed and to learn about the representations of the constructions, the qualitative analysis design is considered suitable for this research. To do so, the study applied textual analysis and limited the data to the word choices, sentences, and utterances that contain evidence for the constructions of bullying in the stories. In order to conduct the research, Hall's framework of representation theory is used to support the study.

3.3. Research Procedure

The study was designed to take the following procedure. First, identifying the parts that shows bullying incidents. Second, classifying the identified bullying incidents into data based on the characters taking part in the incidents. Finally, the textual evidence that have been classified is then interpreted to discover and explore to construct the representation of the acts of bullying and its meanings.

3.3.1. Data Source

The data for this study is taken from three selected children's books by Trudy Ludwig that were published by Tricycle Press. The titles of the books are *My Secret Bully*, *Just Kidding*, and *Trouble Talk* that were released in 2005, 2006, and 2008. All of the 32 page-books are in the form of picture book. One of the reasons these three books were chosen was because the author seemed to deliberately portray a bully character. Ludwig, the author of the books, seems to have her own concern about the issue of bullying after the same problem happened to her daughter. The stories are capable to presents and captures the act of bullying in friendship between peers.

3.3.2. Data Collection and Analysis

Several major steps were taken to collect the data from all the three selected books by Trudy Ludwig. The steps are as follows:

1. Finding and reading the stories. They were retrieved from YouTube and uploaded in 2014 (*My Secret Bully*), 2019 (*Trouble Talk*), and 2020 (*Just Kidding*).
2. Close reading of all three stories many times over to get better understanding of the bullying context in the stories.
3. Highlighting the bully characters from each story and identifying the incidents of bullying that occur in all of the stories. In order to do that, the

characters of the bully and the victim, the setting, and the resolution were also highlighted.

4. Classifying the context of bullying according to the tendency of repeated patterns. It was written in the form of a table format.
5. Interpreting the context of bullying in relation to the construct the representation of acts of bullying. These were obtained from all bullying events in stories.
6. Drawing a conclusion.

Below is an example of how the data were analyzed and interpreted. The tables are presented as follows:

3.3.2.1. Example Table of Data Analysis

Textual Evidence	Context	Interpretation	Types of bullying being exercised
<p>Back in my old school, my friends would joke around with me, but they never made me feel like <i>I</i> was a joke. <i>"Rock ... paper ... scissors!"</i> "Hah! You lose, Cody!" says Vince. "D.J.'s on your team." I look at the guys. Nobody says anything about Vince's dumb way of choosing whose team I'm on. Suddenly, I don't feel like playing and I start heading home.</p>	<p>There is a decision-making process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DJ feels that there is a difference in feelings and treatment when he used to play with his old friends with his new friends now. • There was social bullying that made DJ canceling his plan to play 	<p>Social Bullying</p>

basketball with
his friends

The table above shown one of the events of bullying from the story *Just Kidding*. It all started when the boys wanted to play basketball. Vince acted like the person who led the game and decided which team D.J. in was by playing rock-paper-scissor. When the boy who played rock-paper-scissor against Vince lose, he laughed and mocked him because it means that the boy should took D.J. in his team. Vince's behavior that makes fun of D.J indirectly shows that he did social bullying to D.J.

3.4. Synopsis

My Secret Bully is a story about a girl named Monica who experienced being bullied by her childhood peer, Katie. They used to be so closed and shared almost everything until Katie all of sudden changed. Katie, out of nowhere, started gossiping about Monica and bullying her couple of times. Not only that, Katie also prohibited Monica to play with other kids while she can be friends with anyone. When Monica asked what is going on between them and why Katie acted like that, she said that there was nothing wrong. Katie even gaslighted Monica and made her felt like there was something wrong with her instead of Katie. Monica started to feel confused, anxious, and loses her friends. Sad being rejected with her own friends and surrounding made Monica did not want to come to school for three days straight, and her mother noticed it. She finally talked to her mom about the problem. Fortunately Monica's mother understand about the problem and taught her about role-playing and how to deal with person like Katie. The next day, when Katie starts gossiping about Monica, she walked straight into Katie and stand for herself. After that, Monica never even saw Katie again. Monica learned the hard way that friends do not treat each other the way Katie treated her, and it is important to be around with people who accept who we really are.

Trouble Talk, on the other hand, was a story that raised issues about gossip, rumors, and the power of words. At first, when Maya was charged by her teacher to be a welcome buddy to Bailey. She was afraid that Bailey did not like her, but it turns that Bailey was fun to be around with. Bailey loves to talk and make jokes, but unfortunately she had a trouble with things that she talked. She did say hurtful words to her peers, teasing her friends, making gossips and spread rumors that were not true, and she said those things without feeling guilty. After Maya talked to Ms. Blood, the school counselor, Bailey started to change her behavior and even apologized to her friends after all the things she did. In the end of the story, Maya seemed to think about the changes that she felt in Bailey and acted mature by thinking back to Bailey's good things instead of being hostile towards Bailey.

Unlike the two stories by Trudy Ludwig, the story titled *Just Kidding* raised the theme of bullying against male peers. The story started when the boys wanted to play basketball right after school time. D.J., who did not have a team yet had to wait for the other picked him by playing *rock-paper-scissor game* which the loser had to took him. He was so mad and felt like a loser, so instead of playing with them he decided went home. Earlier, everything was fine as he first moved to his new school, but then it all changed after he got chose as a goalie for his school team. Vince, who at first nice to him turned to be a bully and teased him whenever he got changed whether in school, in school bus, or even inside the class. He often did verbal bullying to D.J. and when D.J. got mad he said it was a joke as if it means nothing to him. D.J. then got some tips and tricks from his father and brother about how to handle a bully like Vince, and he practiced it quite well. Unfortunately, Vince still bullied him. One day, Vince put a sticky gum on D.J.'s chair and refuses to take it off. Then D.J. and his father went to the school counselor to help them handle this problem because Vince behavior got worse. Vince eventually stopped bugged him and D.J. then made friends with people he likes and can appreciate each other.

3.5. Concluding Remarks

This chapter has discussed the research method and steps that were taken in data collection and analysis process in this study. It also provides an example of how bullying incident was analyzed. The findings from the data and the analysis will be discussed in the following section.