

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter elaborates the methodology conducted in the research. It consists of the design of the research, data source, data collection and data analysis.

1.1. Research Method

This research was a text analysis that used written words as the data. The research then used qualitative descriptive to collect the data. Qualitative descriptive research generates data that describe the ‘who, what, and where of events or experiences (Kim et al., 2017, p. 23). This means that by using this method, the focus of the research is to understand the individual human experience in its unique context. Therefore, this method was the most suitable method to describe the data that answer the question concerning this research since the research attempted to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by the subject described in words and languages.

1.2. Data Source

The primary data that was used in this research are “I Am Number Four” novel written by Pittacus Lore (2010) and its film adaptation with the same title directed by Daniel John Caruso (2011). The novel has 34 chapters and 440 pages and the duration of the film is 110 minutes. “I Am Number Four” received a lot criticism because of the changes that happened in the film adaptation, resulting in the cancellation of the film adaptation’s sequel. One of the changes is the changes in the characterization of the main character, John Smith. Therefore, the researcher chose this film adaptation to find out how the changes affect the characterization of John Smith in the film adaptation.

1.3. Synopsis of the Data

“I Am Number Four” is a story about a teenager named John Smith (Number Four) who has extraordinary strength. John Smith was an alien from Lorien, but he was sent to Earth along with the other eight children to escape from Lorien's holocaust when the marauding Mogadorians, who killed all the other LORIENS, overran the planet. Each of the nine was assigned a protector who has the intelligence but not power and John Smith's protector is Henri. Once they arrived on Earth, the nine children had to live separately because they can only be killed by the Mogadorians in order.

Since Number Three was already killed, the Mogadorians kept chasing John Smith and Henri, so they were forced to keep moving from one city to another and keep changing identities. Despite the fact that his nomadic lifestyle has made it difficult to form meaningful connections, John Smith experienced the joy of first love and gained a new best friend who has always believed in extraterrestrial life. John Smith began to unlock his full potential and decided to fight back the Mogadorians with the help of his friends and the other children that he would soon find.

1.4. Data Collection

The data were collected based on the conflicts that involved John Smith, the main character. There were six conflicts found in both the novel and film adaptation. The conflicts were grouped into three labeled as covering up John Smith's identity, defending the Earth, and jealousy. The researcher then analyzed each conflict separately.

The chosen conflicts in the novel were analyzed in three steps. First, the researcher identified who were involved in the conflicts. Second, the researcher determined the relations between John Smith and the other participants involved in each conflict. After that, the researcher determined the cause of the conflicts followed by how the conflicts were resolved. The researcher then took the same

steps to the chosen conflicts found in the film adaptation; identified the participants in each conflicts, determined their relation with John Smith, and determined the cause of the conflicts as well as how the conflicts were resolved. After analyzing the chosen conflicts with the several steps mentioned above, the differences on how the conflicts were managed in both the novel and the film adaptation were realized.

1.5. Data Analysis

From the analyzed conflicts in both texts, differences on how the conflicts were constructed. They are then framed by theory of adaptation (2006) proposed by Hutcheon to find out the characterization of John Smith and answer the research question.

There were several steps taken to analyze the data collection. First, the researcher elaborated the conflict resolution made by the main character in the novel. Then, the researcher elaborated the conflict resolution made by the main character in the film adaptation while pointed out the changes in the resolution by comparing it to the resolution in the novel. The changes that were made in the film adaptation then were explained to show how they affect the characterization of John Smith in the film adaptation using a theory proposed by Linda Hutcheon (2006). How the changes affect the characterization of John Smith in the film adaptation answered the research question formulated by the researcher. Then, the conclusion was drawn at the end to finish the research.

The presented table below is the example of the analyzed data.

Table 1

Data Analysis of John Smith's Incident with Sam in the Novel

| PARTICIPANTS | RELATION WITH JOHN | CAUSES OF THE CONFLICT | RESOLUTION |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Sam | John's Friend | Sam saw John using his power in the woods when he was fighting with Mark and his friends. | John Smith covered up his identity by highlighting the illogical assumption of having superpower. |

Table 2*Data Analysis of John Smith's Incident with Sam in the Film*

| PARTICIPANTS | RELATION WITH JOHN | CAUSES OF THE CONFLICT | RESOLUTION |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Sam | John's Friend | Sam saw John using his power in the woods when he was fighting with Mark and his friends. | John Smith admitted to having superpower, but threatened Sam to keep identity safe. |