

Chapter 3

Research Methodology

3.1 Method of the Research

This study observed and analyzed a novel. The form of the study was conducted through qualitative descriptive study. Burns and Grove (1993) explains that qualitative approach is conducted due to the following beliefs (1) there is no single reality, (2) reality based upon perceptions that are different for each person and change over time (3) what we know has meaning only within a given situation or context. The reasoning processes used in qualitative approach involves perceptually putting pieces together to make whole. Since there is no single reality and there are many perceptions and interpretations when people analyze a novel, qualitative approach is suitable to use in analyzing the subject of the research.

Meanwhile, descriptive method was used in the process of analyzing the data. Gal R.L. as cited by Anggraeni (2004) states that descriptive method is a method of research that involves collecting data in order to test hypothesis or to answer question concerning the current status of the subject of the study. The goal of descriptive method is to describe or illustrate the fact, characteristic and relationship of research elements systematically, factually and accurately.

The data presentations gained in this research were described descriptively. It means that the data were described in the form of words rather than numbers. This research was conducted to find out the answer of the two research questions; to find out about the portrayal of contemporary Chinese

woman presented in the novel and to find out the feminism issues raised in the novel.

3.2 Research Procedure

In analyzing the subject of the research which is the novel *Shanghai Baby* written by Zhou Wei Hui, feminist literary criticism which focused on existentialist feminism perspective was used as the tool of analysis. In carrying out the research, several steps had taken as mentioned below;

1. Finding the subject of the research which is the novel *Shanghai Baby* written by Zhou Wei Hui and deciding the main issue from the subject of the research. The main issues are the portrayal of contemporary Chinese woman in the novel and about the feminism issues raised by the author in the novel.
2. Conducting library research to collect and comprehend references that are related to the research.
3. Formulating research questions about the portrayal of contemporary Chinese woman in the novel *Shanghai Baby*.
4. Finding some textual evidences which are related to the research questions.
5. Analyzing and interpreting textual evidences by using existentialist feminism perspective.
6. Drawing conclusions and suggestions based on the findings of the research.

3.3 Subject of the Research

The subject of this research was a novel entitled *Shanghai Baby*. This novel was written by Zhou Wei Hui in 1999. This novel was chosen to be analyzed because this novel has brought up many controversial issues about the portrayal of the new generation of woman in China. The controversial theme in the novel focused on the portrayal of the main woman character where the main woman character in this novel is described as a woman who does not apply the traditional values of woman in China as mentioned by Ban Tso, a highly educated Chinese woman, through her three obedience and four virtues of women who ironically did not follow these codes herself.

3.4 Technique of Data Collection

The data were taken in the form of textual evidences. The close reading strategy was implemented as the main data collection technique in which the text is read thoroughly and carefully for preliminary in depth data analysis. Wikipedia Encyclopedia (2006) defines close reading as the careful sustained interpretation of a brief passage of text and paying close attention to individual words, syntax and the order in which sentences and ideas are unfold as they are read. The data taken was only related to the portrayal of contemporary Chinese woman in the novel *Shanghai Baby* which was based on its characterizations. The findings then were classified and assessed in accordance with the issue of the study. The novel itself would act as the main source from which the data could answer the proposed research questions.

3.5 Technique of Data Analysis

Existentialist Feminism as one of the part of Feminist Literary Criticism was used as the framework to analyze the data in this research. Findings that related to the research questions were connected to other sources from which the inferences are taken.

The theme and the main woman character in the novel were analyzed first. The analysis of main woman character is used to gain the valid information about the novel and to comprehend what the author wants to extend. The way of analyzing the main woman character was by revealing her characterizations and her descriptions based on textual evidences found in the novel. Afterwards, the findings in the form of textual evidences were analyzed by using Feminist Literary Criticism which would be focused on Existentialist Feminism Perspective. The result of the analysis was discussed in the next chapter along with the interpretation of the data.

