

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter discusses the method used by the writer in conducting the research. This chapter consists of four sub-chapters: method of the research, source of data, data collection, and data analysis.

3.1 Method of the Research

In the present study, qualitative descriptive method is used to answer the following research questions:

1. What characteristics of typical Javanese women are portrayed in the novel?
2. What characteristics of Nyai Ontosoroh as the main Javanese woman character are portrayed in the novel?
3. Are there any differences between Nyai Ontosoroh's and typical Javanese women's characteristics portrayed in the novel? If any, why?

Qualitative research “involves an in-depth understanding of human behavior and the reasons that govern human behavior” (<http://en.wikipedia.org>). Therefore, this method is appropriate to identify Javanese women's characteristics portrayed in the novel of Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *Bumi Manusia*.

In qualitative research, the researcher put judgments and interpretations in understanding and answering the research problems. Since qualitative research is interpretative, descriptive method used to describe the interpretation of the data. The

interpretation, however, is much better to be presented in the form of thick description and narration (Musthafa, 2003 cited in Alwasilah, 2003).

3.2 Source of Data

The source of the data is a novel written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer entitled *Bumi Manusia*; the first volume of Buru tetra logy (2005). This novel portrays the life of Indonesian people under colonialism at the turn of nineteenth century and presents a vivid image about the social, cultural, and political life in that era. Besides, this novel also portrays Javanese women's characteristics and condition under colonialism in the late of nineteenth century.

3.3 Data Collection

In collecting the data, the writer implemented close reading strategies in which the text was read thoroughly and carefully for preliminary in-depth-analysis. The writer especially focused on characters' utterances, thoughts, attitudes, way of thinking, etc. which show Javanese women's characteristics evidenced in the novel. Ratna (2004) asserts that the source of data of qualitative research on literature is the texts or the works themselves, and the data was gained through words, sentences, and discourse. Thus, the data was taken in the form of textual evidence.

3.4 Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, there were several steps as follows:

1. Reading carefully and thoroughly the textual evidence to gain an in-depth understanding to the whole data.
2. Categorizing the data into three categories. First, the typical Javanese women's characteristics; second, Nyai Ontosoroh's characteristics; third, factors leading Nyai Ontosoroh to have different characteristics from typical Javanese women.
3. Relating and comparing the collected data to the other sources of books, journal, and articles from Internet issuing on women, Marxist feminism theory, Javanese culture, Javanese women's status and characteristics, etc. This step is important in helping the writer to categorize the data into the characteristics of Javanese women in the novel.
4. Sorting out the collected data in order to choose the most appropriate data to answer the research questions.
5. Presenting the data in the form of tables.
6. Analyzing and investigating the data. In this stage, there are several procedures:
 - a). To identify typical Javanese women's characteristics, in this study, Sardjono's theory (1992) about Javanese women's characteristics were employed. Based on Sardjono's study (1992) to nine novels written by Javanese authors, she points out that Javanese women are often portrayed as subordinates. Besides, they are submissive, loyal, obedient, patient, and able to repress their negative emotions.

- b). To identify Nyai Ontosoroh's characteristics, the testimonies of other three characters in the novel, namely, Minke, the narrator of the story; Dr. Martinet, a doctor of Mellema's and know well this family; Magda Peters, a teacher of Minke who has the chance to witness the life of Nyai Ontosoroh were identified. As proposed by Aminuddin (2004: 80-1) that one of the ways to analyze the character is by investigating what the narrator and another character say about him or herself. The three characters were chosen due to their frequent discussions on Nyai Ontosoroh. Thus, they are assumed to contribute on dismantling the characteristics of Nyai Ontosoroh.
- c). To answer the third question, Nyai Ontosoroh's characteristics and typical Javanese women's characteristics were compared and then investigated whether there are any differences between them. Then, the writer applied Marxist feminism theory to disclose the causal factors of the differences.
7. Presenting interpretations and discussions of data analysis in the form of description and narration.
8. Drawing conclusions and suggestions.

