

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter explains the research methodology which is divided into two main parts: (1) research design; and (2) data collection and analysis.

3.1 Research Design

This study is qualitatively designed to find answer to questions regarding readers' understanding to three short stories which are: *Razia Agustus*, *Bu Tam* and *Ziarah*. Those short stories are taken from a collection of short stories entitled *Razia Agustus*.

Razia Agustus by Sobron Aidit was first published on 1992 by Stichting ISDM Culemborg Publishing in Europe. However in Indonesia, the book is published by PT. Gramedia Pustaka Utama on 2004. It consists of 15 short stories.

Generally Aidit tells about the life of political detainees as well as their family who experience physical and social violence post-Gestapu (September 30th movement in 1965 attempt to seize control of the government).

Eddy (retrieved in 2004) in his article "Semi-Memoar Sobron Aidit" makes in-depth discussion of *Razia Agustus*. He categorizes it as semi-memoir. The term semi-memoir come from Utuy Tatang Sontani who called his own novel entitled *Di Bawah Langit Tak Berbintang* as a semi-memoir. According to Sontani, semi-memoir is a literary work that integrated fact and fiction.

Although the collection consists of 15 short stories, each short story is dependent. Those stories are linked by *Gestapu* event. This setting of time is

divided into two parts: pre-*Gestapu* and post-*Gestapu*. From the collection the writer chooses three short stories: *Razia Agustus*, *Bu Tam* and *Ziarah*. The writer has reason in choosing the sample from the collection. The short stories are chosen based on the setting of time that link all the stories, *Gestapu*. *Razia Agustus* represents a short story in which the setting is pre-*Gestapu*; while the two others, *Bu Tam* and *Ziarah* set after *Gestapu*. *Razia Agustus* and *Ziarah* are directly involved with the narrator while on *Bu Tam*, the narrator acts as the third person who tells the life of other character. The above is the general description of short stories that are chosen as the instrument of the study.

1. *Razia Agustus*

Razia Agustus is the first story on the collection. It tells about the experience of the main character 'aku'. He lives alone in his rented house in Jakarta. At the evening he goes to school. He has an oldest brother who he used to call 'bang Amat'. His brother used to visit him on his rented room, but after a few times he suddenly disappeared. 'Bang Amat' is being chased by some military persons. One night, some men came to his room searching for 'bang Amat'. They are threatening to send him to prison if he doesn't tell where 'bang Amat' is. At the same day his father is also asked about 'bang Amat' existence. But none of them know where 'bang Amat' is.

After a few years, it is reported that 'bang Amat' shoot to die in Boyolali by a military person. But the memory of him still resides in the heart of 'aku'.

2. *Bu Tam*

Bu Tam is the fifth story on the collection. The narrator 'aku' tells about an old woman who he usually called bu Tam. She is named after her husband's name, Tamsir. Bu Tam has to support her life by herself because her husband was sent to prison in Sumatra 26 years ago.

Bu Tam is 60-years-old and hunchbacked woman. Despite of her physical weakness, she is a smart. She can describe her life story very clearly. She tells that she and her husband are opposed to the government. They were tortured in prison. However after a few time, she was released while her husband was still in jail. The bad treatments that she experienced were the reason why she is crooked. Although she passed many hard times, but she never gives up.

3. *Ziarah*

Ziarah is the last story on the collection. It is the peak of the author's disappointment. The story tells about the second visit to Jakarta of the narrator 'aku'.

He surprise finding that his brother's life miserable. Although having a well education background, he and his family live poorly. His present condition because he was previously sent to pulau Buru.

Besides meeting his brother, 'aku' planning to see his parent graves in Belitung. But his brother tells not to go because his last visit to Belitung has cause bad impact on their relatives who lives there. The government at that time (Orba) called and interrogated them suspiciously. Hearing that condition, he is very sad but then he realizes that he, his family and relatives are the victims of their generation. They experience bad treatments because of their relation to 'bang Amat'. Although 'bang Amat' already passed away, but he and his

3.2 Data Collection and Analysis

3.2.1 Subjects

Population is a group of people, things that have the requirement of the research problem. In this study, the writer chose the 5th semester (Education A class) of an English Department of a university in Bandung. The total population is 25 students. They are chosen because they are learning prose subject. From the subject the students learn how to produce response to literary texts.

According to Koentjaraningrat (in Pradopo et al. 2001) sample is parts of whole population which become real object for a research. To decide sample from a population, a researcher should conduct sampling technique.

The writer purposively selects the sample of this study. It is relevant with a qualitative research viewpoint that viewing most sampling is neither probability but purposive sampling. Alwasilah (2002:194) states that by choosing purposive sampling; a researcher can decide the sample that appropriate to the purpose of the study. Further, Indriani (2001) notes that purposive sampling is used for a particular purpose, so it is usually used in literary research designed qualitatively.

Since the researcher has a big role in deciding the sample in purposive sampling, in this study, the writer chooses 10 students as the samples of the study.

The reasons of choosing the sample of the respondents are: first, the samples were learning prose subject. The subject helped them to analyze literary works; second, the lecturer of prose subject has recommended the samples in consideration that they will give more informative data than other students. The assessment is based on the active participation in classroom.

3.2 2 Techniques of Data Collection

Hadi (in Indriani 2001) notes that data collection attempts to gain a relevant, accurate and reliable data. Relevant means related to the objective of the study, accurate means suitable or appropriate to the purpose of the study and reliable means can be tested the validity.

There are two steps taken in order to collect the data: distributing questionnaire and interview.

3.2.2.1 Questionnaire

The questionnaire is the primary data of the respondents. According to Richard et al. (in Wray et al. 1998) a questionnaire is a set of question on a topic or group of topic designed to be answered by the respondents.

The questions on the questionnaire cover about the intrinsic elements of the stories: the characterization, the issue, and the textual evidences supporting the issue. The writer also asks the respondents about their knowledge about the author. The last, the writer asks about the factors contributing to their understanding on the issues they grasp from the stories.

Below is the list of activity relating to questionnaire distribution as well as the time.

Table 3.1. The List of Activity in Distributing Short Stories and Questionnaires

No.	Activity	Time
1.	Distributing short stories	December 17, 2004
2.	Distributing the questionnaires	December 19, 2004
3.	Collecting the questionnaires	December 24, 2004

To distribute the short stories, the writer asks for permission to the lecture of prose class who is the writer's former supervisor, Bpk. Budi Hermawan, S. Pd. On December 17, 2004, the short stories are distributed at the end of the class. The total students on education class A are 25 students. However, on that day, there are 2 students that are absent. That is why, the writer only distributes the short stories to 23 students. The students are given few days to read the short stories. After 3 days, the writer gives the respondents the questionnaires. The questionnaires contain the written response of the respondents. On the following week, the respondents return the questionnaire. From the questionnaires and the advice from prose subject lecture, the writer decides to choose 10 students as the samples of the research. They are chosen mostly because they are considered to be the ones that will provide informative information needed in this present research.

3.2.2.2 Interview

Guba and Lincoln (in Moleong 2004:137) classify interview into two categories: covert and overt. Covert interview is a close interview where the interviewees do not know that they are being interviewed. Consequently, overt interview is an open interview. The interviewees know that they are being interviewed and know the purpose of the interview.

In this research, the writer conducts an overt interview. The writer draws the concept and guidelines of the questions to be asked to the respondents. The concept is prepared before the interview. The interview and the list of question depend on the situation of the respondents.

The interview transcription is supporting data. It emphasizes the data taken from the questionnaire. The purposes of interview are to discover additional

information which cannot be achieved by using other methods and to confirm the consistency of the respondents' answer. It is person-to-person interview and divided into two sections. The interview is recorded and later transcribed. The transcription is available on appendix.

Table 3.2 The List of Interview

No.	Activity	Time
1.	Interview I	January 7, 2005
2.	Interview II	February 14, 2005

3.2.3 Procedure of Data Analysis

According to the New Lexicon Dictionary of Basic Words (1989), analysis is an examination or method of study which breaks down a whole into its parts. In other word, in the process of analysis a researcher examines the collected data and then categorizes the data in order to get pattern of the research findings.

The data are gathered from the respondents by asking them to give response through questionnaires and interview. They are then categorized to make comparison among those categories.

The category system is created in order to answer the research problems:

1. What issues do the readers grasp from the short stories?
2. What factors contribute to readers' understanding of the issues they grasp?

To answer research question 1, the writer categorizes the respondents answer to two categorizations: political issues and social issues. Four categorizations are formulated in order to answer the research question 2. The categorizations are other texts, related experiences, personal attitudes and literary prototype

The respondents' statements are put in tables according to the category previously made. Each response's statement from each respondent is available for further analysis. The writer will also discuss the findings based on the writer's understanding toward the related theories provided in chapter II.