

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter covers the research method of the present study. It includes subject of the study, research questions, research methodology, technique of data analysis, context of the research, and data presentation.

#### **3.1 Subject of the Study**

The study focuses on the main character named Charlie in the novel *The Perks of Being A Wallflower*. It is a coming-of-age novel written by Stephen Chbosky, which was first published in 2000 under MTV Publisher. This book has been chosen as the primary source for the research because it captures Charlie's awkwardness in his early stage of being an adolescent. It relates with the discussion of the study that deals with the issue of identity construction and the role of media plays in constructing Charlie's identity as an adolescent.

#### **3.2 Research Questions**

The research questions of the study are formulated as follows:

1. How is Charlie's identity as a young adult constructed in the text?

2. What role does the print-rich environment play in constructing Charlie's identity?

### **3.3 Research Method**

The study is conducted within a descriptive text analysis by applying a qualitative method. Qualitative method is a study approach in which the researcher tends to explore the unknown variables, asks the broad and general questions to the participants, collects data of words, and reports all the study in a subjective way (Creswell, 2003, p. 12). Creswell added that the aim of using qualitative method in the research is to understand a social or human problem in a 'complex holistic picture' formed with words.

Related to the purposes of the study, the study employs textual analysis as the research technique to analyze the issue of identity construction of the novel's main character. Truex (1996) argues that textual analysis can be conducted by compiling the data as the textual evidence from the text which are most likely in the form of words or idiom that has explicit definition. The data of the study which are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences are critically analyzed, described, and interpreted in the study to answer the research questions.

### **3.4 Data Collection**

Due to the study which mostly deals with narrative textual analysis, the data of the study are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences. The data were collected by reading the novel thoroughly and critically selected as textual evidence in order to answer the research questions.

### 3.5 Data Analysis

In analyzing the main character's identity, the study intersects two frameworks, one that talks about new realist fiction in young adult literature by Nilsen & Donelson (2001), and the other one is identity theory by Stuart Hall (2000). The collected data were then analyzed by categorizing them into table of how the main character's identity is constructed and the role of print-rich environment plays in constructing his identity. In conducting the research the following steps have been taken as follows:

- Firstly, selecting the subject of study, Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, as the primary data.
- Secondly, reading thoroughly the novel and formulating the statements of problems
- Thirdly, writing notes and highlighting the main character's acts, thoughts, and statements in form of words, phrases, and sentences as the textual evidence.
- Fourthly, analyzing the collected data using framework theory of young adult literature as proposed by Nilsen and Donelson (2001) and identity theory by Stuart Hall (2000).
- Fifthly, interpreting and discussing the analysis
- Finally, making conclusion and suggestion for the further the study.

### 3.6 Data Presentation

The collected data are then presented in the tables such as the following:

#### 3.6.1 Sample Table 1: How Charlie's identity is constructed in the text.

No	Context	Textual Evidence	Comment
1.	Home and Family: Charlie describes his family background.	I don't think that there is a favorite kid in our family. There are three of us and I am the youngest. My brother is the oldest. He is a very good football player and likes his car. My sister is very pretty and mean to boys and she is in the middle. I get straight A's now like my sister and that is why they leave me alone. (p. 5)	Charlie's family reflects on a typical of successful family in which their achieve things that their parents are proud of.

**3.6.2 Sample Table 2: Media role in constructing Charlie's identity.**

<b>No</b>	<b>Media Roles</b>	<b>Types of Print-Rich Environment</b>	<b>Textual Evidence</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1.	As a tool of literacy skill and critical thinking development.	Books	I think I will stop putting quotation marks around Nothing's name because it is annoying and disrupting my flow. I hope you do not find this difficult to follow. I will make sure to differentiate if something comes up.  (p. 13)	Charlie learns how to write well.

These tables are aimed to easily explain and categorize the result. The complete presentation of the data is available in the appendices section.

