

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter focuses on the research methodology that consists of the method of the research, context of the research, data collecting technique, and data processing.

3.1 Method of the Study

The research uses a qualitative approach through a case on literary works that are the lyrics of *The Island's Song* and *A Million Tears* written by Miyazawa Kafuzumi. Ting-Toomey (1984) as cited in Matveev (2002) offers a definition of qualitative research as, “the study of symbolic discourse that consists of the study of texts and conversations.” This approach is taken as it has several strengths (Matveev 2002):

1. Obtaining a more realistic feel of the world that cannot be experienced in the numerical data and statistical analysis used in quantitative research;
2. Flexible ways to perform data collection, subsequent analysis, and interpretation of collected information;
3. Provide a holistic view of the phenomena under investigation (Bogdan & Taylor 1975; Patton 1980);
4. Ability to interact with the research subjects in their own language and on their own terms (Kirk & Miller 1986);
5. Descriptive capability based on primary and unstructured data.

This research, thus, employs a descriptive method. A descriptive method investigates the data the researcher uses without controlling or giving any treatment to variables. Nazir (1988) explains that the purpose of the descriptive research is to make descriptions and sketches systematically, factually, and accurately about the facts. This description method is intended to know the condition and the phenomena of the facts occurring presently (the current status) and its naturalness at the time of speaking. This method is considered relevant to the present research since it involves the collection of data for the purpose of describing the existing phenomenon.

In line with this, Sudjana and Ibrahim (1984: 64) describe a descriptive method as:

“An investigating that tries to describe the existing phenomena events and conditions. Therefore, the problems investigated are actual issues considering its character.” (Sudjana and Ibrahim 1984: 64)

The main reason for using this method is that this research was conducted to describe the phenomenon or condition related to representation of events or conditions as they were exposed in the two lyrics written by Miyazawa Kafuzumi. To analyze the lyrics, the writer then used a document analysis. A document analysis describes a given state of affairs as fully and carefully as possible. Fraenkel and Wallen (1993) states:

“Document analysis is just what its name implies – the analysis of the written or visual contents of document textbooks, essays, newspapers, novels, magazines, articles, political speeches, advertisements, pictures – in fact, the contents of virtually any type of written or visual communication can be analyzed in various ways. A person’s or group’s conscious and unconscious beliefs, attitudes, values, and ideas are often revealed in the documents they procedure.” (Fraenkel & Wallen 1993: 389)

Further; to analyze the data, the writer decided to use a semiotic approach. According to Umberto Eco broadest definition of semiotics (cited in Chandler, 2002), it is concerned with everything that can be taken as a sign. Furthermore, Chandler describe that semiotics involves the study not only of what we refer to as ‘sign’ in everyday speech, but of anything which ‘stands for’ something else, which take the form of words, images, sounds, gestures and objects. Moreover, it is related with meaning-making and representation in many forms, perhaps most obviously in the form of ‘text’ and ‘media’. In this case, it is the song lyric.

In order to know about the representation that the lyrics have toward the American army’s treatment of Okinawan, the writer chose the song lyrics entitled “The Island’s Song” and “A Million Tears” as the data. Then, as the supporting data, the writer quote the interview statement of the author, articles about the songs and historical background of Okinawa Island, which were online published.

3.2 Data Source

The data source comprises the song lyrics created by the vocalist of the composer Kazufumi Miyazawa entitled *Island’s Song (Shima Uta)* and *A Million Tears (Hyakumantsubu No Namida)*. A Lyric as a poem and as well as a form of literary work is made in order to express the author’s poetic experiences or messages. The deliverance of the lyrics is a way for the author to communicate his/her inner experience to the audience. Therefore to probe into the communication there would need an analysis toward the lyrics. From my observation, research on lyric analysis in the Language and Arts Department of

UPI is still limited. For that reason, the writer chose to analyze lyric as my research

The writer chose these songs because of three reasons. Firstly, it is the interest of the writer to the great hit single of *Shima Uta* which was edited as a single in Okinawa in 1992, but it crossed the island's frontier soon. It was edited in all Japan in June 1993 and became a great hit. The single *Shima Uta* (Island Song) became a massive hit and selling 1.5 million copies. The single of *Hyakumantsubu No Namida* was part of the *Japaneska Album* by the Boom, Japanese group band lead by Kazufumi Miyazawa, and its album photo jacket taken in Okinawa as the beginning of Miyazawa interest to Okinawa.

Secondly, this beautiful Okinawan melody was covered by numerous artists including some artist in outer Japan. Particularly, *Shima Uta* (Cancion de la Isla) covered by an Argentinean multi-talented artist Alfredo Casero became a massive hit in Argentina and one of the support songs of the Argentinean team at the 2002 FIFA World Cup. Alfredo Casero won the Gardel Award for the song. The song was chosen as the theme song for the World Football TV shows Korea-Japan 2002. The supporter group of the Japan soccer team (Ultras Nippon) also choose *Shima Uta* as one of their support songs and 50,000 people together in the stadium sang this song for the games of the Japanese team during the 2002 FIFA World Cup. Since it was famously chose as theme in many events, for that reason the writer was more interested to the songs.

Lastly, it was because the writer was interested in songs especially performed by Japanese Participating Youth in the Japan Cultural Show during the 32nd Ship for South East Asia Youth Program 2005 by using also Japanese hand

sign language. Even after 10 years since its release, the song is still sung in many events and countries.

As the secondary data, the writer quoted an interview statement of the song author, articles about the song and historical background of Okinawa Island and The World War II, which were online published. It could also be fruitful to know the relation between the song and the historical background of Okinawa Island.

3.3 Data Analysis Technique

Any kind of research will need analysis; it's a central part to determine the quality of the research. In literature research, analysis starts from data collection, as refer by Siswanto (2005: 67) to Miles and Huberman formula in the research:

“What do we consider to be analysis? We consider that analysis consists of four concurrent flows of activity: data collection, data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing/versification.” (1984: 21)

Therefore, the research was conducted in a cycle back and forth manner within the formula to gain a better analysis quality.

Since the concept of lyric as poem and as well as a form of literary work is formed from texts and according to Chandler (2002), a text is an assemblage of signs (such as words, images, sounds and/or gestures) constructed (and interpreted) with reference to the conventions associated with a genre and in a particular medium of communication, so to seek the meaning of texts, which construct the lyric, should analyze the signs that exist in the lyric. In discipline, an

approach that concerns signs, which have meanings in all literary works, is the semiotics approach.

In analyzing the data, the writer used a semiotic approach. The analysis is focused on the signs in the song lyric as the constructive elements, which can determine the meaning in a work of arts especially written texts. According to Saussure (as cited in Selden and Widdowson, 1993), a structural analysis is an interpretation which stresses that human action is guided by beliefs and symbolic concepts, and that underlying these are structures of thought in the forms of expression in various forms. Pradopo (as cited in Jabrohim, 2001) formulates another definition; he explains that literary work is a spherical unity of constructor elements that relate to each other. Therefore meanings could be known from the exploration of its elements or structure.

The above, the research was conducted by using a semiotic approach. Firstly, to analyze literary work such poem and lyric, it could be done through two ways of approaches, namely intrinsic and extrinsic. The intrinsic method is oriented to the lyric substances as a system such versification, theme, point of view and imagery. The extrinsic, however, is oriented to the outer dimension of the text, such historical approach, biographical relevance, and stylistic devices. (Reaske 1966)

Secondly, the lyrics were analyzed into three modes of signifier and signified relativity. They are symbolic mode, iconic mode, and indexical mode. Through this analysis combined with the analysis above, the lyrics hypothetically address options of the song messages. (Chandler 2002)

The last step of analysis is to analyze the text in relation to other texts (intertextual). The aim of this analysis is to explore more on the meaning of the text. The other texts that the writer chose to compare with were the history and culture of the Okinawa Island and interview that the writer quoted as secondary data.

The result of the analysis is discussed in the next chapter together with the interpretation of the data.

