

## CHAPTER 3

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1. Methodology

There are two approaches to literary research. The first is intrinsic approach i.e., literary research which uses the data from the text as an autonomous source. The second is extrinsic approach i.e., literary research which uses the elements from outside the text (Wellek and Warren, 1989). This intrinsic approach is also known as “micro literature”. It refers to a study that considers that literature can be understood without any help of other elements. On the contrary, “macro literature” is an understanding of literature in which the other elements outside literature are taking a part in the process.

Intrinsic approach is done if the researcher puts apart literature from its environment. In intrinsic approach, literature is considered to have autonomy and can be understood without a need to relate to its environment such as publisher, readers, and authors or the social background. This intrinsic approach is called as structural approach and the theory used is micro literature theory (Damono, 2000).

Extrinsic approach to literature is done if the research is aimed to reveal the relations between literature with its environment, such as author with his social background, readers, and publisher. Those elements play a

role in deciding the social function of literature. In the extrinsic approach, the research uses macro literature theory (Damono, 2000).

Literature study that uses extrinsic approach includes sociology literature that examines the relationship between literature and society. In examining this relationship, there are three things to be understood. First is the social context of the author which deals to the social position of the author in society and its relation to the readers. Second is literature as a reflection of society which deals to things of how literature is capable of describing society. Thus literature is said to be a reflection of society. Third is the social function of literature which deals with question whether literature gives lesson to the readers or its function is only as entertainment (Damono, 2000). The research used the second approach, namely how literature is capable of reflecting the condition in society.

There are two approaches to sociology of literature. First is approach that is based on the idea that literature is a reflection of social-economic process in society. This approach examined the elements outside literature in the process of research. Second is the approach that focuses on literature as the data to examine. The method used is text analysis. This method is aimed to know the structure, thus used to have a deep understanding the social phenomena outside literature (Damono, 1984).

### 3.2. Data Collection

The data of this research is the text of *The Ghost* novel written by Danielle Steel, published by Delacorte Press, 1997. This novel consists of ii and 352 pages. All pages are divided into two parts: dedication parts of Danielle Steel as the author to her husband and the content consists of 23 chapters.

This research examined the text in the novel that has something to do with the focus of this research including (a) the text of the novel *The Ghost* which reflects the relationship between the characters to the society thus to have a look at the problem encountered by the characters; (b) the social life of Danielle Steel that has relationship with the novel *The Ghost*; (c) the historical background or the social condition of the America in 18<sup>th</sup> century that drives the creation of novel *The Ghost*; and (d) the opinion of theorists related to American Dream.

The main data in this research includes aspects of relation between the characters and the society, and will be viewed as a unity that creates a totality to find the view of the author. Besides the main source, the research is supported by the secondary data in form of written source about the social life of the author and the condition of America in 18<sup>th</sup> century

### 3.2.1. Research Questions

The present research is geared toward answering the following questions:

- a. What is American Dream as revealed by the character in the story?
- b. How does Sarah Ferguson achieve her American dream?
- c. What is the author's perception on American Dream in 18th century as suggested in the novel?

### 3.2.2. Danielle Steel's Biography

According to <http://www.daniellesteel.com>, the Steel's complete name is Danielle Fernande Dominique Schulein Steel. She was born in Manhattan on August 14th, 1947 and she is the one and only child of the couple Dr John Schulein Steel and Norma de Camara Stones. His father was the owner of a brewery plant in Munchen that managed to escape from Nazi in World War 2. Her mother was a Portuguese, a daughter of Portuguese diplomat.

Steel spent much of her early childhood in France, where from an early age she was included in her parents' dinner parties, giving her an opportunity to observe the habits and lives of the wealthy and famous. Her parents divorced when she was seven, however, and she was raised primarily in New York City and Europe by her father, while her mother went to Europe to get freedom as she wanted. So, Steel was rarely seeing her mother.

As she grew up, Steel was sent to Lycee Francais of New York, a school located in the center of New York City. This school was built in 1935 and required the students to use French in school area. Ever since Steel was 13 years old, her talents as a writer had been visible. It was proven by the poems she made. At first, Steel was dreaming of becoming a fashion designer, it was due to she once attended a course in Parsons School of Design in 1963, but at last, she went to a University of New York studied Literature Design from 1963-1967.

Danielle Steel failed in her marriage five times. In every marriage, she always wrote novel(s) and dedicated it to her husband, just like *Going Home* and *Passion's Promises* that she wrote that she wrote for her first husband, Claude Eric Lazard, a twenty-year old man the she married while she was only seventeen years old. It was not a very happy marriage because they got divorce in the ninth year. From this marriage, Steel gave birth to one beautiful daughter, Beatrix. It seems that this marriage was the start of her career. Initially she worked at a public relations agency in New York called *Supergirls* for several years as a freelancer, but for the articles she wrote were extraordinary good, she started to write book as mentioned earlier, *Going Home* and *Passion's Promises*.

In 1974 she once again married to Danny Zuqelder, a black market dealer. The marriage lasted only for three years due to the business her husband was running influenced her life and Zuqelder was later convicted

of a series of rapes. From this marriage, Steel wrote a novel entitled *Now and Forever*.

In 1978, Steel married for the third time to a laborer named William Toth. Just like her previous marriages, this marriage did not last long, but Steel gave a birth to a son named Nicholas. In this marriage, the name of Danielle Steel was climbing up and got known by American readers that triggered her glamorous life. The difference of their social status was the reason of their divorce in 1981. In the same year, Steel married again with John Traina, an old and rich consultant. During her marriage with John Traina, her name and career was on the top. She felt so happy with John Traina so that she wrote two novels for him, *Rememberance* and *Crossing*.

Steel married for the last time in 1997 with Silicon Valley financier Tom Perkins, but the marriage ended after 4 years in 2002. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danielle\\_Steel\\_-\\_cite\\_note-steger-15](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danielle_Steel_-_cite_note-steger-15) Steel has said that her novel *The Klone and I* was inspired by a private joke between herself and Perkins. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danielle\\_Steel\\_-\\_cite\\_note-donnally-16](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danielle_Steel_-_cite_note-donnally-16) In 2006, Perkins dedicated his novel *Sex and the Single Zillionaire* to Steel.

Steel's novels are not read only with Americans, but also in all over the world, men and women, old and young in 47 countries and in 28 different languages. There are more than 390 million copies of her novels

and every novel she wrote will turn into bestseller novel (<http://www.randomhouse.com/features/steel>).

Besides *The Ghost*, Steel had written some bestseller novels, they are, *Zoya*, *Once in a Lifetime*, *Crossing*, *The Gift*, *Vanished*, etc. he had wrote for about 83 novels and her last novel was *44 Charles Street*.

### 3.2.2.1. Danielle Steel's Writing

Steel's novels have been translated into 28 languages and are available in 47 countries across the globe. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danielle\\_Steel\\_-\\_cite\\_note-segretto-8](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danielle_Steel_-_cite_note-segretto-8) The books, often described as "formulaic," tend to involve the characters in a crisis of some sort which threatens their relationship. Many of her characters are considered over-the-top, making her books seem less realistic. The novels sometimes explore the world of the "rich and famous" and frequently deal with serious life issues, like illness, death, loss, family crises, and relationships.

Despite a reputation among critics for writing "fluff" (trivial or superficial writing), Steel often delves into the less savory aspects of human nature, including incest, suicide, divorce, war, and even the Holocaust. As time progressed, Steel's writing has evolved. Her later heroines tend to be stronger and more authoritative, who, if they do not receive the level of respect and attention they desire from a man, move on to a new life. In recent years Steel has also been willing to take more risks

with her plots. *Ransom* focuses more on suspense than romance, and follows three sets of seemingly unconnected characters as their lives begin to intersect. *Toxic Bachelors* departs from her usual style by telling the story through the eyes of the three title characters, men who are relationship phobic and ultimately discover their true loves.

Steel has been criticized for making her books overly redundant and detailed, explicitly telling the story to readers instead of showing it to them. This sometimes has the effect of making the readers feel like they are on the outside looking in rather than living the story.

To avoid comparisons to her previous novels, Steel does not write sequels. Although many of her earliest books were released with initial print runs of 1 million copies, by 2004 her publisher had decreased the number of books initially printed to 650,000 due to the decline in people buying books. However, her fan base is still extremely strong with Steel's books selling out atop charts worldwide (Maryles, 2004)

Twenty-two of her books have been adapted for television, including two that have received Golden Globe nominations. One is *Jewels*, the story of the survival of a woman and her children in World War II Europe, and the family's eventual rebirth as one of the greatest jewelry houses in Europe.[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danielle\\_Steel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danielle_Steel) - cite note-segretto-8  
Columbia Pictures was the first movie studio to offer for one of her novels, purchasing the rights to *The Ghost* in 1998. Steel also reached an



agreement with New Line Home Entertainment in 2005 to sell the film rights to 30 of her novels for DVDs.

### 3.2.3. The Plot of *The Ghost*

The story in this novel was started with the finding of an old diary by Charlie, a tenant of a very beautiful chateau in Shelburne falls, Massachusetts. The diary that was written in 1789 belonged to a woman named Sarah Ferguson, who was the owner of the chateau in the last two centuries.

Sarah Ferguson was a very beautiful and live wire British Noble woman. When her father, a widower, was about going to die, he tried to find a man to take care of Sarah. Through many considerations, he finally found an Earl of Balfour named Edward, a noble with farmland next to his.

Five days after the marriage, her father passed away, and this was the beginning of her suffering. Her husband took everything from her and tortured her, even when she was pregnant. Six times she was pregnant and as much she lost her babies, and as a consequence, her husband was angry and was threaten to kill Sarah if she couldn't give him heirs.

Once, when her husband got an accident in hunting, her brother in law who also loved her asked her to run away to America, but Sarah

rejected due to she herself intended to go to America as well. She had heard and read about America that called as 'The New Land' and she was sure that she could be a successful farmer. With a few of her mother's jewelry, Sarah sneaked out to Boston in 8th October 1789 with a very little ship called *Concord*.

Most of the passengers in the ship were men and shocked by the presence of a beautiful woman in the little ship. They, include the crew, tried to hamper her journey because this was going to be a very long and dangerous journey. But she begged them by saying that this journey was important for her. Then, everybody in the ship was amazed by her, because there was no beautiful, young woman like Sarah courage enough to face a long and dangerous journey. After risking their live for about 7 weeks and 4 days, they finally arrived in Boston.

Due to her bravery, a colonel named Stockbridge put sympathy to her. He felt responsible to protect her and finally helped Sarah to find a fertile farmland. One day, Sarah was so scared due to an Indian lancer came while she was looking around her new farmland next to a waterfall. She thought that she was going to be killed. But the lancer just came by and then left. She stood still and set teeth that if she didn't disturb the Indian tribes, they wouldn't disturb her. But actually, she saved by Colonel Stockbridge's control.

In the beginning, it was hard for Sarah due to she had to go on all by herself. She lived on a small house and had to do things the she hadn't ever done before. She had to find the suitable farmland and men to help her to take care of her farmland.

Finally, with help of two young and kind men, she could build a very simple house but better than her previous house. She turned out into a successful farmer due to her hard work and diligence without any inheritance from her husband that had been passed away. She at last could forget her husband brutality and got married to a Frenchman named Francois that had been live in Deerfield for a long time. To show his love, Francois built a very beautiful and sturdy château for Sarah. Sarah lived happily with Francois and her three daughters. Even if his husband died with boots on, she lived with her daughters with success and happy in her old age. Sarah Ferguson then passed away in 1845 with success she made.

### **3.3. Data Analysis**

Data analyzing techniques are always in a line with theory, concept and method used. The aim of this research by using sociology of literature is to examine the concept of American Dream in the story. This research is also examined the intrinsic elements of the novel to reveal the author's perspective about society in a literary text.

Overall, this research followed these following steps:

1. Deciding the main data as the object of the research, namely the novel *The Ghost* written by Danielle Steel, and collecting the secondary texts related to the theoretical framework, namely sociology of literature and the extrinsic elements of the novel.
2. Analyzing the main data (the novel *The Ghost*) using sociology of literature and intrinsic elements of the novel.
3. Establishing categories of the findings in relation to the theories, namely sociology of literature and intrinsic elements of the novel.
4. Presenting the data findings, and
5. Drawing conclusion.

### 3.4. Data Presentation

To accomplish data analysis, the presentation of the data is formulated in the table as follows:

<b>American Dream</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Excerpt</b>	<b>Analytical Note</b>

Table. 1

<b>Sarah Ferguson's characterization</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Excerpt</b>	<b>Analytical Note</b>

Table. 2

The complete data presentation is available in the Appendices section.

