

## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The previous chapter described the theoretical framework of the study. To find the way a tragic hero is emerged in the novel *Things Fall Apart*, the analysis uses Bakhtin's concepts of formulating hero figure in historical novel of emergence through applying narrative analysis focusing on events. This chapter presents information relating to the research methodology, the research procedure in collecting the data and also a sample of data presentation.

#### 3.1 Research Method

This study observed and analyzed a novel. It focuses on analyzing the way a tragic hero *Things Fall Apart* is emerged. The research followed the qualitative approach and textual analysis method in collecting, classifying, discussing and interpreting the data. Qualitative approach is the analysis of research that tends to use the forms of words rather than numbers (Miles and Huberman, 1994: 8).

In addition, Berg (2001: 3) mentions that textual analysis as one of the popular methods of observation in qualitative research. According to Lockyer (as cited in *Sage Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Method*, 2008: 865) textual analysis is a method of data analysis that closely examines either the content and meaning of texts

or the structure and discourse. Research on textual structure and discourse employs different methodologies; among others is the narrative analysis.

Narrative analysis itself, refer to a family of analytic methods for interpreting text that have in common a storied form (Riessman, as cited in *Sage Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Method*, 2008: 539). Further Riessman (2008: 539) states that the term *narrative* is illusive, it carries many meanings and used in a variety of ways by different scholars, often used synonymously with story. In the familiar everyday form, speaker/narrator connects events to a sequence that is consequential for later action and for the meanings listener/reader is supposed to take away from the story. Events are perceived as important, selected, organized, connected, and evaluated as meaningful for a particular listener/reader. Since novel has a storied form, a narrative analysis can be applied to the research.

To sum up, utilizing a qualitative approach and textual analysis method, the study is expected to uncover the way a tragic hero in *Things Fall Apart* is emerged.

### **3.2 Data Collection**

The present study examines a novel entitled *Things Fall Apart* written by Chinua Achebe. It becomes the primary data of the research. The original version of the novel written in African language, later it is translated into English. The novel was firstly published in 1958 by William Heinemann Ltd, but for this study the writer uses the novel which was published in 1996 by Heinemann Educational Publishers.

The novel is written in English and consists of 3 main parts, 25 chapters and 179 pages. *Things Fall Apart* is a story about life of primitive Nigerian people that struggle to defend their cultural values and beliefs from the coming of the missionaries.

Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* introduced serious social and psychological analysis into Nigerian literature. It is set in the early days of colonization and tells the tragedy of a warrior hero who rigidly identifies with the values of traditional Ibo society. This novel won immediate international recognition. It also became the basis for a play by Biyi Bandele. The production was put together in 1997 by the Performance Studio Workshop of Nigeria and was presented as part of the Kennedy Center's African Odyssey series in 1999.

### **3.3 Research procedures**

In this study, the data are collected from the novel *Things Fall Apart* in a form of words, phrases and sentences. The focus in gathering the data is on finding the textual evidence related to the main character's changes and development in his life. In gathering the data, the study follows several steps. First step is to conduct a close reading in order to get more comprehension to the issue presented in the novel. The close reading process is also used to highlight events that show the main character's changes and development in the story. The data is presented in a form of table. After gathering the data, the next process is to analyze, interpret and discuss the data based

on the theoretical framework stated on the previous chapter in order to answer the research question. Finally, the study is ended by drawing conclusion of the study and suggestion for further research.

### 3.4 Sample of Data Presentation

To accomplish data analysis, the presentation of the data is formulated in a form of table, it is made as follow:

NO	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT	TEXTUAL EVIDENCE	ANALYTICAL NOTE	PROCESS OF CHANGES / DEVELOPMENT
1.	<p>The story begins with the description about Okonkwo as the main character. It is said he is titled as a great and famous wrestler. Therefore he is trusted by his clan.</p> <p>Once a man from Mbaino murdered a woman of Umuofia. The people decide the other village to choose between war and compensation. At the end it is decided to sacrifice a young man and a virgin as compensation to Umuofia.</p>	<p>Age was respected among his people, but achievement was revered. Okonkwo had clearly washed his hands and so he ate with kings and elders. And that was how he came to look after the doomed lad who was sacrificed to the village of Umuofia by their neighbors to avoid war and bloodshed. The ill-fated lad was called Ikemefuna. (P.8)</p> <p>Many others spoke, and at the end it was decided to follow the normal course of action. An ultimatum was immediately dispatched to Mbaino asking them to choose between wars on the one hand, and on the other the offer of a young man and a virgin as compensation. (p.11)</p>	<p>The hero is given a task. As a one of the great man in Umuofia. Okonkwo is trusted to take care of the boy who is sacrificed to Umuofia in order to avoid a war until the Oracle's decision.</p>	<p>This event presents the hero as a great man. He possesses a good life. He has wealth, fame and reputation, and so the people trusted him (given a task) to take care of a boy until the Oracle's decision.</p>

The complete data presentation is available in appendices section.

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The Emergence Of A Tragic Hero:

A Narrative Analysis Of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*

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