

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter elaborates the method of the research. It contains the research questions, the research subject and context, research procedure, the data collection procedures and the data analysis.

3.1 Research Questions

The research is conducted to answer the question:

1. How are Postfeminist and Popular Culture perspectives reflected in the novel through the three women characters?

3.2 Research Subject and Context

The subject of the research is a novel entitled *A Woman's Life* written by Rachel Billington. This novel first published in Great Britain in 2002 by Orion. Rachel Billington has published fifteen novels, including *A Woman's Age*, *Loving Attitudes*, *Theo and Matilda* and *Bodily Harm*. She had been President of PEN, and is co-editor of *Inside Time*, the national newspaper for prisoners.

This novel consists of 35 chapter and 368 pages. The main issue discussed in this research is the reflection of Postfeminist Perspective and Popular Culture influence through the three women characters in the text.

3.3 Research Method

This research employed a qualitative descriptive method with textual analysis approach of the novel *A Woman's Life*. According to Bogdan and Taylor (cited in Moleong, 2009), qualitative method produces descriptive data in forms of written and oral from investigated the character. A qualitative descriptive method is appropriate for the study because it can be describe phenomena related to women's characteristics as in Rachel Billington's novel and will need a lot of description. The writer uses textual analysis approach as an approach to analyze the novel. The textual analysis method is conducted to analyze and describe the construction of three women characters in the novel *A Woman's Life* by analyzing the words, phrases, sentences and dialogues that are related to the three women characters as depicted in the novel.

According to Natasha Mack, et.al, (2005) the strength of qualitative method help to interpret and to understand the complex textual descriptions of how people experience, that is behaviours, beliefs, opinions, emotions and relationship of individual. So, the writer decided to use qualitative method uses textual description by analyzing the sentences and dialogues in the novel *A Woman's Life*.

3.4 Data Collection and Data Analysis

The data of the research is collected from the novel *A Woman's Life* written by Rachel Billington. The data is taken in form of textual description by analyzing the sentences and dialogues in the novel. To get the textual evidences,

the writer collects the data by reading and finding the textual data to support the construction of three women characters in the text. The way of analyzing the characters in this study is by revealing the characterization and descriptions based on textual evidences in the text. After analyzing the textual evidences, the writer interpret the findings based on the theories in previous section.

3.5 Data Presentation

In this section, the writer describes data presentations of the construction of the three women characters and how Postfeminist and Popular Culture Perspectives are reflected through the three women characters in *A Woman's Life*. The writer puts five projects of Postfeminism to 'have it all' argued by Stephanie Genz (2010). The five projects of Postfeminism to 'have it all' are: **Project number 1**, Postfeminist woman considers to struggle and combine her job aspirations and material success with her desire for a rewarding homelife. **Project number 2**, the figure of Postfeminist is the young, unattached and mostly city-dwelling woman who is caught between her independent urban life and her despair to find "Mr. Right" with whom to settle down. **Project number 3**, Postfeminist endeavor to struggle of contemporary womanhood to blend and integrate her contradictory aspiration. **Project number 4**, the Postfeminist expresses the pains and pleasures of her problematical quest for balance in a world where personal and professional, feminist and feminine position are mutually pervasive. **Project number 5**, the Postfeminist is unable to deny the existence of friction and struggle to combine her feminist and feminine, public

and private desires. From the table below, the writer puts to which Postfeminist and Popular Culture are reflected through the three main female characters. The following data presentations will be elaborated in the next chapter.

3.5.1 The construction of the three women characters (Postfeminist and Popular Culture Perspectives are reflected through the three women characters)

A. First main Female Character (Constance O'Malley)

No	Textual Evidences (Constance O'Malley)	The project of Postfeminism to 'have it all' and Popular Culture that reflected through the three women characters	Interpretation
1	'you're working in a pub yet you're a friend of my cousin williams's wife.' Connie got the job. She joined ten other extroverts on the <i>Evening Standard</i> diary page..... (p.32)	Project no.1	The character reflects the Postfeminism project no.1 which is postfeminist struggles and combine her job aspirations and material success with her desire for a rewarding homelife. The text shows the struggle of Connie to get a job from a pub girl till she gets a job as a journalist.
2	In less than a year, Connie had become a leading feature writer. She sat in the diary room still, but only because she enjoyed it. (p.41)	Project no.1	The character reflects the Postfeminism project no.1 which is postfeminist struggles and combine her job aspirations and material success with her desire for a rewarding homelife. The text shows the struggle of Connie to reach her success and get material success.

B. Second Main Female Character (Fay Blass)

No	Textual Evidences (Fay Blass)	The project of Postfeminism to 'have it all' and Popular Culture that reflected through the three women characters	Interpretation
1	I am much more settled now I've decided to work towards becoming a surgeon. I've never minded working hard, although sometimes I look at my poor skinny body and wonder just how it can carry on up to sixteen hours a day and so much of it bent over a book. (p.31)	Project no.1	The character reflects the Postfeminism project no.1 which is which is postfeminist struggles and combine her job aspirations and material success with her desire for a rewarding homelife. The text shows the struggle of Fay in becoming a surgeon and she becomes more settle after that.
2	Fay lay on the floor of her apartment doing sit ups. Thirty of them and then ten press-ups. It was Saturday evening, the sort of time other women had dates. With pleasure, she felt her heartrate rise. A surgeon has to be as strong, calm, and fit as a top athlete. When had she decided she wouldn't have dates? Let's put it graciously. A long time ago now. 1960. (p.45)	Project no. 2	The character reflects the Postfeminism project no.2 which is the figure of postfeminist is the young, unattached and mostly city-dwelling woman who is caught between her independent urban life and her despair to find 'Mr. Right' with whom to settle down. The text shows that Fay is a successful surgeon and get material success, but in the other hand, she finds dilemma with whom she will settle her heart with.

C. Third Main Female Character (Nina Purcell)

No	Textual Evidences (Nina Purcell)	The project of Postfeminism to 'have it all' and Popular Culture that reflected through the three women characters	Interpretation
1	Dear Fay, I am so Lucky to have such a wonderful husband and children and mother families are just the most important thing in the world. ... (p.37)	Project no. 5	The character reflects the Postfeminism project no.5 which is the postfeminist is unable to deny the existence of friction and struggle to combine her feminist and feminine public and private desires. The text shows the happiness of Nina in having a family. She cannot deny her private desire in having a homelife.
2	... But there's something more confusing, you see, I'm begining to think I married William because I thought he understood, and now I'm beginning to think he doesn't. ... (p.51)	Project no. 2	The character reflects the Postfeminism project no.2 which is the figure of postfeminist is the young, unattached and mostly city-dwelling woman who is caught between her independent urban life and her despair to find 'Mr. Right' with whom to settle down. The text shows that Nina is in her desparation to find someone who will understand her.

The data presented above will be analyzed and discussed in the next chapter. The analysis of the textual evidences will answer the reseach questions which were mentioned in the first chapter.