

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter discusses the aspects dealing with the method in collecting the information and analyzing the data regarding the topic of the study. These aspects includes Research Design, Data and Data Source, Data Collection, Credibility and Dependability and Data Analysis.

#### **3.1. Research Design**

This study is designed to find the answer about the characterization of young adolescent learner portrayed by the main character in *Fish in A Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. Since the data are collected through reviewing and analyzing any possible source of information such as a collection of books and other printed materials in the library, the research design of this study is a library research on the basis of analyzing the content or content analysis.

This study also conducted through qualitative approach. This study presents the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words of people and behavior which can be observed as what Bodgan and Taylor defined about qualitative research (Moleong, 2001:3). The researcher collects the data descriptively as the data in the form of words rather than number. As it is intended, this study analyzed the data to describe the characterization of the main characters as young adolescent learner in "Fish in a Tree" novel.

Furthermore, this study is also designed to be descriptive research since this study provide a picture of a situation as it naturally happens (Burns and Grove, 2003:201). It may be used to justify current practice and make

judgment and also to develop theories. It can be pointed out that the researcher tried to collect the data, organized them, classified, identified, analyzed the data, then made the interpretation on the data, and at last, the researcher drew a conclusion based on the data analyzed and present it in a verbal form.

### **3.2. Technique of Data Collection**

All the data of this study were collected qualitatively. The data of this study are in the form of any information or description of characters in the form of narration, character's speech or dialogue, character's point of view, the thoughts, action and behavior dealing with the characterization. In this study, the researcher collected the primary data from a novel entitled *Fish in A Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. The researcher who acted as the most important instruments in determining the quality of the study collected the data through some steps as follows:

#### **1. Reading the novel thoroughly**

The researcher read the novel entirely to understand the whole story of the novel as well as to understand every characters and their role in the story until the end. By reading the novel thoroughly the researcher can catch the whole information from the novel as well as to avoid the misinterpretation.

#### **2. Selecting the description of characters from narration and dialogue**

In this study, not all of characters were analyzed. The researcher choose to examine only the characters which appears the most in the story. They are Ally Nickerson, Albert Dubois and Keisha Almond which are the

learner of sixth grade in the story of the novel. In this case, any corpus of novel in the form of narration or dialogue which being analyzed is related with those three characters.

3. Collecting any information dealing with the character characterization through skimming, noting and coding

After having the characters to be analyzed, the researcher do skim reading in order to find the author's method and technique of characterization. Therefore, the researcher do this step at least three times by skimming the novel. The researcher marks every corpus that is paragraphs or dialogue contained any description (directly or indirectly) describing the character's characteristics in certain colors and also adding comments or note taking.

4. Sorting through all information gathered

Finally, after coding and noting on the transcript of novel dealing with how the author characterize each characters, the researcher gathered the information in order to make an evaluation or concluding the characterization of characters and its special traits in the next procedures which is data analysis.

### **3.3. Data and Data Source**

The data of this research is any information in the form of description of characters through the narration, the character's point of view and dialogue. The characters that the researcher focusing to analyze are Ally, Keisha and Albert.

The main source of the data in this study is a novel entitled "Fish in A Tree" by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. The researcher select Fish in A Tree Novel as

the main source of this study is not only because the great messages the book tries to convey but also most importantly the novel itself meet the criteria of the study and contains the material that the researcher want to analyze. Fish in A Tree probably one of the most recent novel which brought education environment as theme that it is such a recommended book to read not only for children but also for educators or teacher. The fact that the story is told from the perspective of the main character which has disability in learning may open new perspective for teachers about their students.

Moreover, the researcher also took information from various sources to support the base of theories of the research. The researcher accessed the information from media such as books, journals, articles, from library and the internet.

### **3.4. Technique of Data Verification**

In order to check the validity of the data, the researcher presents the credibility of this research data. According to Korstjens and Moser (2017: 121), credibility is “the confidence that can be placed in the truth of the research findings”. In this study, the credibility of the data was achieved by doing two essential things; which are reading the novel "Fish in A Tree" thoroughly more than two times and also noting and coding every description and dialogue that explain the characterization of characters to be analyzed. The researcher have to at least read the book more than two times to at least get the familiarity from the book. Moreover, in order to verify the truthfulness of the data, reading the book only once may not enough as the researcher often

miss some information causing lack of accuracy. In addition, to keep track the information of the data, the researcher also took a note on every description which stating the information of the subject to be analyzed, so that addition and reduction can be done easily in the future.

### **3.5. Technique of Data Analysis**

Data analysis is the process a researcher uses to reduce data to a story and its interpretation (LeCompte and Schensul: 1999). Therefore, data analysis can be referred to as the process of reducing large amounts of collected data to make sense of them. The researcher presents this sub session under the name data analysis to provide explanation about how the data are organized, reduced through summarization and categorization so that it can be interpreted as something meaningful. The researcher in analyzing the data of this study used Miles and Huberman (2014:12) theory of qualitative data analysis as three concurrent flows of activity, which are data condensation (formerly known as data reduction), data display and conclusion drawing or verification:

#### **1. Data Condensation**

Data condensation refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and/or transforming the data that appear in the full corpus (body) of written-up field notes, interview transcripts, documents and other empirical materials (Miles and Huberman: 2014, 12). In this study, by condensing, the data are clearer to be organized by the researcher. After reading *Fish in A Tree* several times, the researcher selected any information

in the form of description or narration or characters' point of view and the dialogue that describe the characterization of the one to be analyzed. The selection is based on the criteria and indicators of every table or checklist.

The researcher do this by classifying the notes from the transcript of the novel into table of classification. The first table consists of method of characterization that classified into dramatic, character on character, contextual and mixed. The second table consists of technique of characterization that divided into three dimensions which are Physiological, Sociological, Psychological. The researcher considered the selected corpus by aspects of each dimensions, then reducing some data which does not match the criteria from the list.

## 2. Data Display

After the condensation of the data, the researcher display the data to help understanding the further analysis step which is conclusion drawing. According to Miles and Huberman (2014: 12), the most frequent form of display for qualitative data in the past has been extended text. In this study, the researcher display the data in the form of description through words and table figure which has been underlined or marked with different colors in each selected text in the novel and after sorting it, the researcher presents it in the form of table figures of classification.

## 3. Conclusion Drawing/Verification

Finally, drawing conclusion is the final activity in the concurrent flows of Data Analysis. The researcher drew conclusions to consider what the

analyzed data means and to assess their implications for the existing problem. In this study, the conclusion was drawn from the data that has been analyzed, condensed and displayed. The researcher required to review the data as much as it is necessary to cross-check and to verify the emerging conclusion to determine that the data is valid. The researcher drew the conclusion after successfully identifying the characterization and the traits of the main characters in the novel by interpreting the corpus based on the indicators list and the relation in daily real life or phenomena that the researcher has seen or has experienced.





The researcher presented the conclusion of the data analyzed through theoretical framework as follows:

**Table 1 Framework of The Characterization Of Young Adolescent Learner Portrayed By The Main Character In Hunt’s Fish In A Tree**

CONSTRUCTS	DIMENSION	VARIABLES	INDICATORS	EXAMPLE OF DATA
Characterization is the depicting, in writing, of clear images of person, his actions and manners of thought and life. A man's nature, environment, habits, emotions, desires, instincts: all these go to make people what they are, and the skillful writer makes his important people clear to us through a portrayal of this elements. (Thrall and Hibbard, 1936, p.74 – 75)	Analyzing method of presenting a character (characterization) – William Kenney (1966)	<b>Discursive</b>	Discursive method is the method in which the author presents the character in the story directly through narrative statements.	-
		<b>Dramatic</b>	Dramatic method is the method in which the author lets the characters describe themselves to the readers by their own words and actions.	<i>People act like the words “slow reader” tell them everything that’s inside. Like I’m a can of soup and they can just read the list of ingredients and know everything about me. There’s lots of stuff about the soup inside that they can’t put on the label, like how it smells and tastes and makes you feel warm when you eat it. <b>There’s got to be more to me than just a kid who can’t read well.</b></i> (L.M. Hunt, Fish in a Tree, page 75, chapter 17)

		<p><b>Character on Character</b></p>	<p>Character on character method is the method to present ones character through other character. It means that one character describes or talks about another character in the story.</p>	<p><i>And I have two friends, Keisha and Albert. Keisha likes to bake and she's brave. You'd like her, Daddy! And Albert is like a computer; he is so smart. ...</i> (L.M. Hunt, Fish in a Tree, page 130, chapter 32)</p>
		<p><b>Contextual</b></p>	<p>Contextual method is the method of presenting the character through certain description of their surrounding condition.</p>	<p><i>He clears his throat. "This is a mixture of two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen molecules."</i></p> <p><i>"Will it explode?" yells Oliver.</i></p> <p><i>Albert does not answer. Instead, he unscrews the metal lid and drinks whatever it is. I'm silently freaked out, but Oliver goes nuts. "He drank it! Did you see that? He drank molecules! Gross!"</i></p> <p><i>"It is merely water," Albert reports.</i> (L.M. Hunt, Fish in a Tree, page 36, chapter 9)</p>
		<p><b>Mixed</b></p>	<p>Mixing method is the use of more than one methods in presenting a character.</p>	<p><i>"You two are just so uncouth." She turns to me. "I bet Ally doesn't even know what the word uncouth even means. Do you?"</i> (L.M. Hunt, Fish in a Tree, page 94, chapter 22)</p>

	Analyzing the technique of characterization – Egri Lajos (1964)	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Physiological</b></p>	<p>From the physiological dimension the physical aspects of the character are observed. It concerned with the physical appearances of the characters and healthiness (Mulyawan, 2015, p.9). It can be defined from the <u>character's age, performance, how they look like, the gender and their appearance such as body shape, skin tone, handsome or beautiful, long, black or brown hair, etc.</u></p>	<p><i>For the spring concert last year, before I had a growth spurt, I had to stand in the front row. I liked when Travis called me a dime among pennies. But this year, <b>I get to stand toward the back of the line with the taller kids, right next to Keisha...</b></i> (L.M. Hunt, Fish in a Tree, Chapter 13, page 57-58)</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sociological</b></p>	<p>This dimension describing a character from the condition of character's social environment. It determines such aspects of <u>social status of the characters and also characters relationships with other characters. It can be effectively analyzed through the social life of the</u></p>	<p><i>And then I realize all at once. Of course. How stupid can I possibly be? <b>Albert doesn't have many clothes and he gets a ticket from Mr. Daniels every morning. I guess I never thought about it before. He must get one of the free lunches. I hope I didn't upset him, so I say, "I'm sorry."</b>...</i> ((L.M. Hunt, Fish in a Tree, chapter 17, page 72-73)</p>

			<p>character, e.g. the house, the job, the education, and the social status (Mulyawan, 2015, p.9).</p>	
		<p><b>Psychological</b></p>	<p>The psychological dimension of character's characterization reveals the personality traits aspects of the characters. It usually involves such aspects like how their <u>emotion and thoughts</u>, <u>how they naturally behave</u> affects their <u>action</u>.</p>	<p><i>I watch a mind movie of her taking a stick and drawing a line in the dirt between us under a bright blue sky. She's dressed as a sheriff and I'm wearing black-and-white prisoner stripes. My mind does this all the time—shows me these movies that seem so real that they carry me away inside of them. They are a relief from my real life.</i> (L.M. Hunt, Fish in a Tree, chapter 1, page 5-6)</p>
	<p>Interpreting the character disposition based on method and technique of characterization – Ackerman (2013)</p>	<p><b>Positive traits as special traits</b></p>	<p>A positive traits refers to traits that produce personal growth or help a character achieve goals through healthy means. They also enhance one's relationships and benefit other characters in some way for instance, loyalty. A loyal person would be very helpful to others.</p>	<p>Creativity: originality, ability to create something</p> <p>Curiosity: Searching for new knowledge and experiences</p> <p>Love of Learning: high motivation for learning</p> <p>Bravery: does not easily afraid, said what need to be said</p>

			This traits usually belong to the protagonist character.	Perseverance: keep trying to achieve something despite difficulties
				Honesty: what is said match with the real condition