#### **CHAPTER III**

### RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter describes the research method used in conducting the study. It contains research approach, subject of the study, data and data source, research instrument, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

### 3.1 Research Approach

In conducting the study, the writer used descriptive research. Descriptive research is studies that have as their main objective the accurate portrayal of the characteristics of persons, situations or groups (Polit and Hungler, 2004). Descriptive research attempts to looks at individuals, groups, institutions, methods and materials in order to describe, compare, contrast, classify, analyze, and interpret the entities and the events that constitute their various fields of inquiry (Tavakoli, 2012).

The descriptive research was adopted for collecting and analyzing data of Mikhail's personal identity construction. The writer needed to identify, classify, and describe Mikhail's utterances which were supposed to indicate the construction of his personal identity. Descriptive approach was particularly appropriate because an accurate and authentic description were required.

### 3.2 Subject of the Study

The subject of the study was Mikhail. He was a minor character in novel *the Zahir*. He was twenty-five years old. He was a Kazakh immigrant brought by Esther, wife of character I.

Mikhail was chosen because he was an appropriate character to be analyzed in the novel, moreover focus on personal identity construction. Although Mikhail was a minor character, yet his existence in the novel had significant roles. His meeting with Esther had considerably influenced plot development. Mikhail had a great contribution in Esther's decision to leave her husband, character I, and to stay far away in Mikhail's village which leaded the conflict began.

Apart from the reasons, Mikhail was imposed a stigmatizing label "epilepsy". It caused him suffered from stigma and discrimination from people in his village. However, In Paris he managed to organize a weekly meeting in a restaurant. He built his own tribe, people who work with him at the restaurant. His life was going better. He transformed from inferior man into superior man and from marginalized person into spiritual leader.

There were three main societies around Mikhail since he was born until he moved to Paris:

# 1) Kazakh steppes people

Mikhail was born in a village in the Kazakhstan steppes and lived there until he was fifteen years old. He grew up in a Muslim family. At that time, his country was led by the Communist Party. The

majority of villagers lived in poverty. Besides Muslim and Communist, there were also nomads and hunters living around him.

#### 2) Almaty people

Almaty is a big city in Kazakhstan. Mikhail and his mother moved there after the collapse of the Communist regime. He lived there for six years. He made friends with youth in Almaty. He worked as a trainee mechanic at a garage until he met Esther and he became her interpreter. Then he worked as a bouncer at a striptease joint until Esther brought him to Paris.

# 3) Paris people

Mikhail moved to Paris when he was twenty-one years old. In Paris he managed to organize a weekly meeting in a restaurant. He founded his own community among people in the restaurant, a group of beggars, and a group of new nomads.

#### 3.3 Data and Data Source

The source of data was a literary work. It was an English translation novel 'The Zahir: A Novel of Obsession' written by Paulo Coelho. The original version 'O Zahir' was published in Brazil in 2005 by Editora Rocco. The English version was published on July 3, 2006 by Harper Perennial. It was translated by Margaret Jull Costa. The writer used the pdf version of the novel which was downloaded from www.kkoworld.com on September 10, 2014. It contains 191 pages. The pdf version facilitated data collection, so the writer did not need to retype an entire data.

The data of this study were Mikhail's utterances in the form of word, phrase, sentence, and storytelling. A single word and phrase could signify the expression of stance in conversation such as "glad", "know", and "in fact", and could be used to construct identity position such as pronoun "I" and identity label such as "epilepsy" and "higher powers". Sentence was generally suspected to contain identity construction implicitly or explicitly. Meanwhile, Mikhail's storytelling also provided some information about Mikhail's life story. It was important to know his background life in order to analyze his identity construction.

#### 3.4 Research Instrument

Instrument is any device which is used to collect the data (Tavakoli, 2012). The study only used human instrument. The writer was the main research instrument to collect the data. The concept of researcher as instrument was frequently used to describe the researcher's significant role in collecting, and analyzing data (Polit and Hungler, 2004). The data were collected by reading the novel and selecting only Mikhail's utterances.

# 3.5 Technique of Data Collection

The writer used the following steps while she collected the data from the data source:

# 1. Close reading

The writer read the novel repeatedly to comprehend the story, Mikhail's characterization, and his personal history.

### 2. Selecting data

In this step, the writer only focused on Mikhail's utterances. The writer numbered an entire Mikhail's utterances either his conversation or storytelling in the novel as presented by figure 3.1. There were 312 utterances belong to Mikhail. Later, the data were processed in next data analysis.

"What are the steppes like?" I ask.

15 /"They're vast plains with barely any vegetation, as I'm sure you know."

I do know, but it had been my turn to ask a question, to keep the conversation going.

"I've just remembered something about Kazakhstan," says my publisher. "Some time ago, I was sent a typescript by a writer who lives there, describing the atomic tests that were carried out on the steppes."

16/"Our country has blood in its soil and in its soul. Those tests changed what cannot be changed, and we will be paying the price for many generations to come. We even made an entire sea disappear."/

It is Marie's turn to speak.

Figure 3.1 Example of selecting data

# 3.6 Technique of Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the writer did several steps:

# 1. Identifying data

The writer identified the selected data that indicate or contain the construction of Mikhail's personal identity. In this process, the writer analyzed Mikhail's conversation and storytelling in the novel to understand the context, his interlocutor, and something discussed.

The process of identifying the selected data was focus on labels attached to Mikhail and his stancetakings. Each label and stance was marked based on its type as shown in figure 3.2 and figure 3.3. The

label was marked by underline: red for label given by Mikhail and purple for label given by others. Meanwhile, the stance was marked by highlighter: pink for evaluation, yellow for affective positioning, green for epistemic positioning, and blue for alignment. It was applied to make the process of classifying data easier to do.

"What's your name?" asks Marie.

#### 8/ "Mikhail."/

"Well, Mikhail," and I see that Marie has understood everything, "why don't you come with us for an hour or so; the restaurant we're going to is just around the corner. Then the driver will take you wherever you want to go. If you prefer, though, we can cancel our reservation and all go and have supper at the Armenian restaurant instead. That way, you'd feel less anxious."

Figure 3.2 Example of identifying selected data for label

13/"I was waiting for someone to ask that," and there is an almost gleeful look in Mikhail's eyes now. "Whenever I say where I was born, about ten minutes later people are saying that I'm from Pakistan or Afghanistan... My country is in Central Asia. It has barely fourteen million inhabitants in an area far larger than France with its population of sixty million."

"So it's a place where no one can complain about the lack of space, then," says my publisher, laughing.

14/ 'It's a place where, during the last century, no one had the right to complain about anything, even if they wanted to. When the Communist regime abolished private ownership, the livestock were simply abandoned and 48.6 percent of the population died. Do you understand what that means? Nearly half the population of my country died of hunger between 1932 and 1933."

Figure 3.3 Example of identifying selected data for stance

### 2. Classifying data

The writer classified the identified data which were linguistically indexed through kinds of labels, by self and by other, and kinds of stances: evaluation, affective positioning, epistemic positioning, and alignment. The writer used two tables in conducting this process as shown in table 3.1 and table 3.2. The data were inserted

based on its page and line number with format [page]-[line]. For example, a label or stance found in page 3 lines 25 was coded 3-25 in column "data". Frequency and percentage were used to count and report how often different labels and stances on a measurement scale occurred.

Kinds of Labels	Data	Freq	Perc
Label by Self			
Label by Others			

Table 3.1 Classifying data for label

	Kinds of stances		Data	Freq	Perc
	Evaluation				
	Positioning	Affective			
		Epistemic			
	Alignment				

Table 3.2 Classifying data for stance

Later, the writer described the classified data to answer research problems in term of identity construction.

# 3. Describing classified data

Here, the writer examined the classified data to infer the meaning, determine validity, construct description, and summarize the information in the data.

## 4. Drawing conclusion

Finally, the writer drew conclusion based on the result of three steps above.