



CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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3.1 Research Design

This method uses a qualitative approach based on an in-depth analysis of the contents of the novel *Sold* by Patricia McCormick. This method often involves document analysis to gain a deep understanding of how gender influences everyday life and how gender equality can be achieved (David Smilde and Rebecca Hanson 2018). This method is used to assess Lakshmi's literacy skills, which analyzes the novel *Sold*.

3.2 Research Subject and Setting

The subject of research is all about the novel conversations and statements that support the idea of literacy skills. These consist of conversations, monologues, internal reflections, and descriptive sections showing how the protagonist's capacity to read, write, grasp, and communicate turns into a crucial weapon. The novel *Sold* written by Patricia McCormick, focuses on the exploitation suffered by young girls, especially the protagonist Lakshmi. It is a potent literary piece that highlights the stark reality of human trafficking. At the same time, the narrative accentuates Lakshmi's individual growth toward autonomy and empowerment, wherein literacy occupies a pivotal position in her ultimate aspirations and resistance. Thus, this study intends to investigate how literacy, traditional and contemporary forms, act as an agent of change in the protagonist's life, as revealed through the literary devices of the narrative.

3.3 Data and Sources of Data

The data obtained from the novel not only describes various events that occur in the storyline, but also provides an in-depth explanation of each event that takes place, as well as revealing the background, character motivation, and the impact of these events on the development of the plot and relationships between characters in the story. This perspective is in keeping with the argument (Janks, 2010) that highlights the value of literacy in enhancing the critical reading of texts. According to Janks, understanding stories is more than comprehension; it necessitates an analysis of the interaction between language and power in texts, from which meaning derives and affects interpersonal relations. By utilizing critical literacy, readers can deconstruct the ideological underpinnings of a story.

3.4 Data Collection

The following steps are used to collect data for this study:

1. Reading and carefully evaluating fresh texts to have a full understanding of all the relevant parts of the issue being researched.
2. Finding and choosing relevant supporting material that talks about the novel *Sold*
3. Using the chosen literature to enhance the theoretical foundation and support the analysis, to give a richer and more complete picture of the study issue.

3.5 Data Analysis

The researcher in this study looks at the chosen data from the novel *Sold* using a thematic analysis method. The steps are as follows:

1. The researcher gives apt quotations and narrative excerpts that encapsulate exploitation, resistance, literacy practices, and empowerment, among other themes. Novel excerpts that are irrelevant or tangential are disregarded in order to concentrate on Lakshmi's literacy learning.
2. The chosen data are thematically organized systematically, for example, literacy for survival, literacy as resistance, functional literacy, and critical consciousness. This organization enables the researcher to map how various types of literacy develop through Lakshmi's life experiences.
3. Each category is analyzed to interpret its meaning within the novel's context. The researcher relates these themes to the theoretical framework of critical literacy and new literacy, examining how literacy functions as a tool for Lakshmi's empowerment and resistance against exploitation.
4. The final step involves synthesizing the findings to answer the research questions. The researcher concludes that the novel represents literacy as a transformative practice that enables the protagonist to understand her oppression, resist it, and envision independence