



## **CHAPTER III**

# **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

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#### **3.1 Research Design**

This research focused on Coraline Jones's psychological development in the novel *Coraline* (2002) written by Neil Gaiman through a qualitative descriptive methodology. This methodology involves text-centric interpretation attempts to understand the character's thoughts, actions, and emotional development on a deeper level. The analysis was explored through a literary- psychological perspective, especially revealed through Alfred Adler's Individual Psychology theory, Characterization Theory, and Conflict Theory. The purpose of this process for the researcher was to further clarify how Coraline developed throughout the story, particularly incorporating moral choices, symbolic conflict, and self- assertion.

#### **3.2 Research Subject**

The study engaged with the literary representation of Coraline Jones's character in Neil Gaiman's novel *Coraline*. It examined all related dialogue, narrative passages, reflections, and symbolic representations of Coraline's psychological and emotional development that sustained her character trajectory. These ranged from interactions with

biological parents, the "Other Mother", and symbolic spaces of the mirror, the tunnel, the key, the real world, and Other World. All of these aspects were examined as metaphors for Coraline's changing internal state from social interest to neglect, and from resignation to courage. The study explored each of the five dimensions of Adler's Individual psychology- feelings of inferiority, compensation, striving for superiority, style of life (private logic), and social interest (Gemeinschaftsgefühl).

### 3.3 Data and Sources of Data

In this study, primary and secondary sources were utilized. The primary source was *Coraline* (2002) by Neil Gaiman, which the author used as the basis for quotes, scenes, and narrative description to illustrate psychological development of Coraline as a character. Symbolic narrative moments, internal monologues, and exchanges with other characters were analyzed for Coraline's emotional development. The secondary sources from Alfred Adler's Individual Psychology. In addition, Characterization Theory was applied to explore Coraline as a dynamic character who undergoes significant internal transformation. Conflict Theory was also used to explain how Coraline's psychological development was shaped by both internal and external conflicts, drawing upon the definition of conflict.

### 3.3 Data Collection

To gather information for this study, the following procedures are employed:

1. Analyzing the Novel *Coraline* closely in order to pinpoint important passages and scenes that pertain to Coraline's psychological journey.
2. Data annotation and classification based on Adler's five stages of psychology: inferiority complexes, compensation, striving for superiority, style of life (private logic), and social interest (Gemeinschaftsgefühl).
3. A deeper examination of Coraline's development is provided with theoretical support from Adlerian psychology, characterization theory, and conflict theory.
4. A thematic compilation of quotations and story points that emphasize key turning points in Coraline's development.

### 3.5 Data Analysis

The analysis links Coraline's emotional experiences to Adler's developmental model through the use of thematic interpretation. Here are the steps:

1. The researcher chooses quotes and story points that highlight Coraline's development through emotional neglect, early assertiveness, moral dilemmas, calculated action, and selfless deeds.

2. These instances fall into one of five Adlerian phases: feelings of Inferiority, compensation, striving for superiority, style of life, social Interest.
3. Characterization and conflict theory are used to examine each theme, elucidating Coraline's development from a passive, emotionally neglected child into a self-aware, socially conscious adult.
4. To address the research questions, the final analysis synthesizes the findings and concludes that Coraline's psychological development supports Adler's theory.

