



## CHAPTER III

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a systematic method or steps that are used by researchers to collect data in order to achieve research focus. Therefore, In this chapter will be presented several steps used by researchers in this study. These steps include research design, research subject and setting, data and source of the data, research procedure, data collection technique, and data analysis technique.

### 3.1 Research Design

This research adopts a qualitative approach to investigate the representation of dissociative identity disorder in the novel *Behind Her Eyes*. A qualitative approach is a systematic method used to explore and understand human experiences, behaviours, and beliefs through in-depth investigation (Mistry, 2012, p. 45). According to Aspers & Corte (2019, p. 78) qualitative research is identical to its repetitive pattern, with the aim of increasing understanding through making significant new distinctions and getting closer to the phenomenon being studied. Specifically, this study employs a descriptive qualitative method with a focus on literary analysis. This method is suitable for examining the narrative elements, characterizations, and plot developments within the novel to describe and interpret how dissociative identity disorder (DID) is represented, rather than measuring variables numerically.

## 3.2 Research Subject and Setting

The subjects of this study are the characters Adele and Louise in the novel *Behind Her Eyes* by Sarah Pinborough published in 2017. These characters were chosen because they were assumed the representation of dissociative identity disorder (DID) in the story. This novel's narrative, dialogues, and character interactions serve as the primary data source for this research.

## 3.3 Data and source of data

The data used in this research is the text of the novel *Behind Her Eyes* which contains descriptions and dialogues that describe the characters of Adele and Louise. Then, the primary data source is the novel itself, while article and journals related to the analysis of dissociative identity disorder (DID) symptoms and literary theory serve as secondary sources or theoretical references that support the analysis.

## 3.4 Data Collection Technique

The collection of data for this qualitative study conducted through the following steps,

### 3.4.1 Intensive reading

The researcher conducted multiple thorough readings of the novel *Behind Her Eyes* to gain a comprehensive understanding of the plot, characters and themes. Initial reading focused on general understanding, while the following readings examined the psychological aspects of Adele Louise.

### 3.4.2 Identifying relevant data

The researcher systematically marked scenes that reflect the psychological instability of transformation. This will be done through highlighting, taking notes on narrative description, character dialogues, flashback scenes, and dream sequences that are depicted.

### 3.4.3 Organizing data

The collected data was structured by grouping them in character, scene context, and initial observations on dissociative identity disorder indicators. The dataset served as the foundation for deeper coding and analysis.

## 3.5 Data analysis

This analysis of data for this study was conducted through the following steps,

### 3.5.1 Data selection

The researcher identifies scenes, dialogue, and descriptions that suggest psychological disorientation or identity shifts, with a particular focus on Adele and Louise. These passages are marked as potential indicators of dissociative symptoms.

### 3.5.2 Thematic categorization

The selected data are sorted into relevant themes such as trauma, dual identity, dream-reality confusion, and dissociation. This helps structure the analysis and connects emotional or mental changes in the characters to clinical aspects of dissociative identity disorder (DID).

### 3.5.3 Interpretative analysis

Then, the researcher analyzes how these themes are delivered through the novel's narrative. This includes examining how point of view, time-shifts, flashbacks, and inner thoughts are used to portray a fractured self and identity instability.

#### 3.5.4 Conclusion drawing

The final step involves interpreting the findings to answer the research questions. This includes explaining how the combination of narrative structure and thematic content illustrates the symptoms and experiences of dissociative identity disorder in the novel.



