**CHAPTER III****RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter discusses the applied research methods. It covers the research design, data sources, research instruments, data collection techniques, and data analysis techniques.

**3.1 Research Design**

This study employs a qualitative descriptive methodology. (Creswell & Creswell, 2023) asserts that the qualitative approach examines information distinctively from the exploration of social or human issues. This aligns with the study's concern with constructing identities and the interaction between individuals and the environment in the novel *The Secret Garden*. This subject matter pertains to human issues, specifically about how individuals develop a sense of identity and belonging within particular social and physical settings. The study focuses on the literary text, the novel *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, aiming to examine the protagonist's identity formation and its connection to their surroundings (dwelling); thus, a qualitative descriptive technique was selected.

**3.2 Data Sources**

The primary source of data for this study is the novel *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, illustrated by Peter Bailey (2016)—it was first published in 1911. The results of the study consist of narrative text units that elucidate the formation of Mary Lennox's character identification and her interactions with the natural world within the narrative.

The data include direct quotations presented as narratives, character dialogues, environmental descriptions, and symbols that illustrate the themes of identity and dwelling. The interpretation process is enhanced by utilizing secondary data sources such as theoretical texts, scientific journals, and relevant prior study.

**3.3 Research Instrument**

Research instrument is a tool for measuring, observing, or documenting the data (Creswell, 2023). In this study, the writer functioned as the primary instrument for interpreting the data, using a document analysis approach. The writer identified, classified, and interpreted passages using close reading as the technique for textual analysis.

**3.4 Data Collection Methods**

The primary method of data collection was document analysis with applying close reading technique, or extensive review of the content to carefully examine, identify, and interpret key passages relevant to the study. The data collection process includes the following steps:

Close Reading

The novel *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett was extensively explored through close reading, focusing on sections that illustrate the construction of Mary Lennox’s character, her attitudes, and her interactions with her social and physical environment. For example, the subsequent statements demonstrate one of Mary's initial identities is plain through the judgmental gaze of others:

*“She is such a plain child,” Mrs. Crawford said pityingly, afterward. (p. 13)*

*“My word! she's a plain little piece of goods!” she said. “And we'd heard that her mother was a beauty. She hasn't handed much of it down, has she, ma'am?” (p. 14)*

The following sentences demonstrate how others' rude and judgmental comments identify Mary.

Note-taking

Within the reading process, the writer gathered data including story passages, character identities, and dialogue related to the topics of identity, performativity, and dwelling. This method entailed marking the text, documenting the identified data, and compiling a collection of potential quotations for analysis. Upon reviewing the opening chapter of the novel, the writer found the following quotation:

*“Her hair was yellow, and her face was yellow because she had been born in India and had always been ill in one way or another.” (p. 3)*

This statement is important as it represents Mary Lennox's physical condition in relation to the colonial environment and health, contributing to the early construction of her identity. The quotation was then collected along with its context for analysis.

**3.5 Techniques of Data Analysis**

Following the collection of relevant sections from *The Secret Garden*, the writer conducted a methodical examination employing qualitative analysis of content. This method emphasizes the identification, classification, correlation, verification, and interpretation of theme patterns in the text using theoretical frameworks.

Data Identification and Classification

The writer classified the data into thematic categories according to the established researcb objectives. The process involved identifying how each passage illustrates parts of identity formation—whether the initial identity is influenced by colonialism, evolves via interaction with nature, or reflects the interconnectedness of identity and the garden.

Each quotation was further associated with the theoretical frameworks of Judith Butler's theory of performativity and Greg Garrard's concept of dwelling.

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| Quote(s) | Thematic Category | Theoretical Correlation |
| *“The little girl did not offer to help her, because in India native servants always picked up or carried things.”* (p. 21) | Initial Identity and Colonial Influence | Judith Butler—Performativity |
| *“and I’m growing stronger. I used always to be tired. When I dig I’m not tired at all. I like to smell the earth when it’s turned up.”* (p. 106) | Dwelling and Identity Transformation | Greg Garrard—Dwelling |

Table 3.1 Data Identification and Classification Based on Thematic and Theory

Verification of Data

The writer re-examined each remark to ensure comprehension of its meaning, origin, and relevance to the circumstance and theory. To ensure the credibility and validity of the data, the writer conducted a verification process by cross-checking each selected quotation with the official text of *The Secret Garden*. Data authentication was further strengthened through theoretical triangulation. Each excerpt was examined in relation to the theoretical constructs of Judith Butler’s performativity and Greg Garrard’s concept of dwelling. This ensured that the interpretation of the data was consistently aligned with the study’s analytical framework.

In addition, the writer consulted existing scholarly works, including thesis and journal articles on *The Secret Garden*, to cross-reference thematic findings and confirm analytical accuracy. Throughout the writing process, the data analysis and interpretations were also periodically reviewed and validated by the thesis supervisor to ensure academic consistency, coherence, and relevance.