

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study uses a qualitative descriptive research design. The goal is to analyze Hiccup's character transformation in *How to Train Your Dragon* by exploring how his identity evolves in relation to the social and emotional contexts within the narrative. A qualitative approach is suitable for this study because it allows for in-depth interpretation of character development, thematic elements, and symbolic relationships.

#### **3.2 Source of Data**

The primary source of data for this study is the animated film *How to Train Your Dragon* (2010), directed by Dean DeBlois and Chris Sanders. The analysis focuses on narrative events, dialogues, visual cues, and character interactions especially between Hiccup and Toothless as the core material for identifying character transformation and identity conflict. In addition, several secondary sources are used to support the analysis, including:

- a. Academic journals and articles discussing character arc, identity theory, and human-animal relationships.
- b. Books and previous research related to narrative structure and character development in literature and film.

#### **3.3. Method of Data Collection**

The data collection in this study involves several steps:

1. Watching and re-watching the film to understand the sequence of events and observe character development closely.
2. Identifying and transcribing key scenes and dialogues that reflect Hiccup's psychological and emotional transformation.
3. Highlighting moments of internal conflict, decision-making, and growth, especially in relation to his interaction with Toothless and Viking society.
4. Cross-referencing findings with academic theories and previous research for validation.

### **3.4. Method of Data Analysis**

The data analysis is conducted using thematic analysis, with the following steps:

1. Categorizing scenes or narrative elements based on the theories used: Character Arc Theory, Social Identity Theory, and Human–Animal Relationship Theory.
2. Interpreting how Hiccup’s actions, thoughts, and emotions reflect his identity conflict and personal growth.
3. Analyzing the symbolic meaning behind his relationship with Toothless and its role in reshaping Viking societal values.
4. Synthesizing theoretical insights with the character’s development trajectory to answer the research questions.

### **3.5 Research Procedure**

The research procedure includes the following phases:

1. Preparation Phase: Selection of research topic, problem formulation, and theory gathering.
2. Data Collection Phase: Watching the film and taking notes on relevant scenes and character interactions.
3. Analysis Phase: Applying theories to interpret character transformation.
4. Writing Phase: Organizing findings into a coherent analysis to answer the research questions.