CHAPTER III
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study employs a descriptive qualitative research design. A qualitative method is chosen because the research focuses on meaning-making, interpretation, and understanding of social phenomena as represented in literary works, rather than on numerical measurement. In literary studies, social reality is understood as complex, contextual, and closely related to human experience and action; therefore, it requires an interpretative approach.

The descriptive nature of this research aims to illustrate and explain in detail how social norms and individual freedom are represented in the novel Pride and Prejudice. This study does not seek to test statistical hypotheses but instead interprets the literary text through an in depth analysis of narration, dialogue, and characters' behavior. Accordingly, this research design enables the researcher to reveal the relationship between the social structure of traditional English society and individual life choices as depicted in the novel.

A descriptive qualitative design is considered the most appropriate because the focus of the study namely, changes in social norms and individual freedom consists of abstract concepts that can only be understood through a deep analysis of the text and its socio-historical context.

The use of a qualitative design allows the researcher to function as the key instrument in the process of data collection and analysis. Through careful and repeated reading (close reading), the researcher identifies patterns of characters' behavior and inner conflicts that emerge as a result of social pressure. This approach facilitates an exploration of linguistic nuances and irony employed by Jane Austen, which often serve as subtle forms of social criticism toward gender inequality and class structure during that period.

Furthermore, the descriptive design in this context functions to provide a thick description of the nineteenth-century social setting. By examining interactions among characters in the novel, this study seeks to portray the dynamic tension between societal expectations such as the pressure to marry for economic security and individuals' desire to preserve moral integrity and freedom of choice. This systematic and in-depth explanation is expected to offer a comprehensive

understanding of individuals' positions within the rigid social structure of Regency era England.

Validity within this qualitative research design is maintained through consistency in interpretation and the use of relevant theoretical references. By focusing the analysis on representative textual units, this study aims to produce findings that are authentic and reflective of the moral messages conveyed by the author. This approach aligns with the fundamental characteristics of qualitative research, which prioritize depth of analysis over the breadth of data generalization.

3.2 Research Approach

This study employs a sociology of literature approach, a branch of literary criticism that views a work as a social product born from the dialectic between the author, society, and specific historical conditions. This approach stems from the paradigm that a literary work is not created in a cultural vacuum; it is a creative response to the objective realities of its social environment. Through this approach, literature is positioned not merely as an imaginative aesthetic structure but also as a reflection, a mirror, and even a medium of critique against the existing social institutions and structures of the time the work was written.

In the context of the novel Pride and Prejudice, the sociology of literature approach is used to dissect the work as a microcosm of English society during the Regency era (early 19th century). The researcher examines various social norms that formed the backbone of societal life at that time such as class stratification (aristocracy versus the middle class), the rigidity of gender roles, the land inheritance system (entailment), and the institution of marriage, which was often transactional. With this approach, every action, dialogue, and motif of the characters is seen not just as plot development but as a manifestation of the social structural pressures that shape their behaviors and life choices.

This approach includes an analysis of Jane Austen's position as an author who was an integral part of a specific social class. As an "observational instrument," Austen recorded the tension between individual ambition and collective expectation. The sociology of literature allows the researcher to explore how Austen utilized irony and satire as sociological tools to critique gender injustice and class hypocrisy without overstepping the social boundaries of her era. This helps the researcher understand whether the text aims to perpetuate the status quo or offer a deconstruction of established norms.

This research places Pride and Prejudice as a dynamic "social document." The sociology of literature approach facilitates an analysis of how the protagonist, Elizabeth Bennet, negotiates her space for individual freedom amidst the constraints of social structures. By linking textual facts with socio-historical facts, this approach ensures that the research interpretation is not merely subjective-aesthetic but possesses a strong objective-historical foundation, making it the most relevant method for examining the theme of individual freedom within the confines of traditional social norms.

3.3 Research Object

The object of this research is Jane Austen's novel Pride and Prejudice, which was first published in 1813. The novel is set in England in the early 19th century and depicts the social life of middle- and upper-class families in a society that highly values tradition.

This novel was chosen because it presents a detailed description of the social norms of traditional English society, especially in terms of interclass relations, the role of women, and social pressures within the institution of marriage. Jane Austen describes this social life through everyday events, dialogues between characters, and personal conflicts that are rich in social meaning.

Furthermore, Pride and Prejudice is considered relevant because it not only presents a love story, but also conveys subtle social criticism of norms that limit individual freedom. Therefore, this novel is an appropriate object for studying the relationship between social structure and individual freedom.

Specifically, the data in this study is sourced from authoritative editions of the text, which include the narrative and dialogue throughout the entire novel. The focus of the study is on the interactions between the main character, Elizabeth Bennet, and various social institutions around her, such as family, social strata, and legal norms related to land ownership or entailment. This novel provides rich material on the dialectic between rational personal desires and rigid external demands, allowing researchers to draw parallels between the literary text and the sociological conditions of Regency-era English society. Through complex characterization, Austen presents a spectrum of human behavior in response to norms, ranging from total obedience to subtle yet sharp forms of intellectual resistance.

The selection of Pride and Prejudice as the object of research is also based on the canonical status of this work in world literature, which consistently records the paradigm shift in thinking from old aristocratic values to more modern individualistic values. The social dynamics depicted in this novel are not merely a backdrop, but rather the main driver of conflict that forces the characters to reexamine the definitions of freedom and self-esteem. By focusing the analysis on textual units that reflect these tensions, this study aims to reveal how the social structure of the time worked to discipline individuals and how these individuals found loopholes to express their agency.

Finally, this research also includes an analysis of the use of irony and satire as narrative techniques used by Austen to portray social reality. This is particularly important because through irony, readers are invited to look beyond the surface of social etiquette and understand the deeper critique of the economically and socially vulnerable position of women. Therefore, placing this novel as an object of literary sociology research allows for a comprehensive exploration of how a work of fiction can be both a silent witness and a challenger to the established norms of its time.

3.4 Research Subjects

The subjects of this research are characters in the novel Pride and Prejudice who represent social norms and individual freedom. The main character who is the focus of analysis is Elizabeth Bennet, because she is described as a woman who has independent thinking and the courage to reject social norms that do not match her personal values.

In addition to Elizabeth Bennet, the character of Mr. Darcy is analyzed as a representation of the upper social class who undergoes a change in his perspective on moral values and social status. The character Charlotte Lucas is analyzed to show a pragmatic attitude towards marriage norms, while Mrs. Bennet reflects complete obedience to traditional social values. Through the analysis of these various characters, this study attempts to show that individuals' attitudes towards social norms are greatly influenced by the social background, economic conditions, and personal experiences of each character.

The determination of the research subject is based on the purposive sampling method in the context of literature, where characters are selected based on their narrative contribution to the central theme of the research. Elizabeth

Bennet acts as the main agency that deconstructs gender expectations of her time. Through her intelligent dialogues and her rejection of proposals based solely on material considerations, Elizabeth becomes the personification of the search for individual freedom within a rigid patriarchal system. The focus on Elizabeth allows researchers to examine how intellectuality and moral integrity are used as tools to negotiate a woman's bargaining position within 19th-century English social structures.

Furthermore, the spectrum of research subjects is expanded by including supporting characters who provide sharp sociological contrasts. Mr. Darcy is not only seen as a romantic figure, but as a subject bound by class responsibilities and aristocratic arrogance. An analysis of his transformation is important to see how class structures can be flexible through a new moral understanding. On the other hand, the presence of Charlotte Lucas provides a dimension of sociological realism; she is a representation of individuals who must sacrifice the idealism of freedom for economic security (social survivability). The contrast between Elizabeth and Charlotte is crucial in understanding the limits of individual freedom at that time.

In addition, Mrs. Bennet and other minor characters in the Bennet family circle serve as representations of the collective voice of society (vox populi) that perpetuates traditional norms. By including them as subjects of research, the sociological analysis of literature in this thesis can fully capture the environmental pressures faced by the main character. Collectively, these subjects form a fictional social ecosystem that reflects the complexity of the real world of the Regency era, thus providing comprehensive data to answer how individuals conform, negotiate, and resist the established social order.

3.5 Data and Data Sources

The data in this study consists of primary and secondary data,

Primary data was obtained directly from the novel Pride and Prejudice in the form of narratives, dialogues, conflicts, and characters' actions that reflect social norms and individual freedom. This data became the main focus in the analysis process because it was sourced directly from the literary text.

Secondary data comes from theoretical books, scientific journals, theses, dissertations, and academic articles relevant to the study of literary sociology, social norms, individual freedom, social change, and research on the works of

Jane Austen. Secondary data is used to strengthen the analysis and provide a valid theoretical basis. The use of these two types of data aims to maintain a balance between text analysis and theoretical foundations, so that the research results are stronger academically.

More specifically, the primary data in this study were classified into textual units that have sociological significance. These units include the characters' inner monologues that reveal their inner struggles, narrative descriptions of 19th-century British society, and excerpts from dialogues that represent the tension between personal desires and societal expectations. The primary data source used is the authoritative print or digital edition of the novel Pride and Prejudice to ensure the authenticity of the diction and sentence structure analyzed. The researcher conducted data reduction by focusing on quotations that explicitly or implicitly describe class dynamics, gender boundaries, and efforts to achieve individual autonomy.

Meanwhile, secondary data was collected through extensive literature studies to provide historical and theoretical context to the findings in the primary data. These sources include fundamental works on literary sociology (such as theories by Ian Watt, Alan Swingewood, or Lucien Goldmann) as well as historical documents on social life during the Regency era. This secondary data serves as a theoretical triangulation tool that ensures that the researcher's interpretation of the novel's text is not detached from existing sociological historical facts. By integrating the latest academic literature, this study can position its findings within a broader scientific debate on early feminism, class structure, and liberalism in classical literature.

The integration of primary and secondary data is carried out through a systematic correlation process. Each piece of primary data found will be tested and confronted with secondary data to see the extent to which the literary representation reflects or criticizes the social reality of its time. This two-way approach allows researchers to not only describe what happens in the novel, but also explain “why” these phenomena occur from a sociological perspective. Thus, the validity of the data in this study is maintained through textual depth and comprehensive referential strength.

3.6 Data Collection Techniques

Data collection techniques were carried out through literature studies. Researchers read Pride and Prejudice thoroughly and repeatedly to understand the story, characters, and social setting. The reading process focused on parts of the text that showed social norms and individual responses to those norms.

Next, the researcher marked and recorded important quotations related to social class stratification, gender roles, inheritance systems, and marriage institutions. These quotations were then collected and systematically arranged according to the focus of the research.

Procedurally, data collection was carried out through several structured stages. The first stage was close reading, in which researchers explored the text thoroughly to capture linguistic nuances, irony, and implied sociological contexts. At this stage, researchers not only look at the storyline, but also identify the frequency and intensity of interactions between characters that intersect with social boundaries during the Regency era. This is important to ensure that no subtle data is overlooked in the initial analysis.

The second stage is identification and coding. Researchers use data sheets to classify findings based on specific categories, such as “Marriage Norms,” “Gender Boundaries,” or “Individual Resistance.” Each relevant quote is coded with a chapter and page number to maintain reference accuracy. This coding technique makes it easier for researchers to map which data supports traditional norms and which data shows the efforts of figures to achieve individual freedom.

The final stage is literature triangulation, in which the primary data collected is confronted with secondary sources. Researchers select supporting literature that can explain the historical background or sociological theories relevant to the text data found. This process ensures that the data collected has a strong connection to the theoretical basis used. Thus, this data collection technique produces a valid, organized data set that is ready for further analysis in the next chapter.

3.7 Data Classification

The collected data was classified into several thematic categories, namely social class stratification, gender roles, inheritance systems, and marriage institutions. This classification aims to facilitate analysis and maintain consistency in the discussion.

By grouping the data into specific categories, researchers can see the patterns of relationships between social norms and individual freedom more clearly. This classification also helps researchers avoid overlapping discussions.

In practice, the classification process is carried out by dividing the data into two main dimensions: the social structure dimension and the individual response dimension. The categories of class stratification and inheritance systems are included in the structure dimension to see how objective economic and legal constraints worked at that time. Meanwhile, categories of gender roles and marriage institutions are analyzed through the response dimension to see the extent to which the characters in the novel negotiate or resist. This separation is crucial so that researchers can distinguish between norms that are externally imposed (external constraints) and individual consciousness that arises from within (individual agency).

Each thematic category is further broken down into more specific subcategories to produce a sharp analysis. For example, in the category "Institutions of Marriage," data is classified into marriages based on economic interests (such as Charlotte Lucas) and marriages based on moral integrity (such as Elizabeth Bennet). With this detailed classification, researchers can draw conclusions about the shift in values that Jane Austen wanted to convey. This categorization process is also supported by narrative context notes, so that each piece of classified data remains strongly linked to the social situation that underpins it.

This data classification serves as the basic framework for the analysis chapter. The data collected thematically will be linked to literary sociology theory to see the relevance between literary texts as social documents and the historical reality of 19th-century England. With this systematic classification process, the internal validity of the research can be maintained, and researchers can present logical arguments about how individual freedom is pursued amid the constraints of very rigid traditional norms.

3.8 Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis was conducted using interpretive qualitative analysis techniques. The researcher interpreted the data by linking literary texts with literary sociology theory, social norm theory, individual freedom theory, and social change theory.

The analysis process was carried out by explaining the social context of the text excerpts, then linking them to relevant theoretical concepts. This technique allowed the researcher to reveal the social meaning contained in the novel in a profound and systematic manner.

Technically, data analysis in this study follows a flowing analysis model that includes three main components: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. In the data reduction stage, researchers select the most representative quotes from the thematic categories that have been compiled beforehand. Next, in the data presentation stage, the researcher described the sociological context of each quote, for example, by explaining Elizabeth Bennet's bargaining position when facing marriage pressure. The researcher used the dialectical method, which connects the “inner world” of the novel with the “outer world” or the historical reality of 19th-century British society, in order to see the extent to which the novel reflects or deviates from prevailing norms.

Furthermore, this interpretive technique involves a process of sociological inference, in which researchers draw meaning from behind satirical dialogues or characters' actions. For example, characters' behavior is not only analyzed psychologically, but interpreted as a product of a particular social class or gender. Using the lens of literary sociology, researchers dissect the text to find hidden messages about the author's desire to bring about social change through criticism of the rigidity of class structures. This process ensures that the analysis does not stop at the descriptive level but enters a deeper explanatory level.

Finally, conclusions are drawn by synthesizing all the results of the thematic category analysis to answer the research questions. Researchers verify these findings by comparing them with secondary literature to ensure the objectivity of the research results. Through this technique, it is hoped that the research can present comprehensive conclusions about how individual freedom in the novel Pride and Prejudice is negotiated amid the dominance of traditional social norms, and how this reflects the dynamics of social change at that time.

3.9 Research Procedure

The research procedure was carried out in several stages. The first stage was determining the topic and formulating the research problem. The second stage was a literature review to collect relevant theories and previous research. The third stage was collecting primary and secondary data. The fourth stage was classifying

and analyzing the data. The final stage was drawing conclusions based on the analysis results to answer the research questions and objectives.

Operationally, this procedure is carried out by prioritizing the principle of logical linearity, starting from the preparation stage, which involves in-depth observation of the novel Pride and Prejudice to ensure the availability of sufficient data units to address social norms issues. Once the theoretical foundation in Chapter II is considered solid, the researcher moves on to the implementation stage, which is the core phase of the research. In this phase, the researcher synchronizes the textual quotations that have been found with the concepts of literary sociology, ensuring that each fragment of dialogue or narrative analyzed has a direct correlation with the variable of individual freedom. This process requires careful sorting of data so that the resulting interpretation remains objective and does not deviate from the historical context of the Regency era.

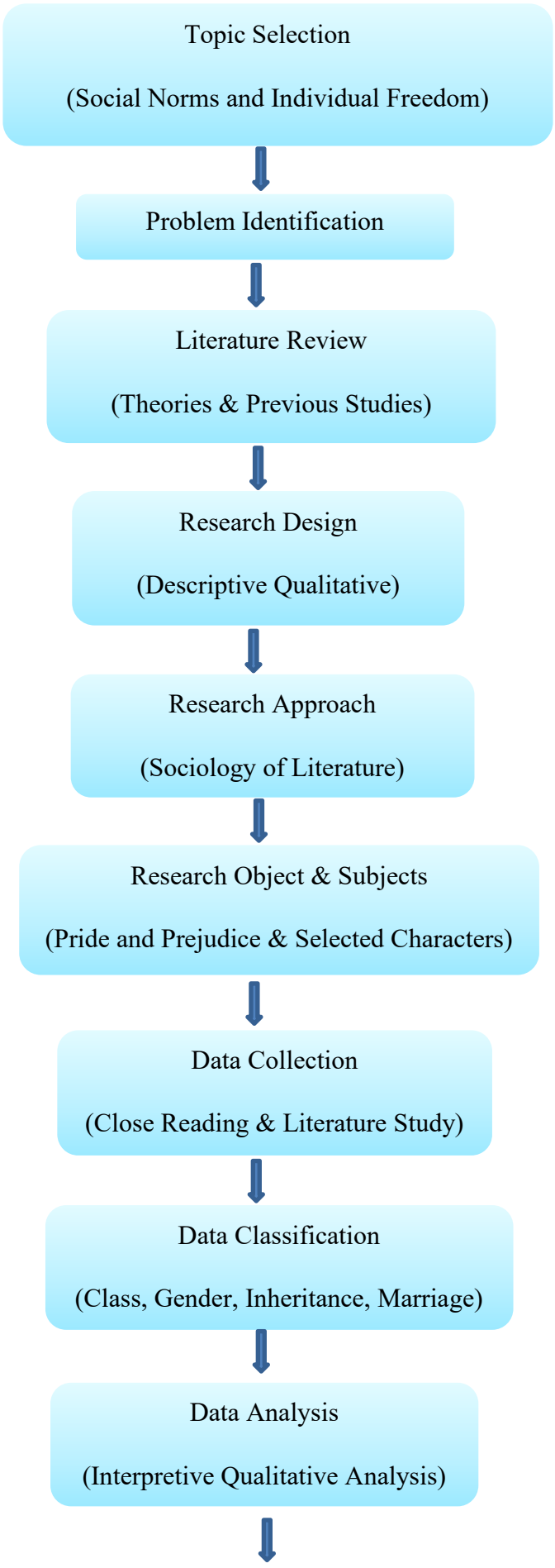
Next, the researcher enters the final stage or reporting stage, where all the findings analyzed in the previous chapters are synthesized again to see the patterns of social norm changes described by Jane Austen. At this stage, the researcher verifies the data through peer review or rechecking secondary literature sources to ensure the validity of the research results. This procedure concludes with the preparation of a concluding narrative that not only summarizes the findings but also provides a critical reflection on the relevance of Austen's social criticism to traditional social structures. By following these measured steps, the research is expected to produce a comprehensive, credible scientific report that makes a real contribution to English literary studies.

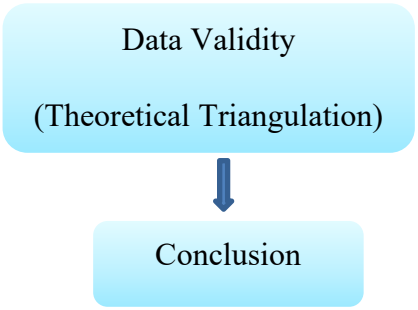
3.10 Research Methodology Flowchart

To clarify the stages of the research process and ensure methodological transparency, this study presents a research methodology flowchart. The flowchart summarizes the sequence of research activities conducted from the initial preparation stage to the final validation of findings. This visual representation helps demonstrate that the research was carried out systematically and in accordance with qualitative literary research principles.

The flowchart below illustrates how the research design, approach, data sources, data collection, data analysis, and validation processes are interconnected in examining social norms and individual freedom in Pride and Prejudice.

Figure 3.1 Research Methodology Flowchart


Topic Selection
(Social Norms and Individual Freedom)
Problem Identification
Literature Review
(Theories & Previous Studies)
Research Design
(Descriptive Qualitative)
Research Approach
(Sociology of Literature)
Research Object & Subjects
(Pride and Prejudice & Selected Characters)
Data Collection
(Close Reading & Literature Study)
Data Classification
(Class, Gender, Inheritance, Marriage)
Data Analysis
(Interpretive Qualitative Analysis)



3.11 Data Validity

Data validity is maintained through consistent use of theory and accurate interpretation of texts. Researchers use credible academic sources and cite them consistently. Analysis is always supported by textual evidence to minimize subjectivity.

More specifically, researchers applied theoretical triangulation techniques to ensure the validity of their findings. This technique was carried out by testing the compatibility between primary data found in the novel Pride and Prejudice and various relevant theoretical perspectives, such as literary sociology and social history of the Regency era. By comparing textual findings with established historical documents and literary criticism, researchers can ensure that the resulting interpretations are not speculative, but rather rooted in the objective context of the time. In addition, researchers also conducted persistent observation to find consistent patterns regarding social norms, so that the conclusions drawn have a high degree of accuracy.

Furthermore, the principle of transferability is maintained by presenting detailed and in-depth descriptions of the data. Researchers document each step of the analysis, from the selection of quotations to the process of drawing

sociological conclusions, so that readers can logically follow the researchers' train of thought. To minimize subjective bias, the researcher also conducts peer debriefing through discussions with supervisors or academic colleagues to review the sharpness of the analysis. These efforts are made to ensure that the results of this study are not only internally valid, but also have scientific credibility that can be accounted for in literary studies.