CHAPTER III

Research Methodology

A. Research Design

For this research, the writer uses a qualitative and descriptive approach as the method. The purpose of qualitative research is not to find generalization, but instead to look for a comprehension of the meaning of the problem by collecting and analyzing data.

The qualitative research method is a research method based on the philosophy of post-positivism, which is used to examine the condition of natural objects, where the researcher is the key instrument. Data collection techniques were combined, data analysis was qualitative in nature, and the results emphasized meaning (Sugiyono, 2009).

Qualitative method is a systematic subjective approach used to describe life experiences and give them meaning. The writer uses the qualitative method for this research to discuss the elements of character and characterization in the novel *League of Legends: Ruination* by Anthony Reynolds.

Qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social human problem. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures; collecting data in the participants' setting; analyzing the data inductively, building from particulars to general themes; and making interpretations of the meaning of data. The final written report has a flexible writing structure (Creswell, 2012).

As for analyzing the data, the writer uses a descriptive method. The descriptive method is used to describe specific behavior as it occurs in the environment. The purpose of a descriptive method is to examine a phenomenon that is occurring at a specific place(s) and time. A descriptive method is concerned with conditions, practices, structures, differences, or relationships that exist, opinions held, processes that are going on, or trends that are evident.

Qualitative descriptive study offers a comprehensive summary of an event in the everyday terms of the event. Researchers conducting such studies seek descriptive validity as accurately as agreed by the majority of people observing the same event, and interpretive validity or accurate calculations about the meaning participants attribute to the event (Maxwell, 1992).

Based on the statement of Maxwell above, it can be said that the method used for this research is a qualitative descriptive method. The method describes the problem or case proposed based on the available facts, the specific ones, then be investigated to solve the problems and draw the general conclusions. Qualitative descriptive are typically an eclectic but reasonable and well-considered combination of sampling, and data collection, analysis, and representational techniques.

The writer describes his research stages as follows:

1. Reading the theories of character and characterization.
2. Classifying the data based on the characterization types.
3. Investigating the data based on the theories.
4. Explaining the data.

5. Formatting the findings.
6. Making a conclusion.

As an addition and in order to support this research, the writer also used library research. The writer could find material to support his research topic by developing a research strategy. He could acquire a lot of reference through books from several writers. Besides that, the writer also used the internet as a supporting media to get some information needed for this research, especially about character and characterization.

B. Procedures of Data Collection

The researcher implemented a systematic six-step qualitative data collection methodology to comprehensively analyze Viego's characterization in *League of Legends*: *Ruination*. Each step was carefully designed to ensure thorough examination of the character's development and narrative significance.

1. Reading League of Legends: Ruination Novel

The researcher conducted multiple close readings of the entire novel, employing both general comprehension readings and focused analytical readings. Particular attention was given to identifying key scenes, dialogues, and narrative descriptions that reveal Viego's character traits, motivations, and development throughout the story.

2. Selecting Viego as the Main Character to be Analyzed

Viego was chosen as the primary subject of analysis due to his central role in the narrative and his complex characterization as both protagonist and antagonist.

The selection was based on his significance to the plot, his psychological depth, and his function as the driving force behind the novel's major conflicts and themes.

3. Collecting the Description of Viego's Characterization

The researcher systematically gathered all relevant textual evidence pertaining to Viego's characterization by collecting a wide range of sources that contribute to a deeper understanding of his persona. This included direct quotations of Viego's dialogue, which reveal his internal conflicts and motivations; detailed narrator descriptions that shed light on his physical appearance, actions, and inner thoughts; and the perceptions and comments of other characters, offering external perspectives on his behavior and role within the narrative. Additionally, the researcher examined symbolic representations and recurring motifs associated with Viego, uncovering deeper thematic elements tied to his character. Key scenes that highlight Viego’s development were also analyzed to trace the evolution of his character arc throughout the story.

4. Understanding and Interpreting the Data (Sentences and Dialogues)

The collected data was carefully analyzed to interpret Viego's characterization through a variety of literary approaches. This process involved close reading of selected passages to uncover subtle nuances in the text, as well as an examination of the author's language use and stylistic devices that contribute to shaping Viego's persona. The analysis also focused on Viego's speech patterns and dialogue, which reveal key aspects of his character and emotional state. Furthermore, recurring themes and motifs were identified to understand the symbolic layers of his

portrayal, while the narrative perspective and point of view were considered to assess how the storytelling technique influences the reader's perception of Viego.

5. Selecting and Categorizing the Data to be Analyzed

The researcher organized the collected data into meaningful categories to facilitate a systematic analysis of the characters within the studied work. These categories include the traits of the protagonist, such as the love for Isolde and qualities of a tragic hero, as well as the antagonist's characteristics, including destructive obsession and ruthlessness. Additionally, the analysis encompasses character development and transformation, psychological complexity and internal conflicts, relationships with other characters, and the symbolic and thematic significance embedded in the narrative. This categorical approach allows for a deeper understanding of the narrative structure and the dynamics between characters.

6. Analyzing the Data

The final step of the research involved an in-depth analysis of the previously categorized data to gain a comprehensive understanding of Viego's character. This phase aimed to identify recurring patterns in Viego's characterization and to examine his function within the narrative structure. Particular attention was given to exploring the psychological dimensions of the character, including internal motivations and emotional complexity, as well as assessing the thematic significance he embodies throughout the novel. Furthermore, the analysis evaluated the effectiveness and depth of Viego's portrayal, ultimately allowing the researcher to draw informed conclusions about his overall role and impact within the story.

This analytical approach ensured a nuanced interpretation of Viego's character in relation to both narrative form and thematic content.

Throughout this process, the researcher maintained detailed documentation of all findings and employed analytical frameworks from contemporary literary criticism to ensure a rigorous and comprehensive examination of Viego's characterization.

C. The Technique of Analyzing the Data

This study employed a comprehensive qualitative data analysis approach to examine Viego's characterization in *League of Legends: Ruination*, integrating contemporary literary research methods with psychological character study frameworks.

First, the researcher mapped Viego's character arc chronologically, identifying key turning points in his development. This process included tracking the evolution of his traits—both positive and negative—through color-coded annotations to visualize shifts in his personality and motivations.

Second, a dialogic analysis was conducted to examine Viego's speech patterns, linguistic choices, and recurring motifs in his dialogue. This involved comparing his private monologues with his public interactions to assess how his language reflects his psychological state and manipulative tendencies.

Third, psychological profiling was applied using Thompson's (2022) Motivational Continuum Model, analyzing cognitive distortions in his decision-making and trauma responses. Additionally, Maslow's hierarchy of needs was mapped onto his motivations to explore the underlying drivers of his actions.

Fourth, a comparative analysis was conducted, benchmarking Viego against other tragic heroes in contemporary fantasy and evaluating his adaptation from the original game lore. His role was also assessed against classic character archetypes (Jungian/Vogler frameworks) to determine narrative function.

Finally, his narrative impact was examined in terms of plot progression, symbolic significance, and reader engagement, assessing his effectiveness as a hybrid protagonist-antagonist figure.