CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses the methodology used in this study. This chapter consists of the research design, research object, research instrument, the data collection and the data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

Research design is the plan of the researcher in conducting the research in order to get a deep understanding of the research object and to answer and solve the research problem. According to Ary, research design is the researcher’s plan of how to proceed and gain an understanding of some group or some phenomenon in its context (2010: 426).

There are two kinds of research design, they are: Quantitative and Qualitative. Quantitative research deals with questions that researchers can answer by gathering and statistically analysing numeric data. It means quantitative research uses statistical analysis of numeric data to understand and explain phenomenon. While qualitative research focuses on understanding social phenomenon and providing rich verbal description of settings, situations, and participants. It means, qualitative research uses the perspective of human participant and the data are collected in natural setting (Ary, 2010).

Moreover, Ary has stated that the six major characteristic of qualitative research are concerned for context and meaning, natural setting, human instrument, descriptive data, emergent design and inductive analysis (2006 453 – 454). It can be concluded that qualitative research is dealing with the descriptive
data in the form of words or picture than number. Additionally, descriptive research is used to obtain information concerning the current status of the phenomena to describe “what exists” with respect to variables or conditions in a situation. The ultimate goal of this research is gaining a great and depth information in a given situation.

In relation to this study, the appropriate research design in finding and understanding the meaning of figurative language was descriptive qualitative research design. This design was applied because the object used to be analysed was in the form of written poems found in Kahlil Gibran Poems on his book “The Prophet”. The researcher used descriptive qualitative research design because this study did not present the data in numeric analysis, but in the form of word. This study focused on the understanding and interpreting the kinds and meanings of figurative language used in poems which used human investigator or the writer himself as the primary instrument in collecting and analysing the data.

3.2 Approach

Approach is very significant to the study of literature. It is the researcher’s position in analysing literary works such drama, novel, short story, or poem. It is also the researcher’s view and attitude toward literature. There are mimetic, pragmatic, expressive, and objective approaches (Abrams, 1999: 51-52).

3.2.1 Mimetic Approach

Mimetic approach views the literary work as an imitation, or reflection, or representation of the world and human life, and the primary criterion applied to a
work is that of the “truth” of its representation to the object matter that it represent or should be represented.

### 3.2.2 Pragmatic Approach

Pragmatic approach views the literary work as something which is constructed in order to achieve certain effects on the audience (effect such as instruction, aesthetic pleasure, or kind of emotion). It tends to judge the value of the work according to its success in achieving that aim.

### 3.2.3 Expressive Approach

Expressive approach treats a literary work primarily in relation to the author. It defines poem as an expression, or overflow, utterance of feeling or as product of poet imagination operating on his or her perceptions, thoughts, and feelings or in this view a work of literature expresses the feeling of the person who wrote it.

### 3.2.4 Objective Approach

Objective approach deals with a work of literature as something which stands for free from what is called “extrinsic” relation to the poet, or to the audience, or to environing world. Instead it describes the literary product as a self-sufficient and autonomous object, or else as a world-in-itself, which itself, which is to be contemplated as its own end, and to be analysed and judged by solely intrinsic criteria such as its complexity, coherence, integrity, equilibrium, and the interrelation of components and elements.

Based on the explanation above, the appropriate approach of analysing Kahlil Gibran’s poems in his book “The Prophet” was objective approach because
researcher investigated the book itself without relating to the author’s life, audience, and the environing world. The analyses and judgement are based on the book and its intrinsic criteria and the interrelation of components and elements, purely as a literary work. Thus, in applying this approach, it is not necessary for the researcher to study the author’s background of life and the world surrounding.

3.3 Research Object

In this present study, research object is used since the results depended on what were represented in the elected object, and the writer do not expected to generalize the result of this study to other objects. The object of this study was “The Prophet” written by Kahlil Gibran which related to the figurative language and the meaning in the aim to comprehend the message or idea of the author.

The data of this study were taken from the selected poems “On Love”, “On Marriage”, and “On Children” written by Kahlil Gibran in his book “The Prophet”. The researchers choose those three poems because those poems are the most famous poems among the other 26 poems in the book “The Prophet”. The writer analysed the use of figurative language in the three poems “On Love”, “On Marriage”, and “On Children” in order to able to arrive at the aims of answering and solving the research problem.

3.4 Data Collection

Data collection is an imperative aspect to be capable of defining the result of this study. The data of this study were the use of figurative language in Kahlil Gibran’s poems in his book “The Prophet”. Ary (2002:430) stated that the most common way of collecting data in qualitative research are using observation,
interviewing, and document analysis. However, this study used *content* or *document analysis* as a way of collecting the data.

To simplify, this study employed content or document analysis as a method of collecting the data in purpose of analysing the use of figurative language in Kahlil Gibran’s poems in his book “The Prophet”. To make it systematic, the steps of collecting data in this study were as follows:


### 3.5 Data Analysis

After the data had been collected, the researcher then continued to analyse the data. Ary stated that the process of analysing the data becomes the most challenging pace in conducting qualitative research since the writer is fully expected to be able to organize, summarize, interpret, and report the data accurately (2002:465). To become systematic, the steps of analysing the data in this study were as follows:


4. Drawing a conclusion based on the result of the data analysis.