

## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1. Type of Research

In this study, the writer is using qualitative methodology. The kind of qualitative methodology applied in this study is attributed to Comprehension analysis (Gelo, Braakmann, & Benetka, 2008). Within Comprehension method of analysis, there are two different ways that an analyst may utilize to execute his or her task, which is through Interpretation or Contextualization. In my study, the writer personally decides to use Interpretation. It is deemed best to correlate with my object of analysis and discussion. A particular distinctive field of study that is specially designed and invented to interpret signs in a descriptive manner is Semiotics. That is why in doing Comprehension analysis the writer is using Semiotics approach that will lead her to her findings.

#### 3.2. Data Source

The object of analysis in this study was taken from an anthology that was designed, collected, compiled, and translated by Harry Aveling. The anthology was presented bilingually, using both Indonesian and English. In doing the analysis and presenting findings and discussions, the writer used Taufiq Ismail's original works written in Indonesian.

Title : *Contemporary Indonesian Poem, Poems in Bahasa Indonesia*

Translator : Harry Aveling

Genre : Poem, Anthology

Publisher : University of Queensland Press, an Asian and Pacific Writing Series

Year : 1986

Other than Harry Aveling's anthology of *Contemporary Indonesian Poem* used as the main source, the writer also used Andri Hermawan's thesis that he wrote in 2010 for his bachelor's degree as a guide on how to write thesis and to present analysis on Taufiq Ismail's selected poems and copy Mr. Hermawan's way to have neatly organized findings. In his thesis, Mr. Hermawan also used C.S. Peirce's Semiotics in application. His thesis inspired and encouraged the writer to apply Peircean Semiotics in this thesis and to provide another example of how Peircean Semiotics can be applied to analyze poems.

### **3.3.Data Collection Procedure**

The writer will do a careful reading and observe each stanza to find hidden meanings and some possible signs within each poem. There are going to be two poems that the writer will analyze, they are *Aku Ingin Menulis Puisi, Yang* (I Want to Write Poem) and *Bagaimana Kalau* (What If). All of them are written by Taufiq Ismail and were published in 1971 (Aveling, 1986, pp. 183, 195, 203, 205, 207, 209; Baligh, n.d., 2017). Findings will be presented in Triadic of Linguistics Signs diagrams to give a clear process of cracking codes and interpreting signs. Since the writer used Comprehension analysis, the Data Collection was done through several stages as explained below:

- 1) Downloaded Contemporary Indonesian Poem, Poems in Bahasa Indonesia PDF file from Books for Life (an Official Account in LINE Messenger) in 2016,

- 2) Read the PDF file to find some poems made by one particular poet interesting enough to be selected for analysis purpose,
- 3) Selected Taufiq Ismail's work in 2017 and point out three poems to be analyzed,
- 4) Filtered out the selecting poems to meet the standard of Indonesian Contemporary Poems,
- 5) Re-read and understood the content of the selected two poems (*Bagaimana Kalau* and *Aku Ingin Menulis Puisi Yang*) to recognize some signs,
- 6) Done some research on Indonesian's social and political states in Suharto's regime to spot national events, phenomena, and tragedies that inspired Taufiq Ismail to write his poems,
- 7) Conducted library studies in 2018 to support the writer's topic of discussion, sorted out the collected data to write descriptive reviews on the selected poems.

#### **3.4.Data Analysis and Interpretation**

The main instrument that the writer used to analyze and interpret the data was based on Triadic System in C.S. Peirce's Theory of Signs. Basically, it was Peircean Semiotics that the writer used in her thesis. Aside from that the writer also discussed the connotative and denotative meaning of each sign found in the poem. On this part particularly, it involved with recognizing and interpreting signs. Several codes found in selected poems that are literary or socially constructed were investigated and analyzed. As the writer had already mentioned above, she also used other sources that focus on social and historical states of Indonesia in New Order as narrated by Taufiq Ismail in his poems. In using Historical-Biographical approach, the writer was obliged to check and prove that

representations of Indonesia within Ismail's poems are based on real events, facts, and previous research or studies were done by scholars regarding social changes, political struggle, and historical events that actually happened in Indonesia under Suharto's regime. At the end of this thesis, the writer presents conclusion on what the writer had managed to find.

Pierce's Triadic system of Linguistics Signs presented two layers of interpreting signs. The first one allowed people to know what signs referred to and what they actually represent. The second one was about the activity of a seeker. People saw what these signs define and its true meaning. All of these procedural steps had to include Triadic diagrams that assisted the writer in explaining steps for the process of interpreting signs in the selected poems.

However, to rely on the literal applications of Semiotics approach, i.e. to interpret signs and crack some codes to find some hidden meanings and authors or poet's true intended messages behind the text, is not enough. Doing a Semiotics study to deliver criticism on some literary work will require the subject of this study to be equipped by other approaches necessary to be added into the study to assist that person in interpreting signs. Signs that are found in the object of study, which are poems written at the end of the 1960s and produced in 1971, must have some reference and connections with events that happened in the past and affected the poet indirectly or directly. In other words, poems must contain writings that present to the readers about depictions and portrayal of a certain people or a country, e.g. Indonesian society decades ago, memorable events that marks the beginning of the new government, the characters of the poets, or perhaps the

poems itself reveal some stories about Taufiq Ismail and his experience in dealing with certain situations and problems that occurred in 1970s Indonesia at that time.

To present connotative and denotative interpretations that the writer managed to find by using Semiotics approach would still be lacking of methodology because she needed to investigate further and study more on the level of chronological events as in Indonesian history and the biography of Taufiq Ismail to find out what exactly some signs refer to and what are their meanings if they represent something rather important to discuss. All of these qualifications will lead to the idea that Semiotics is, in fact, an interdisciplinary approach that no student, critic, reader, and literary works and criticism enthusiast should take lightly and see it as a simple method that is often applied to study works of arts. It is an interdisciplinary approach that requires other equipment such as other approaches within, plenty of research, library study, investigations, and precision in finding which of which are signs worthy of interpreting.

The Historical approach is usually allied with the biographical approach and together they become inseparable. Historical-Biographical approach "sees literary works as reflections of its authors' lives, times or the lives, and times of the characters in the work" (Guerin, Wilfred L.; Labor, Earle; Morgan, Lee; Reesman, Jeanne C.; Willingham, 2005, p. 51). A historical-biographical approach is a powerful tool that assists people in understanding literary works better. If many people know the historical circumstances, as well as the real-life incidents of the author, then readers, students, critics, and scholars can analyze and take out interpretations from the work consequently. Such findings and advantages that people will get from this approach are: (1) what kind of a person

the author is, times he or she lives in will result in shaping the character of that author; (2) his or her beliefs; (3) author's convictions; (4) their thoughts, and (5) philosophy. All of these are reflected in the writings through some illustrations of the characters or situations portrayed there.

The historical approach in literature is the approach that combines some aspects such as social implications, cultural events, and intellectual levels that produced work in an attempt to comprehend passages or texts in literary works. This kind of method would be the most appropriate in conveying literary works back when it was initially created, the circumstances, and social atmosphere to support the creation of that literary works itself. Historical approach according to Guerin is:

The creation by someone at some time in history and it is intended to speak to other human beings about some idea or issue that human reference any work of art for that matter will always be, or meaningful to knowledgeable people than to uninformed ones (Guerin, Wilfred L.; Labor, Earle; Morgan, Lee; Reesman, Jeanne C.; Willingham, 2005, p. 21 as cited in Handono, 2016, p. 16; Sudianto, 2017, p. 97).

Guerin's theory helps the writer to analyze some parts of historical events that occurred in the Transition period from Old Order to New Order (from 1965 – early 1970s Indonesia) as written in Taufiq Ismail's selected poems.

Quoting John Peck and Martin Coyle in *A Brief History of English Literature*, a literary text can convey the deeper currents of change and concern within the society; even unknowingly a literary text can touch on the issue behind the surface issue, the story behind the story (2002, p. 269 as cited in Priyasa,

2017, p. 48). Peck and Coyle state that literature is not all about the "fictitious" contents, fictional characters and settings but also the "reality" in the point of view of the author which is not exposed yet by most news (2002, p. 269 as cited in Priyasa, 2017, p. 48). This being said, people can actually learn some lessons about history from the works of literature. Many people have to understand that, literature is not only serving a purpose to entertain the reader from the perspective of telling a story or merely for producing arts, but they also serve a purpose that is to teach their readers some lessons of past occurrences so that they can learn from it and create a better society that does not root from their predecessor's similar inherent actions or behavior.

From this point, Priyasa added by explaining that "people have seen so many issues like wars, economic crises, corrupted governments, conflicted societies, even natural disasters and most of those issues which had taken place in the past." Those matters and things that people witness, observed, and see firsthand had become, had been learned and understood as a history, which actually shaped society in the present time (2017, p. 53). Related to the Historical approach that is applied in the literature, Priyasa is trying to say that "history is actually reflecting what is happening today and what will happen in the future". Often times, poets, authors, and artisans produce artworks from the inspiration that they get in reality, be it taken from what was happening in the past or in the present times (2017, p. 53).

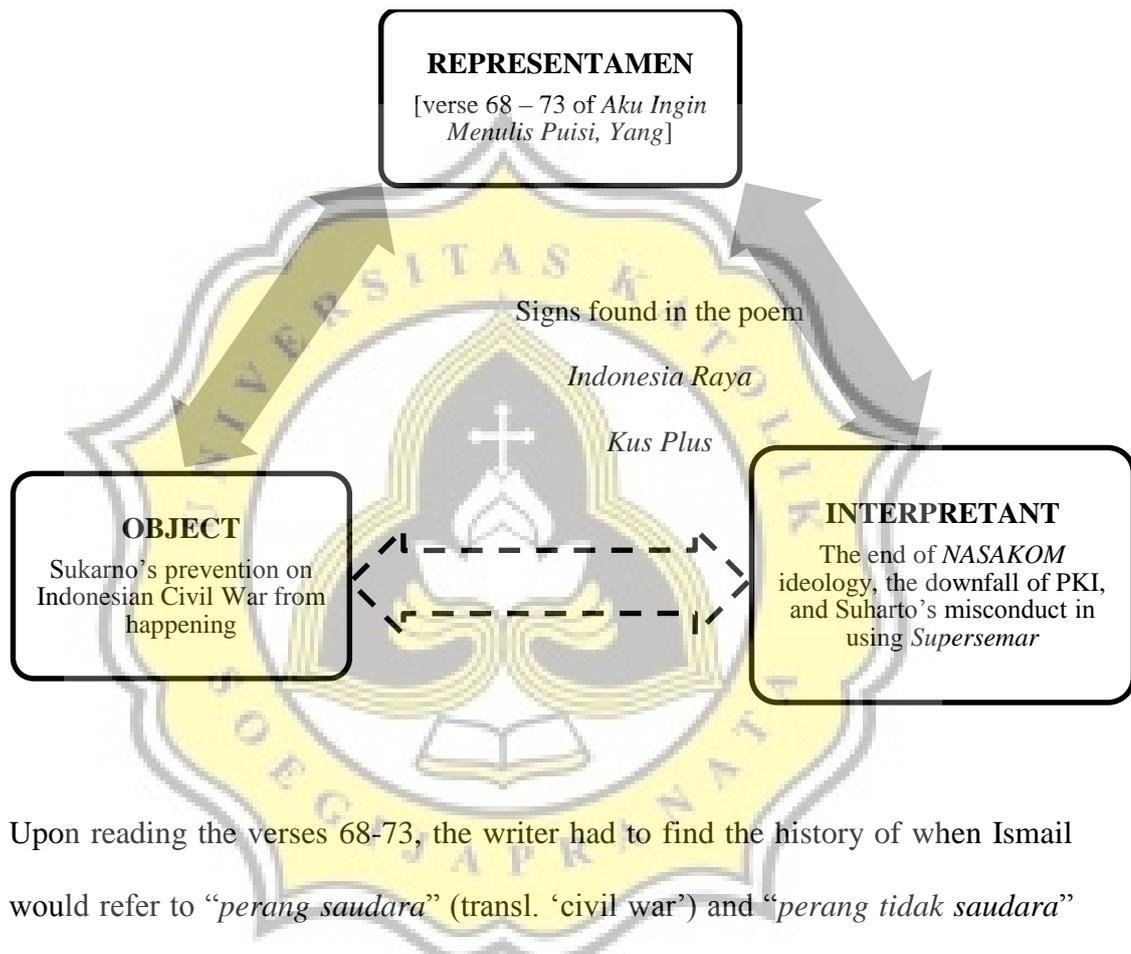
People who are lacking in intellectual exercise will regard literature as works of fictions. Little they know literature provides history lessons within its content and people can actually learn from it. As proposed by Kenneth Quinn in

his book *How Literature Works*, he used the term "moralists" to refer to poets and novelists. They are those celebrated moralists who choose not to preach but instead, they write, produce texts, and give birth to the brainchild of their thoughts. Their literary works are rather the "representation" of their understandings about human life and how it works to make sense with the minds of their readers (Quinn, 2001, p. 168 as cited in Priyasa, 2017, p. 53).

George A. Kennedy pointed out that authors' works were already read and taken as sources of information about their lives, personalities, and interests during the Hellenistic period (323 BC – 31 BC). Later on in *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism, Volume 1: Classical Literature* some parts of these great writings were taken out then used by others, like commentators and critics, to explain and describe passages within that authors' works (Kennedy, 1993). In Literary criticism, Biographical approach analyzes authors' biographies to show the bridge that connects the author's life and their works of literature. During the twentieth century, Biographical approach is often used to study writers and their works such as Charles Dickens, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Steinbeck, Walt Whitman, and William Shakespeare. Infamous collected papers of Samuel Johnson entitled *Lives of the Poets*, the biographical approach is employed to study famous English poets' works and their life that affected the way they produce their poems and see some glimpses of their lives and age they live in that is written in their works.

To help picture better imaginations of the application of this Triadic of Linguistic Signs of Semiotics approach, the writer presented an example on interpreting signs found in *Aku Ingin Menulis Puisi, Yang*. In his poem, Taufiq

Ismail used a lot of personification in almost every stanza. In verses 68 – 73, signs found in this part of the poem were "*perang saudara dan perang-tidak-saudara*" (transl. "civil war and uncivil war"). If interpreted by using Peircean Semiotics the way it is analyzed is as follows:



Upon reading the verses 68-73, the writer had to find the history of when Ismail would refer to "*perang saudara*" (transl. 'civil war') and "*perang tidak saudara*" (transl. 'uncivil war'). Because Ismail was writing in the 1970s, a logical explanation would be about the clashing two fractions of Sukarno, Pro-*NASAKOM* supporters, PKI and its Indonesian commies versus Suharto, *ABRI*, Pancasila-defenders, Muslim Youths, and sea of human of Anti-Communists. It is for this reason that the Representament is the verses in 68-73. As the Object of the poem is Sukarno's very last struggle to defend his country from having a weak

standing as a sovereign nation. His doings were to kill two birds with one stone: preventing Indonesia from having Civil War that will lead to blood bath and the death of millions and to establish stronger sovereignty to fight off invasions from Neo-colonialism and Imperialist European and Western countries that is so eager in having Indonesia as their colony. The Interpretant is referring to some historical events starting from *Supersemar*, Suharto's misconduct, the slaughter of *PKI* members and cadres, commies, Indonesian civilians suspected and accused as communists, Sukarno's downfall, and the beginning of New Order government.

More details and deep explanations on this part alone can be read in Chapter IV. In Chapter IV separated parts of the Peircean Semiotics approach were described one by one according to its function and what they represented or stood for.

