

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH DESIGN

This chapter gives an overview of how the research is conducted. There are three parts in this section: 1) data collection, 2) theoretical framework, and 3) data analysis. The data collection and analysis parts present the details of data collected and include the theoretical approaches which are used as a theoretical framework for analyzing the data used in this study.

3.1 Data Collection

Data for this qualitative research is obtained from all thirty seven chapters in the novel *Changsamran* published in 2003. “Changsamran” is a popular novel written by Duanwad Pimwana, who was the recipient of the S.E.A. Write Award in 2003. Unlike other novels, *Changsamran* is narrated from the perspective of the protagonist Kamphol Changsamran. Although coming from a broken family, Kamphol is able to deal with life’s adversities in a positive and humorous way. *Changsamran* also was inspired by the author’s daily life experiences of seeing the hardships that people faced in her community. Thus, the protagonist, Kamphol Changsamran, in *Changsamran* was selected as the source of data in this study since his character is such a resilient child who overcomes hardship in life without familial and parental support. The novel itself also can represent the real issues which happen in real life and not only in the author’s imagination.

3.2 Theoretical Framework

As discussed in Chapter 2, psychology is the science that systematically studies and attempts to understand and explain human behavior and the human mind. Also, since psychology encompasses all activities and the behavior of a person, psychological theories are broadly applied as a framework to understand behavioral and mental aspects of the human being. Thus, in order to understand behavior and surrounding context of a resilient child, the protagonist Kamphol Changsamran, in making an attempt to overcome his life adversities, resilient literary applied as a psychological conceptual framework in this study.

Resilience arguably refers to a set of protective factors that affect a process of successful adaptation and transformation in spite of risks and adversities. The protective factors lead to positive effects in the resilience of children. Thus, because of the process, children are able to overcome or cope with hardships in the life they engage. However, protective factors are widely defined, so there are only some protective factors related to the successful adaptation of children, despite adversities in this study.

In this study, three protective factors, which include social supports, perceived self-efficacy, and life-coping skills, are used in order to influence the resilience of a child in spite of life adversities. Therefore, the psychological theories of social supports by Cobb and Pender, the psychological theories of perceived self-efficacy by Bandura, and the psychological theories of problem-coping skills by Lazarus and Folkman are used as theoretical frameworks to analyze and understand the behavior of the protagonist and surrounding context. The theoretical framework of the three protective factors is as follows:

The social supports are the first protective factor that affects the resilience of the child. Social supports help the protagonist to cope with his life adversities without parental supports in the study. Cobb and Pender propose that there are three classes of social support that help protect a person against the negative effect of life adversities and these are emotional support, self-esteem support and social support. In addition, there are five groups in a person's support network, which include natural support system, peer support system, religious organization or denomination support system, health professional support system, and organized support system. Thus, the theories of social support elements defined by Cobb and Pender are used as the basis to analyze the data related to the social supports as a protective factor in the study.

The perceived self-efficacy is the second protective factor that affects resilience of the child despite life adversities without parental and familial supports. Bandura proposes four principal sources of self-efficacy that influence the thinking patterns and determination of humans in response to threatening situations. Humans engage as follows: performance attainment or enactive attainment, vicarious experiences, verbal persuasion, and physiological state. He proposes that the perception of a strong sense of self-efficacy would help the person to focus his effort and effectively respond to threatening events. Thus, the theories of perceived self-efficacy elements defined by Bandura are used as the basis to analyze the data related to the perceived self-efficacy as a protective factor in the study.

Life-coping skills are the last protective factor that affects resilience of a child in spite of life adversities without parental and familial supports in the study. Problem-coping skills are a person's active process which will occur in the course of attempting to adapt to stressful environmental conditions in his/her life. Lazarus and Folkman propose two major functions of this coping process, which are problem-

focused coping and emotional-focused coping. They also propose five resources that the person uses in order to deal with stressful situations; these are positive beliefs, problem-solving skills, social skills, social supports, and material resources. Thus, the theories of problem-coping skills are used as the basis to analyze the data related to the problem-coping skills as a protective factor in the study.

3.3 Data Analysis

The data will be analyzed using content analysis based on the resilient literature of three protective factors. The analysis begins with the interpretation of the protagonist's behavior and surrounding context through every chapter of *Changsamran* to clarify the three protective factors affecting resilience of the protagonist, Kamphol Changsamran, that have helped him cope with his life adversities without parental and familial support. The details of the analysis will be discussed in the following chapter.