

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Research Design

This research employs a qualitative descriptive design. According to Creswell and Poth (2016), qualitative research is used to explore and interpret meanings derived from a phenomenon by relying on detailed data and the researcher's interpretation. In line with this approach, this study aims to describe and interpret the application of the popular fiction formula— particularly the plot structure—in the film *Enola Holmes* (2020). Through qualitative descriptive analysis, the researcher examines how the film's plot structure aligns with or modifies detective fiction conventions as explained by Scaggs (2005). This study does not aim to quantify data but to analyze patterns and meanings through systematic observation and interpretation.

B. Source of Data

In this research, the data are divided into primary data and secondary data. Ajayi (2023) explains that primary data are first-hand and original data collected directly by the researcher, whereas secondary data are data that have been previously collected by other individuals or institutions and are used by the researcher for the current study.

Based on this distinction, the primary data of this research is the film *Enola Holmes* (2020), directed by Harry Bradbeer and released on Netflix on September 23, 2020. The film, written by Jack Thorne and adapted from Nancy Springer's novel *The Case of the Missing Marquess*, serves as the main text under analysis, particularly for examining the detective fiction formula through its plot

structure and characterization.

Meanwhile, the secondary data of this research consist of academic journals, books, and scholarly articles related to popular literature, detective fiction theory proposed by Scaggs (2005), and female detective narratives. These secondary sources are used to support the analysis, strengthen the theoretical foundation, and provide contextual and comparative insights into similar detective works.

C. Research Instrument

In this qualitative study, the primary data are taken from the film *Enola Holmes* (2020), particularly the plot events and the characterization of Enola Holmes, which are presented in the form of screenshots and their corresponding transcripts. The researcher then interprets the data using the detective fiction framework proposed by Scaggs (2005) to examine the film's plot structure.

In this qualitative study, the research instrument is implemented through systematic film observation, including repeated viewings, note-taking, and documentation of key scenes. The film *Enola Holmes* (2020) serves as the primary instrument in this study, providing the primary source of data for analysis. The data are obtained through repeated viewing and systematic observation of the film, focusing on plot progression, key events, and the characterization of Enola as the detective figure.

D. Technique of Collecting Data

The data collection technique employed in this study is documentation. Bowen (2009) states that document analysis is a systematic procedure for reviewing and evaluating documents to extract meaning and identify relevant patterns. The researcher collected the data through repeated viewing of the film to ensure accuracy and depth of analysis.

During the data collection process, the researcher carefully observed the film's plot development, character actions, and dialogues related to the detective fiction formula. Relevant scenes were documented by taking screenshots as visual evidence of key plot elements and clues, and by producing selected transcripts of important dialogue excerpts that support the analysis.

Furthermore, the researcher categorized and organized the collected data according to the key elements of detective fiction proposed by Scaggs (2005), focusing on the presence of crime or mystery, the detective figure, the investigation process, the use of clues and suspense, and the resolution of the plot. To ensure credibility and reduce misinterpretation, the researcher conducted cross-checking through repeated observation by comparing notes from different viewing sessions and re-verifying key scenes and dialogue excerpts.

E. Data Verification

To maintain the trustworthiness and credibility of the findings, several data verification strategies were employed. Noble and Heale (2019) explain that triangulation helps strengthen the credibility and validity of research by using

more than one method, source, observer, or theoretical perspective. This technique allows researchers to check the consistency of findings and reduce bias from a single source of data. Therefore, this study applied triangulation in two forms.

First, theoretical triangulation was conducted by cross-checking the interpretation of the film using multiple elements within Scaggs' (2005) detective fiction framework. The researcher examined the film's plot structure through interconnected elements such as crime, investigation, detective figure, and resolution to ensure that the analysis did not rely on a single interpretive dimension.

Second, evidence triangulation was implemented by supporting each interpretation with more than one type of evidence from the film. The researcher verified plot-related claims using a combination of selected scenes, screenshots, and dialogue transcripts, ensuring that the analysis is grounded in observable film evidence rather than subjective opinion.

In addition, thick description was applied by providing detailed and context-rich explanations of selected scenes and plot developments to improve clarity and transferability of the findings. Furthermore, the credibility of interpretations was strengthened by consistently linking each analytical claim to clearly identifiable film evidence (e.g., character actions, scene sequences, and dialogue excerpts), so that the conclusions remain verifiable and aligned with the theoretical framework.

F. Technique of Analyzing Data

The data analysis in this research was conducted using the qualitative data analysis model proposed by Miles et al.(2014). They explain that qualitative data analysis consists of three concurrent flows of activity: data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. This model was used in this study to examine the detective fiction plot structure in *Enola Holmes* (2020) based on the detective fiction framework proposed by Scaggs (2005).

1. Data Condensation

Data condensation was conducted by selecting, focusing, and simplifying the data that were relevant to the research focus. According to Miles et al.(2014), data condensation involves reducing and refining raw data so that the information becomes more focused, meaningful, and suitable for analysis. In this study, the researcher selected important scenes, dialogue excerpts, and plot events from *Enola Holmes* (2020) that relate to the elements of detective fiction. The selected data were then categorized based on Scaggs' framework, including crime or mystery, detective figure, investigation process, clues and suspense, and resolution. Irrelevant scenes that did not support the analysis were excluded to make the data more focused and manageable.

2. Data Display

After the data were condensed, the selected data were displayed in a structured form. According to Miles et al.(2014), data display refers to a visual format that presents information systematically so that researchers

can draw conclusions and take action. In this study, the data were organized into descriptions or tables based on the detective fiction elements proposed by Scaggs (2005). This display helped the researcher see how each scene or plot event represents the structure of detective fiction in the film. Through this stage, the researcher could compare the data across categories and identify patterns in the construction of the detective plot.

3. Conclusion Drawing and Verification

The final stage was conclusion drawing and verification by Miles et al.(2014), explain that early conclusions need confirmation, checking, and verification to ensure that the interpretation is trustworthy. In this stage, the researcher interpreted the patterns found in the displayed data to determine whether *Enola Holmes* (2020) follows, modifies, or diverges from the detective fiction structure proposed by Scaggs (2005). The conclusions were verified by rechecking the selected scenes and dialogue to ensure that the findings were consistent with the film data and the analytical categories.

G. Research Procedure

This research is conducted through several systematic steps. First, the researcher selects the topic by choosing *Enola Holmes* (2020) as the object of the study and determines the theoretical framework based on Scaggs' (2005) detective fiction theory, particularly focusing on the key plot elements of crime, investigation, and resolution.

Next, the researcher conducts a literature review by collecting supporting theories and previous studies on popular literature, the detective fiction formula, and female detective narratives to establish a solid analytical foundation.

After that, the data are collected through repeated viewing of the film, during which the researcher identifies and documents key scenes, dialogues, and narrative events related to the mystery, investigation, and plot progression.

The next step involves data analysis, in which the plot structure of *Enola Holmes* (2020) is examined by mapping its key events into the detective fiction elements proposed by Scaggs (2005), including crime or mystery, detective figure, investigation process, clues and suspense, and resolution. The analysis also evaluates whether the film maintains or modifies conventional detective fiction plot patterns within a contemporary context. Finally, the researcher concludes by summarizing the findings and answering the research questions based on the results of the analysis.