

## CHAPTER III

### METHODS OF THE STUDY

#### 3.1 Research Approach

This research is aimed at finding out women linguistic features used by main woman characters in Tennessee William's *A Streetcar Named Desire* play. Furthermore, this study also finds out the dominant features used by them. In order to answer the statement of the problems, the writer used descriptive qualitative approach in conducting her research.

According to Key (1997), qualitative method attempts to obtain deeper understanding of a target statement of problems and to make findings more valid. Qualitative approach is considered to be appropriate to be used in this research since this study aimed at giving description of women's language features. By using qualitative approach, this study will produce more in-depth and comprehensive information. However, although this study is qualitative in nature, number or statistics were also needed in order to support the qualitative findings in revealing the number of women's language features used by female character in *A Streetcar Named Desire* play.

#### 3.2 Source of Data

This study uses a play as the source of data. The play chosen is *A Streetcar Named Desire* written by an American playwright Tennessee Williams. The play was chosen since Tennessee Williams received the Pulitzer Prize for

Drama and New York Drama Critics' Circle Best Play a year after the play premiered. Since the main characters are women, two main women characters; Blanche and Stella are interesting to be analyzed.

Tennessee Williams, who produced some of the most fascinating works for the American theatre was America's most controversial playwright. He was famous with his troubled private life. In 1948 Tennessee Williams released his masterpiece play called *A Streetcar Named Desire* and set new standards for American drama as well. The play received many praises and awards since it had been released. The play was a huge success both for the play itself and its Broadway performances. *A Streetcar Named Desire* was the second success on Broadway after Tennessee Williams' triumph with *The Glass Menagerie*. *A Streetcar Named Desire* was strongly influenced by Williams' own biographical background like several of his other plays. He never hid that his works reflected his own history and even compared his own life and the characters in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. *A Streetcar Named Desire* has not lost its fame until today. Two of the characters, Blanche and Stella DuBois, are drawing people's attention and worth to be examined more thoroughly.

There are eleven scenes in *A Streetcar Named Desire* play. The writer applied eight out of ten Lakoff's women language features since the source of data is in the written form. Two features, which are rising intonation on declarative and emphatic stress, could not be identified in a written orthographical transcriptions. The writer only analyzed the two main characters utterances, Blanche and Stella.

There might be minor differences between the content of the script that the writer downloaded and the original published book.

### 3.3 Techniques of Data Collection

In collecting the data the writer took three steps. First step, the writer collected the written orthographical script of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* by searching and downloading it online. The script of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* was retrieved from <http://jhampton.pbworks.com/w/file/attach/53101025/Streetcar.pdf>. Second, the writer read the whole *A Streetcar Named Desire* script carefully scene by scene. Third, the writer sorted the utterances spoken by the main actresses, Blanche and Stella.

### 3.4 Techniques of Data Analysis

In identifying women's language features in *A Streetcar Named Desire* play, the writer took some steps. First, the writer identified the women language features from the two main character's utterances. The Women Language Features are identified from the specific utterances as spoken only by the actresses. Second, the writer classified the features found in the utterances into some categories. The analyzed features are classified into some group of feature for easier interpretation. Third, the writer identified the features which are dominantly used by the two main characters. The data obtained are counted to identify the most dominant features used by the two main characters. Fourth, the classified data are

interpreted to describe the meaning of the data. The last step was drawing conclusion based on the interpreted data.

Considering the ten women language features proposed by Lakoff, there are two features, rising intonation and emphatic stress, which cannot be identified only by looking at the written orthographical transcription. The writer has done this to avoid subjective interpretation because one's interpretation of rising intonation and emphatic stress can be different one another. Those two features need specific software which can define pitch and stress based on the recording data. The writer excluded rising intonation and emphatic stress in this study.

