

Novel-based Social Research Using Posthumanism Theory

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ABSTRACT

This article was to describe novel-based social research. The descriptions consisted of explanation, reasoning and example to answer two research questions; why was a research on novel necessary to do? and how was a novel-based social research conducted? The explanations were based on the qualitative method that was certainly used in the research, and the reasonings were to clarify why researchers of social and humanities fields especially in language and literature departments should have done a research on a novel. This article gave an example of novel-based social research that was a best practice example conducted by the researcher. The chosen novel was Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*. After doing a reading process, the researcher found keywords that became starting points of the analysis. To help making careful interpretation when doing the analysis, the researcher chose posthumanism ideas that question the existence of human thought, human existence, and the improvement of technology. Not only using posthumanism, this article used Antonio Gramsci's ideas to find important events and phenomena contained in the novel. All ideas helped to find what the author, Aldous Huxley, wants to say to his readers.

Keywords: novel, social research, post humanism, hegemony

INTRODUCTION

Research is an intellectual work that contains research questions that must be answered, theories that will be used to answer research

questions, data acquisition methods, data obtained, and data analysis used to answer research questions. Everything, from the questions to the analysis of the data obtained should be considered important and nothing is more important than the other. If one research is missing one of its components, its validity in the world of science will be questioned.

In the world of literature, the research conducted is certainly based on literary works. Since the world became acquainted with literary works during Shakespeare's time, research on literary works has continued to be conducted based on research trends during a certain period. This period can be identified from Plato's time until now, from formalism to modernism, or from positivism to structuralism

It should be noted that research will only be considered reliable in its process and results if its validity is not questioned. Literary research should not stop at researching the intrinsic elements and literary beauty of a particular literary work. It should be accommodating the interest of the authors to say crucial opinion to his or her readers.

Literary research had better examine extrinsic factors that can be associated with a certain literary work. Thus, the literary horizon can be broader in scope. Of course, this is related to literature which can also basically be used as a medium for human critical thinking. It is very natural for literary research to use other scientific perspectives.

One of a lot of literary research that can be performed is literary research that makes novels as the object of research. Novels, which are prose works of literary writers, can be used as the basis for one research. Research can focus on the intrinsic elements of literary works, namely themes, characters in the story, setting of places, setting of time and plot of the story. In addition, research can also focus on extrinsic factors such as social, economic, historical, political and environmental.

Subsequently, in the world of science, there is social science, which can be interpreted as a science that examines the existence of something and someone in community or social life. This means that all events in social life can be discussed in social sciences both orally and in writing. Accordingly, a research action in the scope of community or social life can be called social research.

Social research needs a basis. This basis is used as a foothold for thinking, obtaining data and analysing the data obtained. Examples of social research bases include economic bases, political bases, defence and security bases and literary work bases. The latter can be

understood as social research that places its foothold for thinking, obtaining data and analysing data on one or more novels.

It needs to be emphasized once again that novels can be used as a basis for research. A social researcher can use one or more novels. This article will further answer the following questions:

1. Why is novel-based social research significant?
2. How is the process of novel-based social research carried out?

This article will answer these two questions with processes based on best practices that have been carried out by the author. It will certainly be supplemented with the necessary social and literary theories.

METHOD

Determining and understanding an appropriate research method are necessary to do in a novel-based social research. The determined method is vital to get significant data. Earlier, a researcher should recognise that novel-based social research can be included as descriptive research which according to Walliman is research that deals with complex issues. To explain this, Walliman wrote as follows

"This is a descriptive type of research specifically designed to deal with complex issues. It aims to move beyond 'just getting the facts' in order to make sense of the myriad other elements involved, such as human, political, social, cultural and contextual" (2022: 11)

Furthermore, Walliman stated that descriptive research does not only try to reveal facts but also relates other elements such as human, political, social, cultural and contextual rationally. Consequently, novel-based research does not only retell the contents of the novel being studied but also relates it to humanitarian, political, social, cultural issues and contexts related to the author and the contents of the novel. This research will be very interesting because it will also dissect humanities phenomena related to the author, characters, setting of places and setting of time of the story written, as well as the parties involved in compiling the story and publishing the novel.

Related to the debate on the effectiveness of qualitative and quantitative research in the world of science, social research based on literary works is in the qualitative realm because this research describes data obtained from a literary work and is narrated in such a way that the data can be clearly understood by the reader. This research also uses references including critical theories to interpret

the data obtained. The process of data acquisition, narration, and interpretation makes social research based on literary works more qualitative.

Qualitative research itself according to Ahmadi (2019) emphasizes more on investigation, finding answers, socio-cultural experiences, and interactive relationships with informants. He strongly believes in what Denzin & Lincoln (2009) have said, which provides a limitation that qualitative research is research that emphasizes more on process and meaning than measurement. Measurements that use numbers and statistical calculations are more in the realm of quantitative research. In addition, Ahmadi also repeated what Creswell (2009) said that qualitative research emphasizes more on describing the data obtained by researchers. According to Ahmadi, description includes narration, presentation, description and interpretation of data. Furthermore, according to Ahmadi, qualitative research emphasizes narration and interpretation of data.

Furthermore, related to the basis of its research, research based on literary works such as novels is certainly very appropriate in literary research. This is certainly inseparable from what is the basis of the research, namely literary works. Many experts have defined literary research and explained it. However, current literary research should not only focus on the beauty of the story of the literary work, and how the story was written. Literary research should also leave behind discussions about what position a particular literary work is in the world, and from which part of the world the author of the literary work is.

Nevertheless, literary study should be directed to discussing the existence of a literary work in the world, whether it is merely an economic product and does not only pay attention to the quality of literary beauty. Also, how a literary work is bought and read by readers. Is it because of the marketing power of the publisher by making the literary work an advertisement for a particular consumer product or because of the extraordinary quality of the literary beauty of the work.

A reflection related to the focus of good literary research can be read in the Handbook of Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature (2011).

"Yet, for many of us, the aesthetic dimension is the most powerful. We come to the study of children's and young adult literature for many reasons and from many backgrounds, but mostly, we come out of love. Perhaps because these books

contain the stories that have shaped our imaginary geographies, we want to visit them again and again, and in various ways." (2011: 396)

Of the many focuses, the most powerful is the aesthetic dimension. People read children's and young adult literature for many reasons and backgrounds. However, most of them appear because of passion. Children's and young adult literature contains stories about imaginary places that readers always want to explore, and they are ready to do various ways. The reflection continues with the following sentence

"Children's and young adult literature thrives in a variety of contexts, making interdisciplinary research a rich venue for study. (2011: 396)"

Children's and young adult literature emerges in a lot of contexts. This condition is the access of any interdisciplinary research to involve and indeed it is an extraordinarily rich venue for any scientific effort to develop.

This richness is greatly supported by the progressiveness of the thoughts of world philosophers. Mario Klarer (1998) said that after the era of transcendentalism, realism and naturalism, the era of modernism emerged. He wrote

"Modernism" is a blanket term which encompasses the extensive literary innovations in the first decades of the twentieth century which manifest themselves under the influence of psychoanalysis and other cultural-historical phenomena" (1998: 69).

Modernism leads to literary innovations that emerge with the influence of psychoanalysis and other historical cultural phenomena.

Thenceforth, modernism has emerged with subjectivity and rationality. Modernism itself continues to develop new theories related to history and literature. The growth seems never-ending. Many write it as modernity and Jurgen Habermas once said "*the project of modernity has not yet been fulfilled*" (in Castle. 2007: 30). This means that modernity continues to give rise to new discussions and theories.

In addition to the continuance, literary research cannot be separated from the existence of language in literary works. Related to the existence of language, Ferdinand de Saussure in 1916 put forward the idea of structuralism in the context of linguistics. Since then, the

world has been increasingly interested in shifting thinking from positivism to structuralism. Structuralism (Culler. 2002: 5) invites humans to see that an individual will only get meaning culturally if constructed in a system. This means that the relationship between one individual and another in a group is very high.

In some literary theory books of the end of 19th and the beginning of this century, they are mostly written together with social science theories. Social science theories can help bring up literary studies and criticism. Hans Bertenz (2002) wrote *Literary Theory: The Basics* and included theories of criticism, new criticism, formalism, structuralism, politics, poststructuralism, deconstruction, postmodernism, new historicism, cultural materialism, and postcolonialism.

Returning to the phrase "interdisciplinary research", the *Handbook of Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature* shows that literary research requires extensive theoretical references. Therefore, the help of social theories is very much needed. Social science theories will help a writer of criticism or literary studies in making measured interpretations and reducing the subjectivity of the writer in reading and analysing a literary work such as a novel. In addition, basically a writer of criticism or literary studies must also realize that

"Literature records experiences, and it is the critic's job to be able to evaluate those experiences as they are expressed in literary form." (2007: 26)

Literature records what humans think and do, and the task of literary critics is to evaluate any phenomena related to the thought and activities as expressed in literary works. This means that literary critics must not forget that what they must examine are human experiences written in a literary work, not their own experiences and must not be free from that limitation.

Another thing that might help in conducting novel-based social research is understanding the function of literature. Literature functions in many ways in human life. The linguistic and entertainment functions are clearly prominent. In addition, other functions such as the knowledge function because a literary work can contain knowledge related to certain places and cases, the function to influence the opinions of certain community groups or wider community groups, the function to be a historical record in a certain country, the function to be a political tool for someone or a certain political group and the linguistic and social functions which are the result of the use of certain languages in a literary work.

Notes from literary experts regarding the function of literature show that the first function that must be studied is the linguistic function. Alex Thompson (2010) chooses the word distinctive to refer to how literary writers use language in their works. This means that readers will find that the language used in a literary work is not the same as the language used in everyday life. More fundamentally, he said:

"In literature, language is always being transformed from a mere means of communication, a window we look through, into something we look at, and that therefore works on us in other ways." (2010: 11)

Language is always transformed from what is used in daily communication to a key to open our mind, in literature. In addition, language enters our minds in different ways. It also means that in the entertainment function, literary works provide entertainment that is different from other types of entertainment such as comedy shows, films and others. Literary works are like an attempt by the author to enter and play in the minds of readers with distinctive language and interesting experiences conveyed in the work.

In addition to determining and understanding the method to be used in novel-based social research, it is crucial to review several novel-based social studies and provide a best practice of research that has been conducted. Both are used to answer the two questions in the introduction of this article and then, the researcher must provide a foundation of knowledge to support the interpretation of the words and sentences written in the novel.

Reviewing several novel-based social studies is a step to understand novel-based research. In addition, it is needed to find out why these studies need to be done. By reviewing novel-based social studies that have been done, it will open our minds that a novel can lead us to findings that studying a novel can help see how human existence in third world countries, like in the article *The One in the Other: Exploring the Identity of the 'Decolonized Other' in the Postcolonial Novels* written by Regie Panadero Amamio. Studying novels can also help see how mythology is maintained in a territory. It is found in the article written by Mochamad Rifqi (2023) entitled *Anthropocentrism: Criticism towards Human Incarnation of Mythological Creature Banaspati Depicted in Aroma Karsa* by Dewi Lestari. Besides studying novels can also help see how women in the 19th century as written by Nuryadi in his article entitled *Portrait of*

English Women in the 19th Century in the Novel Emma: A Study of Literary Sociology.

To answer the second question, this article will provide a best practice for conducting literary criticism of a novel. Literary criticism that is carried out is directly linked to social problems related to the story written in the novel being studied. In other words, this article will provide a real example of how to conduct social research based on novels. Literary criticism itself can be interpreted as follows

"Literary criticism is a method used to interpret any given work of literature. Literary criticism is the interpretation of a work, an analysis, classification, and, ultimately, literary work judgment. It is usually in the form of a critical essay, but in-depth book reviews can sometimes be considered literary criticism. The different types of literary criticism provide us with lenses that ultimately reveal essential aspects of literary work." (2020: 102)

Literary Criticism is a method of interpretation. It can even be said that literary criticism is the result of interpretation. In it there are results of analysis, classification and assessment of a literary work. The output of literary criticism can be in the form of an essay or a review of rich literature. Literary criticism is likely to be unique because different literary critics will express different views on the same literary work.

This article will show how literary criticism can see the social phenomena told in a novel or at least related to the story. So that it does not only focus on the intrinsic elements of literary works but also considers the extrinsic factors. The related extrinsic factors will be seen with a social theory that is chosen to limit the interpretation so that it is not too subjective.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Significance of Novel-based Social Research

Novel-based social research requires one important effort that becomes the foundation of the research. This effort is reading. Reading will certainly provide an understanding of the contents of the novel. From understanding the contents, a researcher will be interested in seeing one value that can be studied. This value can be one of the intrinsic elements of the novel or extrinsic factors that influence the author or the process of writing the novel. The targeted value, intrinsic

or extrinsic, can be realized into a keyword or research keyword that can be written in the title of the research.

In this article, the novel read is *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. This novel presents a human reproduction process that is carried out in such a way in a laboratory. One of the most important phrases of scientific words in the early pages of the novel is Bokanovsky's Process. As written:

"Bokanovsky's Process," repeated the Director, and the students underlined the words in their little notebooks. One egg, one embryo, one adult - normality. But a bokanovskyified egg will bud, will proliferate, will divide. From eight to ninety-six, and every bud will grow into a perfectly formed embryo, and every embryo into a full-sized adult. Making ninety-six human beings grow where only one grew before. Progress. "Essentially," the D. H. C. concluded, "bokanovskification consists of a series of arrests of development. We check the normal growth and, paradoxically enough, the egg responds by budding." (1932: 3).

Aldous Huxley in 1932 presented his readers with an imagination of the human reproductive process regulated as written on the first page, hatchery and conditioning, in a laboratory. The phrase Bokanovsky's process invites his readers to remember Maurice Bokanovsky, a prominent French political figure in the 1920s. At the same time, he invites his readers to remember World War 1 when France and England and the countries on their side fought Germany which was also with the countries on their side from 1914 to 2018. This novel invites its readers to critically understand the relationship between what is told and the characters and terms used with the social phenomena that occur and are predicted to occur. In other words, Aldous Huxley invites his readers to remember World War 1 and the socio-economic and political conditions after World War 1. Through the novel *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley tries to provide an understanding of what is and will happen to human life at that time and in the future. According to this novel, human reproduction must be designed in such a way as to produce a generation of humans who are subject to their will, the rulers, as written:

"We also predestine and condition. We decant our babies as socialized human beings, as Alphas or Epsilons, as future sewage workers or future ..." He was going to say, "future world

controllers." But correcting himself, said "future Directors of Hatcheries," instead." (1932: 10).

The novel also tells that the rulers can regulate the quality of the human generation so that resistance to them will be reduced. It is written:

"Reducing the number of revolutions per minute." Mr. Foster explained. "the surrogate goes round slower; therefore, passes through the lung at longer intervals; therefore, gives the embryo less oxygen. Nothing like oxygen-shortage for keeping an embryo below par." (1931: 11)

Further confirmation in the novel regarding class differences will affect differences in treatment by the rulers is the sentence "the lower the caste," said Mr. Foster, "the shorter the oxygen." (1932: 11).

Several quoted sentences from the novel *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley convince us that "*Literature records experiences, and it is the critic's job to be able to evaluate those experiences as they are expressed in literary form.*" (2007: 26). The task of a literary critic is to evaluate the experiences contained in literary works. These experiences are internalizations of events experienced by the author of a literary work. These experiences are then expressed intelligently and aesthetically by the author of the literary work.

From the language or choice of words used, we can see that Aldous Huxley uses words that are appropriate to his purpose. The name Foster that he uses for a character who handles babies from the castes Alphas, Betas, Gamma, Deltas to Epsilon, means caregiver. This means that from the first page and from the words he uses, Aldous Huxley invites his readers to imagine a large house that functions as a place to live for babies who are cared for by someone who is not their parent and who is chosen to carry out his duties and is arranged based on castes.

Novel review is carried out to interpret the intelligence of the author of a particular literary work in critical writings. This interpretation must be presented critically and not carelessly. The ability to relate what the novelist writes to external factors represents the level of intelligence of the literary critic. The more careful and precise a literary critic is in doing so, the higher the quality of his intelligence. That is why novel-based social research is significant to conduct.

A Critical and Careful Interpretation Supported by a Social Theory

Novel-based social research is conducted with several steps as follows

1. Reading.
2. Finding keywords that are inseparable from literary functions.
3. Linking keywords with at least one appropriate social theory or psychological theory.
4. Raising one or more research questions that must be answered.
5. Carrying out an interpretation written with the limitations of the chosen social theory or psychological theory.

All five steps must be conducted critically and carefully. Criticality and carefulness will affect the quality of the research. As previously stated, reading is the initial and important step in conducting novel-based social research. Technically, Lisa Chalykoff, Neta Gordon, and Paul Lumsden (2021) wrote the following reading levels

1. Level one: evaluation
This step begins with the question; do I, the reader, like this work? and what is my deep reaction, the reader, to this text?
2. Level two: interpretation
This second level begins with the question; what is this text about?
3. Level three: description
This next level is based on the question; what is the format of this text? fiction, drama or poetry? Can we describe its basic formal features?
4. Level four: analysis
This fourth level begins with the question; how do the features of the text tell the content of the text?
5. Level five: critical analysis

This highest level begins with questioning how the formal elements of the text can convey the author's intent. In a simpler sentence, it is finding what the author wants to convey to his or her readers. The five levels of reading are the steps to researching a text or if the text in question is a novel, and all five are the steps to research a novel. If the researcher uses at least one social theory, the research is novel-based social research.

The following is an example of using the steps of a novel-based research. The novel read is *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. This novel was published in 1932. Of course, this novel represents the author's experiences before 1932. Major events that occurred before 1932 were World War 1, the socio-political and economic turmoil after World War 1 and the impacts of the Great Depression in the United States on the socio-economic life of British society.

Interesting words that can be used as keywords are Alphas, Betas, Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons. The five words can be used as keywords because they represent many things in the novel. In fact, the five can be used as research titles, namely Alphas, Betas, Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons in the Novel *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley: a Representation of Power Domination and Social Class.

The title directs the research to discuss in depth the existence of Alphas, Betas, Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons in the novel and see the relationship between the keywords and the dominance of power and social class shown by the novel's author, Aldous Huxley. To be more focused, the research must answer the following research questions

1. Why are Alphas, Betas, Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons written in such a way in the novel *Brave New World*?
2. What does Aldous Huxley want to convey to his readers?

These two questions are the focus of social research as well as the focus of writing literary criticism articles.

To answer the first question; Why are Alphas, Betas, Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons written in such a way in the novel *Brave New World*? the research shows more of what Aldous Huxley wrote about Alphas, Betas, Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons. The research must show several quotes from the novel related to the five keywords. The first quote is taken from page 22:

"Elementary Class Consciousness, did you say?. Let's have a repeated a little louder by a trumpet."
At the end of the room a loudspeaker projected from the wall. The director walked up to it and pressed a switch.
"... all wear green." said a soft but very distinct voice, beginning in the middle of the sentence, "and Delta children wear khaki. Oh no, I don't want to play with Delta children. And Epsilons are still worse. They are too stupid to be able to read or write. Besides they wear black, which is such a beastly colour. I'm so glad I'm a Beta." (1932).

Beta caste children are taught to discriminate against children of lower castes; the Delta and Epsilon castes. They are always taught that Delta and Epsilon children are stupid, cannot read and write, and behave badly.

Beta children are also taught that children from the Alpha caste are smarter and better than Beta children. As written in the novel

"Alpha children wear gray. They work much harder than we do because they're so frightfully clever. I'm really awfully glad I'm a Beta, because I don't work so hard. And then we are much

better than the Gammas and Deltas. Gammas are stupid. They all wear green, and Delta children wear khaki. Oh no, I don't want to play with Delta children. And Epsilons are still worse. They are too stupid to be able to...(1932: 23)

The teachings are given through sounds that are played repeatedly. The sounds can even be memorized and repeated exactly by Beta children. It will be in their minds even when they are adults and old.

The sounds are the teachings of the state, as written in the novel; *"...But all these suggestions are our suggestions!" The Director almost shouted in his triumph. "Suggestions from the State" (1932: 24).* The state, in this case the ruler, gives the doctrine that citizens are divided into castes, and each caste has its own character. The top caste does not need to have good relations with the lower castes.

It can be concluded that the rulers in Brave New World want their citizens to obey their orders. The citizens are created into classes and do not talk deeply to each other. What they do is what they can do according to their capacity and capability. The rulers do not want their citizens to do more, just live and obey.

Citizens who are designed to be high caste will socialize and live their way. While citizens who are designed to be low caste will have a low lifestyle and are considered impossible to live like high caste citizens. Even what is liked has been measured in such a way by the rulers. Low caste citizens are considered unable to get what is liked by high caste citizens.

The second question requires one or more social theories to limit the researcher's interpretation. The accuracy and precision of choosing a social theory will affect the quality of the research. At least the researcher must bring the social theory that will be chosen closer to the research keywords. Thus, the social theory will help the research.

The keywords of this research are Alphas, Betas, Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons Alphas, Betas, Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons which represent the castes of citizens according to the will of the ruler who uses his power to dominate his citizens. Researchers need to find a social theory that can help to explore what the author of the novel Brave New World wants to convey. The theory must be related to the following concepts

1. Social class
2. Domination of the Ruler

The social theory related to both concepts is the Hegemony theory initiated by Antonio Gramsci.

"Hegemony in Gramsci's sense is a consensus organization where submission is obtained through the mastery of the ideology of the hegemonic class" (2017)

According to Siswati (2017) Gramsci emphasized that hegemony is not a relationship of domination using power, but a relationship of agreement using political and ideological leadership. It can be understood that hegemony is different from domination because hegemony is not just coercion with violence but control by agreeing or equalizing ideology. Hegemony does not only apply in the political and economic domains but also in the wider domain of ways of life and other cultural elements.

That is what Aldous Huxley wanted to convey to his readers. Not only the words in the novel *Brave New World* such as hatchery controller, alphas, betas, gammas, deltas, and epsilons that represent the power of the ruler to regulate human reproduction and class in a country. but in the novel, there are also sentences of resistance such as "Liberalism, of course was dead of anthrax, but all the same you couldn't do things by force." (1932: 42) which can be translated as "Everything including liberalism that is dead because of Anthrax, cannot be forced." Aldous Huxley also wrote:

"Government's an affair of sitting, not hitting. You rule with the brains and the buttocks, never with the fist. For example, there was the conscription of consumption." (1932: 42)

According to him, government is the work of people who sit and dialogue, not hit. Run the government with thoughts and discussions. For example, the government is conveying things about military service, that is a matter of consumption, not a matter of physical fighting.

In addition to being related to government power, there are several Ford words, such as *oh Ford* (1932: 24), which sounds like oh Lord. Ford tells about the power of Henry Ford, the owner of the Ford car factory. He began the 20th century continuing to represent the economic superiority of capitalism throughout the world including in England. Ford also controlled the driving trend at that time by successfully enforcing his idea of the perfect car.

Not only that, but the word Ford also shows what Antonio Gramsci meant by his concept of "*the world-making power inherent in every person*" (in Denning, Michael. 2023). Henry Ford did not formally represent the government. He was an individual who controlled the world with products produced by his factories around

the world. Ford is proof that hegemony is not only owned by a group of rulers in government but also someone who has capital and factories with products that controlled the world in the 1920s to 1930s.

Finally, it can be said that the novel *Brave New World* is a story about individuals in power and an authoritarian government that regulates the lives of those under them or commonly called citizens, not only politically but also culturally. The government determines human reproduction, lifestyle, and pleasure. The government even propagates the freedom of sexual intercourse that is only recreational without any formal purpose and reproduction. It was written by Aldous Huxley several times to show that the sentence was used as a doctrine by the ruler and taught to its citizens; "*But every one belongs to everyone else*" (1932: 34).

This article has just given an example of social research based on a novel. There are technical steps that convey data from the object of research and events related to the characters and settings of place and time in the novel that must be met to make the research meet scientific requirements. In addition, there is a social theory that is used to limit the researcher's interpretation so that it remains guarded and does not seem frivolous. An example of research based on the novel *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley can be developed with more data from the novel and perhaps use more than one social theory to make the interpretation more qualified.

CONCLUSION

Social research can be conducted with the object of a novel because the novel in question represents life when the novel was written. This research can also be categorized as literary research that uses qualitative methods. The qualitative method in question is utilizing data from a novel and interpreting it as the next technical step.

Novel-based social research is conducted because the research will produce an interpretation of the novel writer's intelligence, and a review related to important events that occurred when the novel was written or before. The interpretation of intelligence must be carried out carefully by reading and understanding the contents of the novel, searching for event data and finding keywords as a focal point for the study. The keywords in question will only be found if the reader carries out the reading process up to the level of analysis and even critical analysis.

After finding the keywords, the researcher needs to find one or more appropriate social theories. The social theory in question can help interpret the contents of the novel as well as find what the novel writer wants to convey to his readers or more widely to the community. What the reader wants to convey determines the quality of the interpretation and at the same time determines the quality of the research.

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