CHAPTER III
METHODS OF THE STUDY

This chapter discusses the main aspects of the research, namely: 1) method of research, 2) pilot study, 3) respondents, access, and samples, 4) instruments of the research, 4) procedures of data collection, and 5) data analysis methods. They are presented in the following.

3.1 Method of Research

According to Smith and Louis (1982, cited in Miles and Huberman, 1987:15), qualitative research is typically no longer the province of the lone fieldworker immersed in a local setting, but is now often part of a multisite, multimethod effort. This study employs a qualitative approach in analyzing and observing *Twilight*. Maxwell (1996) states the strengths of qualitative research are derived primarily from its inductive approach, its focus on specific situations or people, and its emphasis on words rather than numbers.

To recall the purposes of this study, the writer displays the research question for the purpose of data analysis. There are:

1. From the readers’ perspectives, what human free will issues are reflected through the main character in *Twilight*?

2. What processes of response are evidenced from readers’ responses?

To investigate the issues, the writer used qualitative approach by applying a case study. One of the forms of qualitative research is the case study. “A case study, on the other hand, justifies the selection of a particular case in terms of the purposes
of the study and existing theory and research, and a different kind of argument is needed to support the generalizability of its conclusions” (Maxwell, 1996:55).

Furthermore, in the line with the idea above, according to Maxwell (1996), in a qualitative study, “you are interested not only in the physical events and behavior that is taking place, but also in how the participants in your study make sense of this and how their understanding influence their behavior”. Taking from the explanation above, the qualitative approach is chosen in this study because of its capability in understanding the Komunitas Twilight Indonesia Fansite’s members’ year 2010 as respondents.

Along with using the qualitative approach, the study also employs a descriptive method. According to Creswell (1994), the descriptive method of research is to gain information about the present existing condition. The aim of descriptive research is to try out hypotheses or to answer questions concerning to the current situation of the research. Thus, descriptive method is considered relevant to this study since it has purpose to describe readers’ perspectives on human free will issues as reflected through main character in Twilight.

Finally, the method used in this study is an approach of free will theory. Maxwell (1996) argues that theory is a statement about what is going on with the phenomena that you want to understand. A useful theory is one that tells an enlightening story about some phenomenon, one that gives you new insight and broadens your understanding of that phenomenon. According to Inwagen (1982), free will in the traditional sense is the power of agents to be ultimate the creator and sustainers of their own ends or purposes. Human would not be the ultimate
creators of their own destinies if their purposes and actions resulted from forces beyond the control of their wills. Choices and decisions are acts of mind.

3.2 Pilot Study

There is no design or research is so complete that it cannot be improve by a small scale prior research. Prior research can serve several purposes in the study such as providing existing theory, developing a justification for the study – how the study will address an important need or unanswered question, informing about methods, suggesting alternative approaches or revealing potential problems and being a source of data that can be used to try out or modify your theories (Strauss, 1987:48-56; Marshall & Rossman, 1995:22-25; Maxwell, 1996:43).

Furthermore, Maxwell (1996:44) says:

Pilot study serves some of the same functions as prior research, but they can be focused more precisely on your own concerns and theories. You can design pilot studies specifically to test your ideas or methods and explore their implications or to inductively develop grounded theory.

The writer conducted a pilot study to try out the questions in the written reader responses. Two respondents were asked to gather data in order to answer the questions set out in the scope in 5th June, 2010 through email. In order to explore some of the more intangible issues, the writer also held a group discussion in 20th June, 2010. Through pilot study, the writer reconstructed the questions to find the suitable issues on Twilight. Pilot study resulted the final questions in the written reader responses, guiding questions in the interviews and the suitable issue on Twilight.
3.3 Respondents, Access, and Samples

3.3.1 Respondents

The respondents of this study are the Twilight Indonesia Fansite year 2010 (http://www.grou.ps/twilightindo/talks). The writer is a member of Twilight Indonesia fansite 2010 since August 5th, 2010. It is a fansite dedicated to discussing everything related to Twilight by Stephenie Meyer, exclusively made for Indonesian fans. It has 8065 members. The writer learned that in most of their discussion generally they create an activity point. Activity points showed that how active the members are in posting their information and their opinion about Twilight. There were 14 members who get 500 until 1000 activity points.

The writer believes that the age of the members range between 19 to 29 years old. According to their age, the respondents are classified into adult. So, the writer assumes that they already have enough intellectual ability to analyze the matter being discussed. Given these developmental issues, adult may focus their attention on the main character that they perceive as experiencing similar tension and complexities. Since the respondents are member of Twilight Indonesia Fansite in 2010, the writer is convinced that they will provide informative information needed in this study.

3.3.2 Access

On the basis of the same interest, Twilight, the respondents readily welcome the observation. The writer chose Twilight as the text to which the readers asked to give responses. The writer believes that the issues of love will attract the
reader’s interest so they will be more motivated in giving their responses. The writer elaborated the readers’ perspectives about human free will as reflected through the main character in *Twilight*. *Twilight Indonesia* fansite 2010’s members have been accustomed to sharing ideas, information and experiences. It makes our interpersonal relationship established.

### 3.3.3 Samples

Maxwell (1996:18-19) defines sampling as the technique of data collection which takes a relatively small number of individuals or situations and preserve the individuality of each of these in their analyses, rather than collecting data from large samples and aggregating the data across individuals or situations. Due to the fact that limited data will be supportive for the need of intensive data analysis, the writer took 14 samples from the total *Komunitas Twilight Indonesia*’ members in 2010. Patton (1990, cited in Maxwell, 1996:70) describes those 15 different types of sampling that can be employed in qualitative research, almost all of which are forms of purposeful sampling. The criterion for the selection of these samples is the respondents are active members of *Twilight Indonesia* Fansite in 2010.

### 3.4 Instruments of the Research

The qualitative researcher usually has a kit of data-collecting devices that are keys, directly or indirectly, to the conceptual framework and research questions called instruments. In addition, instruments mean little more than some shorthand
devices for observing and recording events. In this study, the writer chose written responses and interviews to collect the data.

3.4.1 Questions to Elicit Respondents’ Responses

The activity of writing involves making a stage of decisions. Particularly, the authors have to make clear statements of where they are standing. Therefore, understanding literature is a complex activity which demands lots of mind’s work and full of choices. This choices activity may spring from the reader’s choices of most important word, passage, aspect or a particular issue, conceivably one of minor importance to the author. Then, the author finally learns something about the difference between instinct and thought.

Probst (1988:48-49) states that written responses are likely to be not fragments of ideas, but full of logical chains. The technique is a compromise between freedom and control, directing the readers, but directing them to look inside themselves. It is explaining the reader’s choice of most important word, passage, or aspect, ask the reader to look both the text and themselves and examine the transaction that has taken place between the two. The questions are sufficiently open to allow readers their own responses and reply in private through notes returned with the papers. The details of questions in the written responses are described as follows:
a. “Renne has always the choices that work for her – she’d want me to do the same. And Charlie’s resilient, he’s used to being on his own. I can’t take care of them forever. I have my own life to live” (Twilight P. 414)

“Life is a sum of all your choices” by Albert Camus

What do you think about this?

b. In the Twilight (2005) written by Stephenie Meyer, Bella decided to choose Cullen as part of her life:

What are your responses about Bella’s decision?

Do you think that Bella responsible with her choices? Explain the reason to support your ideas.

Does Bella experience internal conflict to decide the choices? Explain the reason to support your ideas.

c. The Twilight (2005) is about the unique relationship between vampire and human and about how the writer has leaned away from traditional vampire stuff. The story is very entertaining and endearing. Isabella Swan as the main character experienced life choices and she has free will to choose.

What kind of impressions and experiences that you get after you read the Twilight (2005) written by Stephenie Meyer?
3.4.2 Interview’s Guiding Questions

The interview aimed to get deeper understanding about the readers’ responses by asking them the reasons of their responses. Maxwell states (1996:55) that interview-based study; in particular, often employ a sampling logic, selecting interviewees in order to generalize to some population of interest. To ensure that everything stated is preserved for analysis, the interviews were transcribed. The details of guiding questions in the interview are described as follows:

a. Asking about the definition of human free will based on the respondents’ point of view.

b. Asking about the definition of internal conflict based on the respondents’ point of view.

c. Asking about the definition of moral responsibility based on the respondents’ point of view.

3.5 Procedures in Collecting the Data

As has been mentioned above, data collection in this study was gained from "Twilight" written by Stephenie Meyer, readers’ written responses, and the results of interviews. The writer used triangulation in collecting the data. In line with this, Alwasilah (2006:150) states that triangulation refers to the collecting the data as much as possible from different range of sources such as human, background, and event through different methods. The writer used survey, interviews, and documents analysis.
The survey on readers’ written responses was carried out to collect the data from 14 respondents who were members of Komunitas Twilight Indonesia in 2010. This method used to elaborate the respondents’ opinions, ideas, attitudes, perspectives and perceptions about related issues. Meanwhile, the respondents were kept confidential so that they feel free to express and share their ideas, opinions, and perceptions about related issues. The interview aimed to validate the readers’ written responses by ensuring that their responses are consistent and to discover additional information which cannot be achieved by readers’ written response. The last method was documents analysis, intended as supporting evidence to neutralize the weaknesses of survey and interviews. Triangulation is used to decrease bias from one method and to increase the conclusion validity (Alwasilah: 2006). The detailed procedure of data collecting is described in the following explanation:

3.5.1 Stephenie Meyers’ *Twilight*

*Twilight* was one of 2005’s most talked about novels and within weeks of its release the book debuted at #5 on *The New York Times* bestseller list. Among its many accolades, *Twilight* was named an "ALA Top Ten Books for Young Adults," an Amazon.com "Best Book of the Decade...So Far", and a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year. There is a review that *Twilight* has received.

From Becky Anderson, of Anderson's Bookshops cited in (www.stepheniemeyer.com/twilight_reviews.html) states that "What a totally amazing debut! *Twilight* is that rare story that combines suspense, desire, love and
friendship with an awesome twist on the vampire genre! Both young adults and adults will be "sucked" into Edward's and Bella's world and beg for more, especially after they turn the last page. I can't wait for the next book!"

3.5.1.1 The Synopsis

Isabella Swan leaves Phoenix, Arizona and moves to a new place in Forks, Washington to live with her dad. She does it so her mother can travel around with her baseball player husband Phil Dwyer. Bella isn’t a central attention in Phoenix, but after her move to Forks, she soon finds herself in the spotlight at her new school. To her astonishment and dismay many of the guys in class compete for her attention.

Forks is rainy and Bella doesn’t enjoy it much – to her it’s boring and pretty lame. There is one saving grace though – Edward Cullen, the handsome guy she sits next to in Biology. As she’s trying to find out more about this mysterious man, she hears of The Cullen being un-human. Despite all the talk, Bella finds it impossible to believe there’s anything supernatural about him and his strange behavior.

During Bella’s first day of school, Edward Cullen displays a strange level of tension toward her. She reasons that it’s because he doesn’t like her that much. Shortly after though, he begins to change his attitude and starts friendly talk. Then one day on a parking lot, an out of control van comes flying at Bella and is about to crush her to death when all of a sudden the van is stopped by an unknown force just before it would have squashed her against her own truck. Completely
unharmed realizing she should have been dead, Bella turns her head and sees Edward, whom she saw across the parking lot just a second ago, kneeling next to her with his hand against the van. Bella looks at the hand shaped dent on the van and realizes that Edward halted speeding van with his hand.

Bella didn’t tell anyone about how Edward saved her life, but when she approached him to explain how he could get to her across the lot so quickly and stops the van with his hand, he isn’t too keen to confess and refuses to comment. When confronted about it by her, Edward simply comes with excuses Bella is not willing to accept. However he mentions that it’s in their best interest to stay away of each other, as getting involved with her would put her in immense danger.

Bella has no more doubts that Edward and the entire family of Cullen are un-human. She is hinted by her friend Jacob Black that The Cullen are a clan of vampires. When attraction between the two grows to a point that neither can be without each other, Edward reveals the truth about his family. He even tells her about his ability to read people’s minds and that he’s dumbfounded by his inability to ascertain what she is thinking.

Edward and Bella fall deeply in love, despite the obvious difficulties a love between a human and a vampire presents. Edward is facing his biggest personal challenge in resisting Bella’s scent. The scent of her blood is extremely strong and desirable, and Edward is afraid that the natural instincts of a vampire he is would take over to a point that he wouldn’t be able to contain himself and would harm the woman he loves.
Bella’s scent is then picked up by a tracker vampire James who sets on a mission to hunt Bella down for sport. The Cullen, who now consider Bella part of her family are determined to protect her and separate Bella from Edward, sending the girl back to Phoenix. Bella stays in a hotel and receives a phone call from James telling her he had her mom and gave her instructions on what she needs to do if she wants to see her alive.

Bella surrenders herself to James, but Edward shows up and fights him. The rest of Cullen joins in to fight the tracker but he manages to bite Bella in her hand before he’s killed. Edward doesn’t want Bella to turn into a vampire and begins to suck venom infected blood from the wound. He now tastes the blood, the smell of which he found so hard to resist. He was urged to stop by his adopted father Carlisle Cullen.

Bella was saved and after she’d recovered, she returned to Forks to attend prom with Edward. As the two walk into the night, Bella exposes herself and pleads with him to embrace her and turn her into one of his kind with a bite to her neck. Edward refuses, although the reason for this denial is unknown.

3.5.1.2 The Author

Stephnie Meyer was born on December 24, 1973 in Hartford, Meyer grew up in Phoenix, Arizona and was one of six children. She met her husband, Christian, in high school, but they did not marry until after she graduated from Brigham Young University. Meyer's started her writing career in young adult

Meyer has also published four sequels to *Twilight* and one adult novel, *The Host*. Stephenie Meyer's Awards: a *New York Times* Editor's Choice, a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year, An Amazon.com "Best Book of the Decade...So Far", A *Teen People* "Hot List" pick, An American Library Association "Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults" and "Top Ten Books for Reluctant Readers". Stephenie Meyer planned to publish a retelling of *Twilight* from the male character's perspective. A draft of the book, *Midnight Sun*, was leaked on the Internet. Meyer published a statement saying she was putting the project on hold indefinitely as a result. After the publication of her first novel, *Twilight*, booksellers chose Stephenie Meyer as one of the "most promising new authors of 2005" (*Publishers Weekly*).

### 3.5.2 Reader’s Written Responses

The writer chose written responses as a data to be analyzed. It is also believed that written response acts as the evidence of the transaction between the reader and the text (Hancock, 1992). The written response explains the reader’s choice of most important word, passage, or aspect. As has been mentioned above that the respondents of this study are 14 readers. To get readers’ written response, the writer asked them to answer the questions through email. The consideration using email as a media to collect the data is the location between respondents and writer are away from each other.
3.5.3 Interview

After collecting the readers’ written responses, the writer conducted interviews to 14 respondents in order to get additional data for this study. Besides asking the questions, the writer also asked some more questions to elaborate the issues coming up in the written responses. In the interview process, the writer used Indonesian so that the readers can easily answer the questions, express their opinion and feeling about the subject matter. In the collected data, the writer used Yahoo Messenger (YM) because it provides the best source of information when the writer doesn’t have direct access to respondents. Then it transcribes the result in the form of dialogue.

3.6 Coding

The data was gathered from readers’ written responses and interview. Maxwell (1996:77) states that any qualitative study requires decisions about how the analysis will be done, and these decisions should influence, and be influenced by the rest of the design. The qualitative researcher begins data analysis immediately after finishing the first interview or observation and continues to analyze the data as long as the researcher is working on the research, stopping briefly to write reports and papers.

In analyzing the data, the writer adapts coding stages from Alwasilah’s method of data analysis (2006). There was a group of coding carried out by the writer. For the human free will issues, the writer put straight lines under the
statements that conveyed them. The writer also wrote codes near the lines such as F for free, D for determinism, R for reader and many more.

As Miles and Huberman (1984:56) say that a code is an abbreviation or symbol applied to a segment of words – most often a sentence or paragraph of transcribes field notes – in order to classify the words. Therefore, Alwasilah (2006:159) draws the advantages of coding as follows:

1. It helps researchers to identity a phenomenon.
2. It makes the calculation of the frequency of phenomenon appearances easier.
3. The frequency of code appearances is helpful in finding the tendency of research result.
4. It helps researchers to propose categorization and sub-categorization.

In conclusion, the main categorizing strategy in qualitative research is coding. It is also stated that “To fracture the data and rearrange it into categories that facilitate the comparison of data within and between these categories and that aid the development of theoretical concepts. Another form of categorizing analysis involves sorting the data into broader themes and issues” (Maxwell, 1996:78-79; Alwasilah, 2006:160).

3.7 Concluding Remarks

The writer used triangulation in collecting the data. Triangulation method is used to decrease refraction from one method and to increase the validity conclusion. The writer used survey, interviews, and documents analysis. The data
was collected through readers’ written responses in order to get information about human free will based on readers’ perspective. Interviews were carried out in order to elaborate readers’ responses considering the varying and interesting statements that might contribute to the important findings. Interviews were also aimed to validate the readers’ written responses by ensuring that their responses are consistent. The last method was documents analysis, intended as supporting evidence to neutralize the weaknesses of survey and interviews.

The data collection methods conducted by the study are guided by the aim of the research that to describe readers’ perspectives on human free will issues as reflected through the main character in Twilight and the processes of response as evidence from readers’ responses. To clarify and simplify the analysis of data findings, the writer carried out coding.