CHAPTER III

RESEARCH OBJECT AND METHOD

In this chapter, I present the aspects dealing with research methodology which are used to analyze the essay. These aspects are research object and research method. Further, the research method is divided into to part, data collection and data analysis.

3.1. Research Object

The object of this research is the Karen Armstrong's point of view in Islam history using the data in essay *Islam: A Short History* by Karen Armstrong. The choosing of this object is actually based on clash phenomena between Western and Islam, as we know today, not only physically war, but also western stereotype to Islam especially through media.

In addition, the focus is next directed to the choosing of the research data, there are some factors causing the clash between Western and Islam occurred. It is taken to be research data, thus I research the Karen Armstrong's point of view based on that data.

3.2. Research Method

Actually, the most important thing in doing research is Research Methodology. Because research design can help the researcher to investigate the

problem, it can show how the study will be set up in order that researcher's questions will be answered and relationship will be observed.

According to Donald Ary (1979:25) research method refers to general strategy in gathering and analyzing the data. It is necessary for answering the question at a hand and it is the plan of attack for the problem under investigating.

Based on the statement above, here I will analyze this research by using qualitative and descriptive analysis method.

First, In a qualitative study*," research design should be a reflexive process operating through every stage of a project."(*Hammersley & Atkison, 1983, 28). Then, Maxwell stated that:

> *"The activities of collecting and analyzing data, developing and modifying theory, elaborating or refocusing the research question, and identifying end eliminating validity threat are usually all going on more or less simultaneously, each influencing all of the others"* (Maxwell, 1996, 2-3).

Based on the explanation above, he emphasizes that qualitative research design conception are collecting, analyzing data, modifying theory that is elaborated based on the research question and identifying validity each others.

Actually, the qualitative approach is employed because I want to describe the Karen Armstrong's point of view in her essays. Sawako Kato (2000) in his research stated that compared to quantitative research. In qualitative approach we might get information beyond that we expect from its results. We can get more than the figure or data.

Second, According to Ratna (2006: 53) descriptive analysis method is conducted by describing and analyzing the facts as the research data. The descriptive analysis method in this research is implemented to describe Karen Armstrong's point of view in essay Islam: A Short History.

3.1.1 Data Collection

Data collection is an underlying thing that is necessarily done to conduct a research. The aim of the data collection is to get valid and accurate data.

In analyzing the subject materials, this research uses literary research. The work is essay *Islam: A Short History* that will be analyzed using the theory of Foucault, and finally it will produce the representation that can be understood by the readers. The procedure of data collecting can be described as follows

1. Choosing the data source

   The data source of this research is the essay *Islam : A Short History* by Karen Armstrong
2. Reading the whole essay carefully and thoroughly to comprehend the story of the essay.
3. Collecting the data**,** it has relation to Karen Armstrong's point of view and Islam VS Western as dominant topic in her essay *Islam: A Short History*.
4. Classifying the data
   1. The data contained clash between Islam and Western based on Karen Armstrong's essay *Islam : A Short History.*

2. The data showed Armstrong's point of view in her essay *Islam : A Short History.*

3.2.2 Data Analysis

After the research data had been collected, the next process is the process of analyzing data. Below is one of the analyses:

> *"The Western media often give the impression that the embattled and occasionally violent form of religiosity known as 'fundamentalism' is a purely Islamic phenomenon. This is not the case." (Armstrong, 2002:140)*

Based on the data above, Armstrong emphasizes that Western media often give inaccurate information about Islam. For instance: Fundamentalism is only in Islamic phenomenon.

Based on Foucault's theory "power/knowledge" and his perspective discourse that the discourse is conveyed by Armstrong above. Certainly, it is based on Western's knowledge about Islam before. In 1400 centuries ago Islam and Western involved in Crusade, It had ended, but it has an impact up to now. Clash between Islam and Western are always occurred. Thus, it made hostility each other. As we know that Western as dominate in whole world today, so their power through discourse are used as instrument for making negative Islam in Public.