CHAPTER III

RESEARCH OBJECT AND METHODS

This chapter deals with the discussion of research object, research method, techniques of collecting data and procedures of analyzing the data as well.

3.1 Research Object

The object of this research is the character development of Okonkwo. The resource of this research is novel entitled *Things Fall Aparts* by Chinua Achebe, published by Heinemen, 2000.

3.2 Research Method

The data analysis techniques to be applied in this study are qualitative and descriptive. Qualitative is a technique of analyzing the data conducted through observation and documentation. It can be by observing the main character action, utterance and thought. Descriptive method describes the data followed by the analysis explanation.

> *According to Creswell (1994:1), Qualitative research is designed to be consistent with the assumptions of a qualitative paradigm. This study is defined as an inquiry process of understanding a social or human problem, based on building a complex, holistic picture, formed with words, reporting detailed views of informants, and conducted in a natural setting.*

The qualitative technique is conducted as a mean to understand the plot and character in the novel. The qualitative approach of this study attempts to describe

the characteristic of the main character in the novel. The qualitative technique is conducted as a mean to understand the plot and character in the novel.

In this research the writer tries to explore the intrinsic elements of the novel, *Things Fall Apart*. While descriptive analytic is a qualitative approach to describe something that is implied from the novel. The writer tries to analyze the main character of the novel through plot, including exposition, conflict, climax and the resolution in the novel.

3.2.1 Data Collecting

The *Things Fall Apart* novel will be analyzed by using the theory of character, and finally will produce the representation that can be understood by the readers. The procedure of collecting data is to seek the answer of the research question. As in Maxwell (1941: 74) states that data collecting methods are meant to answer the research question. The procedures of data collecting can be described below:

1. Reading the whole novel

   After choosing the data source *Things Fall Apart* written by Chinua Achebe, the writer reads the whole novel and tries to find and analyze the characterization between the story, conflict, climax and the resolution.
2. Choosing the data which have relation to the character and the plot.

After choosing the data, the writer analyzes it and tries to find the correlation between the characteristic and the plot.

3. Classifying the selected data

   After choosing the data the writer classifies them based on the plot to find the main characteristic

3.2.2 Data Analysis

To analyze the data, the writer reads the novel repeatedly to the story itself, and then the writer chooses the data that have relation to the main characteristic and classifies them based on the plot.

The writer analyzes the classification data based on the main characteristic and its development. The data show different characteristics that the main character has. This will emerge in exposition, conflict, climax, and resolution.

3.3 Biography Chinua Achebe (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinua_Achebe)

Chinua Achebe, born Albert Chinụalụmọgụ Achebe is a Nigerian novelist, poet, professor at Brown University and critic. He is best known for his first novel, Things Fall Apart (1958), which is the most widely read book in modern African literature.

Raised by Christian parents in the Igbo town of Ogidi in southeastern Nigeria, Achebe excelled at school and won a scholarship for undergraduate studies. He became fascinated with world religions and traditional African cultures, and began

writing stories as a university student. After graduation, he worked for the Nigerian Broadcasting Service and soon moved to the metropolis of Lagos. He gained worldwide attention for Things Fall Apart in the late 1950s; his later novels include No Longer at Ease (1960), Arrow of God (1964), A Man of the People (1966), and Anthills of the Savannah (1987). Achebe writes his novels in English and has defended the use of English, a "language of colonizers", in African literature. In 1975, his lecture An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" became the focus of controversy, for its criticism of Joseph Conrad as "a bloody racist".

When the region of Biafra broke away from Nigeria in 1967, Achebe became a devoted supporter of Biafran independence and served as ambassador for the people of the new nation. The war ravaged the populace, and as starvation and violence took its toll, he appealed to the people of Europe and the Americas for aid. When the Nigerian government retook the region in 1970, he involved himself in political parties but soon resigned due to frustration over the corruption and elitism he witnessed. He lived in the United States for several years in the 1970s, and returned to the U.S. in 1990 after a car accident left him partially disabled.

Achebe's novels focus on the traditions of Igbo society, the effect of Christian influences, and the clash of values during and after the colonial era. His style relies heavily on the Igbo oral tradition, and combines straightforward narration with representations of folk stories, proverbs, and oratory. He has also published a number of short stories, children's books, and essay collections. He is

currently the David and Marianna Fisher University Professor and Professor of Africana Studies at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, United States.

3.4 Summary of *Things Fall Apart*

The novel tells about Okonkwo as the main character, he lives in Umuofia. Okonkwo is a famous man among Umuofia, Okonkwo's fame came when he defeates a wrestling champion match that's how Okonkwo's fame spread. Okonkwo is a severe looking's man who talks with a stammer, so that when he gets angry, he is better understood by his fists than his words.

Okonkwo is a respected man in the Umuofia clan; he lives in fear of becoming his father, a man known for his laziness and cowardice. Throughout his life, Okonkwo attempts to be his father's polar opposite. From an early age, he builds his home and reputation as a precious wrestler and hard-working farmer. Okonkwo's efforts pay off big time and he becomes wealthy through his crops and has three wives. Okonkwo is an irritable person, so that when he gets angry, he's better understood by his fists than his words.

Okonkwo's life is changing when an accidental murder takes place and Okonkwo ends up adopting a boy from another village. The boys name is Ikemefuna and Okonkwo comes to love him like a son. In fact, he loves him more than his natural son, Nwoye. After three years, though, the clan decides that Ikemefuna must die. When the men of Umuofia take Ikemefuna to be killed, Okonkwo actually participates in the murder even though he was told that he should not help to kill Ikemefuna. Although he's just kills his adoptive son,

Okonkwo shows no emotion because he wants to be seen as a strong person and not weak like his own father was. Inside, though, Okonkwo feels painful guilt and regret.

Later on, during an Ezeudu's funeral, Okonkwo accidentally shoots and kills a boy. For his crime, the town exiles him for seven years to his mother's clan, Mbanta. There, he knows the news about the coming of the white missionaries whose arrival signals the beginning of the end for the Umuofia clan. They bring Christianity and win over Umuofia outcasts as their first converts. As the Christian religion gains legitimacy, more and more Umuofia people are converted. When Okonkwo finishes seven years sentence and is allowed to return home, his son Nwoye converts to Christianity. Okonkwo is so sad that he cast out his own son.

Someday, the Christians capture the Umuofia leaders and jail them for several days until the villagers rise up some ransom money. Planning revenge, the Umuofia clan held a meeting and Okonkwo is the biggest supporter for aggressive action. However, during the council, a court messenger from the missionaries arrives and tells the men to stop the meeting. With anger, Okonkwo kills the chief messenger. Realizing that his clan will not go to war against the white men, he run away from the chased of the white man as a fugitive, the proud, depressed, disappointed Okonkwo hangs himself.