CHAPTER III

OBJECT AND RESEACRH METHOD

3.1 Research Object

Topic of this research is supernatural as gothic feature in the novel *The Preternatural* by Daryl Hajek. The novel is about supernatural activity caused by evil spirit in deaf family's new house. This research focuses on supernatural beings that contained in the novel *The Preternatural*. The supernatural beings is part of horror novel characteristics. In the literary works, especially in the novel, there are a lot kinds of supernatural beings shape with the characteristics that owned by each.

The existence of supernatural beings in the literary works gives a different nuance than other literary works. It is because for supernatural beings which have an evil characteristic brings the nuance of eerie, horrific, frighten, and terror. Oppositely for supernatural beings which have good characteristic, it brings the nuance of calmness and beautifulness. In the categorization of supernatural beings, there is several supernatural beings that started and written in the scriptures and known as religious beings and there is several supernatural that only contained in the literary works and known as fictional beings. In the novel, the involvement of both kinds of supernatural beings becomes an issue especially in fictional beings that have the same properties that are owned by religious beings. One of it is characteristics that owned by

evil spiritas same as that owned by Satan such as frightening or disturbing. It means that there are correlation between fictional and religious beings and those kinds of supernatural beings presented in the novel *The Preternatural* will become the object of study to describe about it.

3.2 Research Method

This research uses qualitative method as the descriptive method. According to Glass and Hopkins (1984), they explain that a descriptive methods of research involves gathering data that describe events and then organize, tabulate, depicts, and describe the data collection. Based on the method, the qualitative method is used to understand an issue on the context of the text. According to Windrige (2009) stated that qualitative method focuses on description and interpretation and might lead to development of new concept or theory, or to an evaluation of an organizational process. Therefore, the qualitative method is used to find a new idea, understanding the issue, describe a phenomenon that attract the researcher attention. The aim of qualitative method is needed to explain and reveal an object meaningfully.

3.2.1 Data Collection

This data are collected from the novel entitled “The Preternatural” written by Daryl Hajek (2012). The technique of collecting data is by categorizing the phenomena especially supernatural phenomena in the novel based on several characteristic of

supernatural beings such as interact with concrete things, terror, and eerie. The collected data from *The Preternatural* novel will be analyzed using ideas of Shtulman (2008) and Bal (1999) to describe and identify the supernatural beings in the novel.

3.2.2 Data Analysis

According to qualitative research, the analysis will explain about the categorization of supernatural beings which contained through the supernatural phenomena in the novel. Hajek (2015) as the writer put the passage in the special note of the book which is wrote that all deaf and hard-of-hearing characters in this book communicate via sign language, which is indicated by the dialogue markers "he signed" or "she signed" unless specified otherwise (2015: 3). Based on that phenomena, it indicates that disability will influence a characters including supernatural beings in the novel. Besides of that, this research analyzes data by taking passage from the novels relating to supernatural beings and discusses based on the ideas of Shtulman (2008) and determines some of the characters based on Bal's ideas (1999) about several actions of the involved actors.

3.3. Data Source

In this research took data from the Novel entitled *The Preternatural* by Daryl Hajek which tell a story about 4th generation of deaf family whom bought a new house. In the beginning of the story, everything is in perfect situation with beautiful view.

However, their beautiful life turns to nightmare along with poltergeist in their house. There is substantial twist with horror story because the member of the family are deaf and they have to face with terror from evil spirit. It makes them hardly to fix the situation without frightened by evil spirit. There are a lot of terrify events starting from their pets look like spooked, mysteriously food burns on the griddle and so on. Josslyn; a family member assumes that for every phenomenon started as a prank by her children. In another point of view, the sister suggest that it is brother of sabotage or Nathan thinks caused by his neighbor prejudice against their disability. In the fact the house is haunted by supernatural being cause of evil spirit.

In short about the story line of the novel, the preternatural story differs from the horror story in general. It is because the condition of the Nathan's family is deaf and they have to struggle with frighten situation different with another horror stories which usually does not have any disability like them.