

## CHAPTER 3

### Research Methodology

This qualitative research study aims to study the power of language used in the political exploitation and dominance of the US over Somalia through the dialogues, actions and value systems of the American soldiers in the movie *Black Hawk Down*. In this process, Tuen A. Van Dijk's and Paul Chilton's political discourse analysis (PDA) were employed to analyze the binary relationships between the American soldiers and the inferior Somalis.

#### 3.1 Research Question

In this study, the research question “How is political language practiced and exploited by the main characters in the movie *Black Hawk Down*?” will be employed.

#### 3.2 Research Instruments

In this study, the main instrument for analyzing data is the political discourse analysis theory (PDA). The political language proposed by Tuen A. Van Dijk and Paul Chilton are chosen as the main tools of analysis. This is because Van Dijk's theory which states that language characteristics, namely lexicon, syntax, rhetoric, expression structures, speech acts and interaction, reflect the power abuse or domination of the actors and relevant participants in political communicative events in both text and talk in the dialogues that take place between the main characters in the movie *Black Hawk*

*Down*. The binary relationships could be subtly presented through the dialogues and spoken interactions. Likewise, Chilton's strategies of language: coercion, legitimation and delegitimization, representation and misrepresentation, entailment, presupposition and presumptions, are considered linguistic peculiarities in politics. It is normally seen that skillful actors usually employ various language techniques to serve their purposes because they realize the fact that small linguistic differences could become significant and could be exploited in political ways. For this reason, Van Dijk and Chilton's strategies of political language, together as the analytical framework, will certainly be employed to their best effect in this study. This is because their language strategies are applicable to the dialogues of the main characters, for both the Americans and Somalis.

### **3.3 Research Process**

The dialogues from the movie's screenplay, which are relevant to the proposed political tools, will be analyzed respectively to the order of the scenes order so that the analysis corresponds to the actual flow of action in the movie. However, the data analysis will be divided into two parts. The first part will be based on the strategies of language suggested by Chilton, namely coercion, legitimation and delegitimization, representation and misrepresentation, entailment, presupposition and presumption due to the fact that the opening of the movie and the subsequent scenes fit in with the very proposed political strategies. After that, in the second part, Van Dijk's language characteristics, which are lexicon, syntax, rhetoric, expression structures and speech acts and interaction, will be applied to the relevant data.