

Chapter Three

Methodology

This chapter discusses the research method used by researcher in examining about the students' perception of the use of group discussion toward speaking ability of English Education Department student. This chapter includes research design, research participant, data collection method, research instrument and data analysis.

Research Design

This research was held to find the students' perception on the use of group discussion in improving communication skill which is implemented at English Education Department, UMY and the students' perception on the benefits of group discussion in improving communication skill. To gather the data, researcher adopted the qualitative research design.

Qualitative research is used by researcher to gather the data based on the case of this study. Khotari (2004) stated that qualitative approach is concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions and behaviour. This study was focused about the students' perception on the use of group discussion implemented at EED and the use of group discussion as a means to improve students' communication skills. Therefore, the researcher was sure that qualitative research is appropriate approach to answer the research questions. The qualitative data provides deeper information, description and interpretation from the participant so that it is effective to find students' perception.

Interview was chosen to endorse qualitative research in gathering the data. Mulyana (2010) defined that interview is form of communication between two persons which involve a person tries to gain the information from another person through some questions based on certain purpose. And also, interview gained more information of the students' perception with some open-ended questions which are asked to them.

Research Setting

The research was held at English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. There were several reasons that make the researcher conducted this research at English Education Department. First, group discussion is a technique used at EED UMY in teaching and learning process. Second, researcher is a student of English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, so researcher got easy access to the data because the researcher known the lecturers and participants.

These reasons enabled the researcher to conduct the research in EED, UMY was to explore participants' perception on the use of group discussion in improving students' communication skills.

Research Participant

The researcher took the students of EED UMY batch 2015 as the participant. The student batch 2015 was appropriate to be the participant because they were studying in the early semester where the communication skills become the competency to be developed. The researcher took four participants of EED students' batch 2015 randomly to be interviewed.

This study used simple random sampling to choose the participants randomly. Cohen (2011) states, a probability sample will be useful if the researcher wishes to be able to make generalizations, because it seeks representativeness of the wider population. Simple random sampling is one of probability sampling techniques. Simple random sampling was used to choose the participants from student of English Education Department batch 2015. Then researcher selected four participants that were selected randomly representing EED students' batch 2015. They were selected randomly because all of students batch 2015 had experience in doing group discussion activity.

Research Instrument

Researcher used research instruments to support in gaining the data from participants. To gain the data, researcher held interview toward the participant. Therefore, the researcher needed some instruments to accommodate the interview.

The main instrument namely interview guidelines. Researcher needed a list of interview guidelines to gather the data. It helped researcher to gain the information or data. Interview guidelines were used to ask the participants during the interview. The second instrument was audio recorder. Specifically, researcher used the mobile phone to get the information by recording the conversation in interview session. The third instrument was field notes. Researcher used the notes to make sure that the list of questions were ready to be asked to participants. The field note was used by researcher to write some important matter.

Data Collection Method

To collect the data researcher used interview regarding the students' perception on the use of group discussion in improving communication skills at EED and the benefits of group discussion in improving communication skills.

The researcher interviewed the participants with open-ended questions. Khotari (2004) defined that open-ended questions are generally inserted to provide a more complete picture of the respondents' feelings and attitudes. Patton (1980) in Cohen (2011) mentioned that the characteristics standardized open-ended interview is all interviewees are asked the same basic questions in the same order and sequence of questions are determined in advance. In the interview session, the participants were asked to produce their perception by answering such questions delivered from interviewer which were determined in advance.

Bahasa Indonesia was used to facilitate the interview session between researcher and the respondents in order to avoid miscommunication. The researcher viewed that use *Bahasa Indonesia* could easy the conversation to work effectively with participants.

Then, the participants were interviewed one by one to get clear information by interviewing them intensively, and also to make a participant focuses on the questions asked by interviewer. Each of students spent approximately less or more 10 minutes.

Last, the questions of interview were focused on students' perception on the use of group discussion particularly at EED and the perception on the benefits of group discussion as a means to improve communication skills.

Data Analysis

There were some steps to analyze the data after the researcher had interviewed the respondents. First step was researcher transcribed the recording of conversation into written form.

Second step was member checking, member checking was used to verify the transcription by participants in order to make sure that the transcription of the data is valid. Harper and Cole (2012) defined that member checking is primarily used in qualitative inquiry methodology and is defined as a quality control process by which a researcher seeks to improve the accuracy, credibility and validity of what has been recorded during a research interview. The result of member checking was that the transcriptions of interview were accepted by each participants. It proved that the transcription data was valid.

Third step, the researcher did the data coding included open coding, axial coding and selective coding. Open coding was categorizing and defining the text which could be performed on a line by line, sentence by sentence, or paragraph by paragraph. The categories could be given title name which were decided by researcher. Axial coding mean the open codes were categorized into a category label which had the same meaning. Meanwhile, selective coding was identifying the core of categories and then combining those categories core to form of theory. Kerlinger (1970) as cited in Cohen (2011) defined the coding as the translation of question responses and respondent information to specific categories for the purpose of analysis. After that, the findings of the data would be presented into paragraphs.