

Chapter Three

Methodology

This chapter presents the methodology that is used in this research. There are five sections namely research design, research setting, research participants, data collection method, data collecting procedure, and technique of data analysis. Several theories are also included in this chapter to support the research methodology.

Research design

This research employed a qualitative method. Qualitative method was chosen because it emphasizes seeing the world from the perspective of the participants in order to make the research is richer in information. Creswell (2012) asserted the characteristic of qualitative method in that “qualitative method is exploring and developing a detailed understanding of a central phenomenon” (p.16). So, by using the qualitative method the researcher could explore more information from the participants about problems in writing academic essays, and find out the ways the students solve the problems when they write an academic essay.

The research was conducted through a descriptive qualitative method. According to Lambert and Lambert (2012) a descriptive qualitative study focuses on discovering the nature of the specific events under study. Data collection method in this research involved in-depth interview to focus on specific problems, which are students’ difficulties in writing academic essays and strategies to

overcome the difficulties. Hence, descriptive qualitative is suitable for this research.

Research setting

This research was conducted at English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. The reason why the researcher chose EED of UMY was because definitely all students at EED of UMY were familiar with writing academic essays because during their study at EED of UMY. It is a must for students to write academic essays. Another reason was because the result of this research would be beneficial for EED of UMY. This research will give an advantage for students. If the students understand the difficulties in writing academic essays, it would be easy for them to overcome the difficulties by applying the strategies. The teacher would also be benefited. If the teacher understands the difficulties faced by the students, they will be able to give suggestions or strategies that students should use when they write an academic essay. This research was held on February 2017 because in that time, the lecturing activities begin after the semester break. Hence, it would be easier for researcher to find the participants since they were already active on campus.

Research participants

The participants of this research were the students of EED of UMY batch 2013 or students in seventh semester. The reason was because students of EED of UMY Batch 2013 had already have experienced in writing academic essays at least ten academic essays in last one year. It was because they would explain more clearly and also researcher could explore more information based on their experiences. The next reason why researcher chose the students of EED of UMY

batch 2013 was because first the researcher had an accessibility to ask the participants. Another reason was they were also familiar with three familiar essays which is used in EED of UMY. These kinds of essays were argumentative, comparison and contrast, and cause and effect essays.

The researcher took four students from batch 2013 of EED of UMY. The reason why the researcher chose four participants was because four participants were considered enough for this study. Based on Cohen, Manion, and Morrison (2011) stated that there are no obvious rules on the size of the participants in qualitative research; size is informed by fitness for purpose. Another reason why the researcher chose four participants was because the limitation of time. In addition, the researcher used pseudonyms in reporting the results in order to protect the identity of the respondents. The names of the pseudonyms were Tia, Selena, Vero, and Dewi.

Research instrument

To identify the problems faced by EED of UMY students in writing academic essays, the researcher used interview as a method of collecting the data. The researcher used the interview protocol as a guideline. Interview is the data collecting method under qualitative research because with interview the researcher could explore more information from the respondents. McNamara as cited in Valenzuela and Shrivastava (2002) argued that interviews are mainly useful for receiving the story behind a participant's experiences. The interviewer can pursue in-depth information around the topic. During the interview, the researcher asked six main questions related to the problems faced by the EED of UMY students in writing an academic essay, and strategies to solve the problems. The participants

were interviewed one by one. Time allocation for the interview was around 10-15 minutes for each participant because the time was considered enough for the participant to answer the questions. The interview was recorded by a hand phone as a tool to record the conversation between the researcher and the participant. Recording of the interview was transcribed, and coded.

The interview was conducted in Indonesian language or *Bahasa Indonesia* because it is the first language of the participants and the researcher, and it would make the participant easier to answer the entire questions. Another advantage of using *Bahasa Indonesia* is the researcher could explore more information about students' difficulties in writing academic essays, and strategies to solve the problems.

Data collection method

The method of data collection in this research can be described into several steps. In the first step, the researcher made the interview protocol which was used to interview the participants. The next step was recruiting participants for this research. The participants for this research were recruited through direct invitation to join this research, and then the researcher offered an explanation about the aims of the research so that the participants had adequate information before they decided whether they want to participate in this research. The participants who agreed to join this research provided a chance to schedule an interview. The researcher was responsible for preparing all of the tools needed in the interview.

Technique of data analysis

After gathering the data through interviews, the next step was analyzing the data from the interview. The purpose of analyzing the data is to identify and explain the data to answer the research questions. There were several steps in analyzing the data, the steps were transcribing the data, member checking, and coding the data.

The first step is to transcribe each interview which was conducted from each participant. Creswell (2012) stated that transcription is the procedure of translating audiotape recording or field notes into text data. The researcher recorded the interview using handphone to record the process of interview. Every words, phrases and sentences spoken by participants transcribed.

After transcribing the data, the next step was member checking. Member checking is a procedure to check the data from the interview with the participants. Birt, Scott, Cavers, Campbell, and Walter (2016) stated that member checking is a technique for investigating the credibility of results, data are returned to participants to verify for accuracy and resonance with their experiences. The process of member checking showed that all participants approved the transcription.

The last step was coding. Coding is the process of creating and categorizing text to form details and broad themes in the data (Creswell, 2012). There are three types of coding namely, Open Coding, Axial Coding, and Selective Coding. Open coding is a process to code important answer from the participants. The second is axial coding. In axial coding the researcher classifies into similar categories that are related to the research problems in the research

question. The last is selective coding. In the selective coding, the researcher identified and integrates categories to be well structured, systematic, and correlated to be core categories. After coding, the last step is reporting the data by explaining in the form of paragraphs in order to answer the research questions of this research.