CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter discusses the research method in this study. It covers discussion about research design, subject of the study, data and data source, data collecting technique and instrument, technique of data verification, and data analysis.

A. Research Design

Before we know the research design, it's better to know what the meaning of research is briefly defined. As stated by Ary *et.al* (1985: 21) "Research may be defined as the application of the scientific approach to the study of a problem". Problem is something which has to be solved. Thus, research is required to look for the answer relate with problem which want to be solved. In research, the researcher must have design to make easy in analyzing the data. A research design is a plan or strategy for conducting the research. It is required to get dependable and useful information. To know what design which should be taken by the researcher, the first the researcher has to look at the problem of research.

As stated in problems of the research, this research is conducted to describe vocabulary learning strategies that are used by students. Thus, in this study, the researcher uses descriptive research. Ary *et.al* (1985: 322) explained "Descriptive research method is used to obtain information about existing conditions and have been widely used in educational research.

The aim of descriptive research is to describe "what exist" with respect to variables or conditions in a situation". Then, Mack *et.al* (2005: 3) added that descriptive research is used to explore the phenomena by conducting interview, focus group and participant observation, shortly this study is more flexible. In other word, in descriptive research, the information is obtained by in-depth interview with the participants.

B. Subject of the Study

Subjects in a study are required to get the needed information. Lodico *et.al* (2006: 266) revealed "Depending on the types of questions asked, the researcher will want to select the subjects so that they will be able to provide the key information essential for the study". It means that in qualitative research, the researchers select their subject based on the subjects' knowledge which is capable to answer the question.

In this research, the researcher chooses the subjects by applying selection. For selecting the proper subjects, the researcher has observed the subjects' daily in the class. From the observation, the subjects are five students from eight B class in English department of IAIN Tulungagung in the academic year 2013-2014 who are good in their English achievement. The considerations that make the subjects chosen are:

1. These subjects include in big five students in that class (based on their grade)

2. The subjects are good and more active in the class (based on the observation).

3. The researcher assumes that the students who have good achievement in English have good mastery in their vocabulary which can give valuable information in the research.

C. Data and Data Source

The aim of the research is to get data. The data is the important tools in the research which are in the form of phenomenon in the field and number. From the data, the researcher will know the result of the research. Collecting the data must be relevant with the problem of research. The data in this research will be in the form of descriptive qualitative data and use qualitative data procedure for the data analysis.

Data in this research will be obtained from conducting interview with the participants (about vocabulary learning strategies that are used, the difficulties when learning vocabulary, and the solution to solve those difficulties) which is supported by questionnaire to get validity in vocabulary learning strategy is mostly used, and documentation as follows the participants' transcript grade list.

In taking data, the researcher needs sources to get the available data. Data source is the subject of the research from where the data can be obtained. Data sources are the important thing in conducting research. Thus, data source is the substance where the researcher will get information that is required. Ary *et.al* (1985: 332) argued that in qualitative research, there are two sources that can be used to get the data. Those are:

1. Primary source

Sugiyono (2008: 225) stated that primary source is source which can give valuable information directly. In other word, the primary source is to give prominent data relate to problems of the research. For the primary source, the researcher uses the result of interview and questionnaire. In qualitative research, the result of interview can be used as the strongest source to get the information.

2. Secondary source

Secondary source is additional source to get the data. Given (2008: 803) argued "Secondary data source is preexisting source that have been collected for a different purpose or by someone other than the researcher". In other word, secondary source has function to collecting data for different purpose when conducting research. Here, the secondary source which is used is document. The document is the subjects' grade transcript. The grade transcript is used to know the students who include in big five students.

D. Data Collecting Technique and Instrument

Instrument is tools that are required to get information. Gay and Airasian (2000: 145) stated that instrument is a tool that is used in collecting data. While, Arikunto (2000: 134) revealed that instrument in collecting data is a tool that is used by researchers to help them in collecting data in order to make it more systematic and easy. Here, the instrument is researcher herself.

Sugiyono (2008: 222) stated that in qualitative research, the instrument is the researcher themselves. Hence, the researcher should be validated by themselves about their ability in conducting research.

Data is information that has been collected by conducting research. To get the reliable data, the researcher has to do some techniques for collecting those data. Data collecting technique is an important step in research, because the aim of the research is to get the data. Collecting data can be done in any settings, any sources, and any ways. There are five data collecting technique. Those are observation, interview, questionnaire, documentation and triangulation.

In qualitative research, collecting the data mostly is done in participant observation, depth interview and documentation. Sugiyono (2008: 225) stated that the fundamental method relied on by qualitative researchers for gathering information is participation in the setting, direct observation, in-depth interviewing, and documentation review. In this research, the researcher uses interview supported by questionnaire and documentation.

1. Interview

Interview is activity that involves interviewer and interviewee where the interviewer will give some questions to be answered by interviewee. Ary *et.al* (1985: 342) stated "In an interview, data are collected through face-to-face or telephone interaction between the interviewer and the respondent". Thus, in this case, the interviewer has to conduct collecting data with doing interaction or communication directly. But, it can be conducted face to face or through via electronic.

For additional, Syamsuddin (2011: 95) stated that in qualitative research, interview activity has two functions. First function is as main strategy in collecting data like data in the form of interview transcript, and second function is as additional strategy for other techniques like participatory observation, document analysis and photography. Then, Creswell (2008: 226) also classify the interview into four types, those types are (1) one-on-one interview, (2) focus group interview, (3) telephone interview, (4) electronic E-mail interview.

Based on the types of interview above, the researcher uses one-on-one interview. According to him, one-on-one interview is data collection process in which the researcher asks questions and records answers from only one participant in the study at a time. The researcher prepares eight questions relate to vocabulary learning strategies by using English. To collecting data of interview, the researcher makes some procedures. Those are (1) preparing the concept of questions that want to be asked to subject and (2) the researcher transcripts the result of interview.

2. Questionnaire

Questionnaire is the list of questions or statements that are given to participants. Sugiyono (2008: 142) explained that questionnaire is a technique of collecting data that is done by giving some questions or statements to respondent. In this research, the researcher makes fifteen items statement relate to beliefs in vocabulary learning strategy. The researcher takes Brown and Payne's vocabulary learning strategy.

As the researcher knows that there are five vocabulary learning strategies according to Brown and Payne's, which are encountering new words strategy, getting the word form strategy, getting the word meaning strategy, consolidating word form and meaning in the memory strategy, and using the words strategy.

This questionnaire is used to support and get validity of interview relate to the vocabulary learning strategy and vocabulary learning strategy is mostly used by subject. The questionnaire is distributed before the researcher conducts interview with subject.

3. Documentation

A valuable source of information in qualitative research can be documentation. Sugiyono (2008: 240) stated that documentation can be written and picture by someone that can be used to obtain information. In conducting documentation method, the researcher can provide magazines, books, documents, etc. The function of documentation method is to make credible the result of observation or interview. In this research, the documentation guide is subjects' grade transcript.

E. Technique of Data Verification

In qualitative research, data can be categorized good data if the data are valid. To get validity of data, Creswell (2009: 191) classified the validity of data into eight strategies. Those are:

1. Triangulate different data sources of information by examining evidence from the sources and using it to build a coherent justification for themes.

2. Use member checking to determine the accuracy of the qualitative finding through taking the final report or specific descriptions or themes back to participants and determining whether these participants feel that they are accurate.

3. Use rich, thick description to convey the findings.

4. Clarify the bias means the researcher brings to the study.

5. Also present negative or discrepant information that runs counter to the themes.

6. Spend prolonged time in the field.

7. Use peer debriefing to enhance the accuracy of the account.

8. Use an external auditor to review the entire project.

In this research, the researcher uses triangulation technique. Cohen (2000: 112) stated "Triangulation may be defined as the use of two or more methods of data collection in the study of some aspect of human behavior". Thus, triangulation technique means the researcher uses two or more techniques in collecting the data to get validity. The purpose of triangulation is to increase the credibility and validity of the findings. Further, Denzin (in Patton, 2009) stated that there are four techniques in triangulation. Those are: (1) source triangulation, (2) investigator triangulation, (3) methodological triangulation, (4) theoretical triangulation.

1. Source triangulation

In source triangulation, the researcher uses many sources or participants to get the accuracy of data.

2. Investigator triangulation

  Investigator triangulation means technique that uses more than one researcher in collecting and analyzing data. From some researcher's view in interpreting information and collecting the data, the validity of data can be increased.

3. Methodological triangulation

  Methodological triangulation refers to researcher uses more than one method in the research. Cohen (2000: 113) explained "Methodological triangulation is using the same method on different occasions or different methods on the same object of study". Thus, methodological triangulation is making different method to get validity of data.

4. Theoretical triangulation

  Theoretical triangulation means the researcher compares the data finding with perspective theory that is relevant. Here, the researcher is demanded to have expert judgment to compare the finding of research with the certain theory.

  From those types of triangulation, the researcher uses methodological triangulation to get validity of data. Besides, the researcher collects the data by using interview guide which is supported by questionnaire and the researcher also uses documentation which can give evidence if the participants are people that is proper to be used as subject of research.

F. Data Analysis

After collecting the data, the researcher analyzes the data. Wiersma (1991: 85) stated "Data analysis in qualitative research is a process of categorization, description, and synthesis. Data reduction is necessary for the description and interpretation of the phenomenon under study". In short, data analysis is systematically process to analyze data which have been collected.

To analyze the data, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative to analyze data. According to Sugiyono (2008: 245), there are three activities to analyze data in descriptive qualitative research. Those activities are data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. Based on those statements, the researcher divides the activity in analyzing data into three activities, they are data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing.

Data reduction means the process of selecting, identifying, classifying and coding the data that are considered important. In conducting research, the researcher will get much data. Hence, the researcher must select data that will give valuable information in research. Thus, at first the researcher has to do reduction to analyze the data. Based on the concept of data reduction, reducing the data in this researcher is chosen by identifying vocabulary learning strategy used, the difficulties in learning vocabulary, and the solutions that are used to solve the difficulties only.

Data display means the process to simply the data in the form of sentence, narrative, or table. Data display refers to show data that have been reduced in the form of patterns. It benefits to help the researcher in understanding the data.

In displaying data, the researcher describes data that have been reduced into sentence form. Sugiyono (2008: 249) stated that in qualitative research, the most frequent form of display data is narrative text. Hence, the researcher arranges the data in good sequence of narrative text in order to be easier to understand.

For the last process is conclusion and verification. In qualitative research, the characteristic of conclusion is temporary. It can change if the researcher doesn't discover strong evidence to support the next collecting data. However, if the conclusion in the previous data can be evidenced by validity and consistency when the researcher is going back to the field, so the conclusion is credible. In this research, the researcher makes conclusion from the data display.

In short, the steps in analyzing the data are: (1) the researcher collects the data through interview and questionnaire. Then, the researcher selects, identify, and focuses on the data by referring to formulation of the research problem. (2) After selecting the data, the researcher displays those data into good sentences. (3) After displaying data, the conclusion is drawn. Moreover, to get validity of data, the interview is supported by questionnaire. This questionnaire is analyzed by using descriptive statistics where frequency counts are tabulated and converted to percentages.