

Chapter Three

Research Methodology

This chapter discusses the research methodology used by the researcher in researching Thai students in learning vocabulary. This chapter begins with the elaboration of the research design the researcher used. Then, the next part presents research setting which explains where and when the research was conducted. It is followed by research participants. The next is data collection method and data collection procedure. The final part is data analysis.

Research Design

This research aimed to investigate the strategies of Thai students in learning English vocabulary. In this research, the researcher chose qualitative method. This is because the researcher wanted to know the students' difficulties and strategies in learning vocabulary as deeply and clearly as possible. A qualitative method is a method of research which uses descriptive data such as written word, oral words from someone and someone's behavior which can be observed (Creswell, 2012). Further, Creswell (2012) also stated that the qualitative method focused on the words rather than numbers, no statistical procedure. The source of data can be taken through research object. In this research, the researcher looked at the reality of the fact focused on words, described and explained the subject and the object of the research deeply. Therefore, qualitative method is suitable for this research.

Research setting

The researcher conducted this research in English Language Education Department (ELED) of a private university in Yogyakarta. The reason was this ELED has several Thai students who have a full scholarship. Thai students in this ELED of this private university have problems in learning English especially in learning English vocabulary. The researcher believes that vocabulary is essential in learning language and this is a big problem for Thai students who learn English at ELED. In addition, it is easier for the researcher to get the data in this ELED because the researcher has basic information and access to this ELED.

This research was conducted around three months started in December – February 2018 to collect the data. The researcher spent that time to have an interview with the participants, to code and to analyze the data. The research took one month in December to find the supporting references related to this research. In January, the researcher collected the data from the participants and in February the researcher analyzed data.

Research Participants

The participants of this research were Thai students who enrolled in English Language Education Department of a private university in Yogyakarta. In this university, there are seven Thai students who are studying at ELED. They are three students of batch 2017, three students of batch 2016 and one student of batch 2015. However, this research focused on the Thai students who are from batch 2015 and 2016. It is because they have had more experiences in studying English at ELED in

this university. Based on their experience, they had problems in learning vocabulary. The target participants were three Thai female and a male student of ELED in batch 2015 and 2016. Participant one was female from batch 2016; participant two was female from batch 2016; participant three was male from batch 2016; and participant four was female from batch 2015.

Data Collection Methods

The aim of this research was to find out the difficulties in learning English vocabulary and also to identify the strategies in learning vocabulary used by Thai students. To answer the research question, the researcher used interview to collect the data. It was used to ask the participants deeply and clearly. It was also convenient for the researcher to gather the information in this research. According to Cohen, Manion, and Morrison (2011), an interview is a qualitative instrument that is a flexible tool to the data collection. From the interview, a researcher can observe the participants' body language and words. The researcher also can ask deep problem and participants are free to answer. In addition, Cohen et al. (2011) stated that interview guide approach is the way that the researcher asks participants to gather data with the clear topic and research questions. It develops an outline of interview questions and the outline is not structured. As the questions were not structured, the participants can be more relaxed in giving the answer and it is the best way for the researcher to get the true data from participants.

The interview questions of this study used open-ended structure to make the participants free to answer with no limitation. Cohen et al. (2011) supported that

open-ended structure is flexible. The researcher can ask in-depth and clear up any misunderstanding; the questions form will begin a general statement to more specific one. The questions format is indirect format. Indirect questions ask the participant in general to the desired information that makes participant less fear to answer. It makes the participants not feel forced and feel relaxed to answer (Cohen et al., 2011). The response modes of participants are unstructured response. Participants can give the answer what they want to share with no limitation. The unstructured response allows the participant to give the answer whatever way they choose (Cohen et al., 2011). From the method above, the researcher made participants feel relaxed in answering the questions. The researcher asked the participants with the questions as prepared in interview guideline. (see appendix 1)

Data Collection Procedure.

In this research, the researcher created the interview guideline to get the answer for research question. Then, the researcher contacted Thai students asking them to be the participants. Based on the researchers' experience, the researcher knows well about Thai students that fit with this research problem. The place to have an interview was the University Residence. The researcher took around one week to conduct the interview. The researcher asked the participants one by one to make them more relaxed and confident in giving the answer. During the interview, the researcher used a mobile phone to record and wrote a note from their answer. The interview question used Thai language because this is the first language of both the participants and the researcher. The researcher expected that they could give the answer based on

the research question well. The researcher coded their names into participant one, participant two, and so on. The real name of each participant was not revealed by the researcher.

Data Analysis

In the data analysis, there is a process of transcribing, organizing, and putting the data in the correct order and then analyzing them. The researcher transcribed the result of the interview into words in Thai language. The answers were the original statement and each participant had the same questions. The result from the interview or recording was transcribed into data text, word by word. Cohen et al. (2011) mentioned, transcribing is to transcribe data from original encountering oral and interpersonal to written language. The researcher put all information from the answer that has been recorded to be a transcript.

The researcher did member checking of the transcription. The researcher showed the transcript of the interview to the participants to check. The researcher found the data were unclear, so the researcher asked the participants to clarify during the member checking. The result of the member checking was that the participants clarified and agreed with the data and also understood that the data were not manipulated. Related to Cohen et al. (2011), member checking is the way that researcher checks out the result from interview to know the information clear or not, because it is possible that result does not answer the question or forgetting some details. This confirms that this study has no incorrectness in the process of interview. The Thai transcription then was translated into English.

According to Cohen et al. (2011), the researchers who have gathered qualitative data will undertake forms of content analysis. In this research, there are several steps in doing the analysis. In the process of data analysis, the researcher took the original statement from the interview to be put in coding. The researcher did coding. They were open coding, analytic coding, axial coding and selective coding. Open coding means an ascription of a category label to a piece of data that have been collected. Also, the researcher identifies the similar information to make the researcher easier to search and retrieve the data in terms of those items that have the same code (Cohen et al., 2011). In this research, in the open coding, the researcher gave a label to the participants' statements and made a category.

Then, there was analytic coding. Analytic coding is a critical step in coding. An analytical coding might be from the theme or topic of the research (Cohen et al., 2011). In this step, the researcher broke down the information into smaller point unit. The next step was axial coding. Axial coding will connect the codes and subcategories into a larger category of common meaning or have the same meaning that is shared by the group of codes in questions (Cohen et al., 2011). In axial coding, the researcher identified and categorized the similar statements to one group. The last was selective coding. Selective coding identifies the core category of text data, and gather the same point to form a theory (Cohen et al., 2011). According to Cohen et al. (2011), this step is quite the same as axial code, but it should be greater level abstraction than an axial code. In this step, the researcher selected the same answer

into one form. Moreover, after the researcher did the coding, the researcher made a report of finding in the descriptive report.