

Chapter Three

Methodology

This chapter elaborates the methodology which is used in this research. This part talks about research design of the research, and the research setting and the research participants who have been selected in this research. This part also talks about data collection instrument and data collection procedure which have been applied by the research. The data analysis of the research is also being described in the last section of the chapter.

Research Design

This research was conducted by using qualitative research method to gain detailed information about students' perceptions on the use of vocabulary.com in improving vocabulary mastery. Cresswell (2012) stated that "In qualitative research, you collect the data to learn from the participants in the study and develop forms, called protocols, for recording data as the study proceeds" (p.17). The researcher used qualitative method since this research will get the data by gathering the participants' perceptions. Cresswell (2012) also stated that a qualitative research explores a phenomenon from the participants' perspective. Thus, this research is best to use this method because the research aimed to find out the students' perception about the benefits and challenges towards the use of vocabulary.com website. The qualitative method supports this research to gather detailed and deep information from the participants.

The researcher used descriptive qualitative as the research design. According to Lambert and Lambert (2012), the descriptive qualitative purpose is a comprehensive summarization, on daily terms, of certain events experienced by people or groups. The researcher used this design to get a summarization of the participants' perceptions in using online vocabulary exercise in their vocabulary mastery.

Research Setting

This research was held in English Education Department (ELED) in one private university in Yogyakarta. There are some reasons why the researcher chose this place to conduct this research. The first reason is that the phenomenon being studied happened in there. A course called "Capita Selecta on Grammar 2" was using vocabulary.com during the even semester in 2016. In addition, there is no previous research on the use of vocabulary.com website on there, therefore this research will be useful for the department.

The research was starting from July 2018. The researcher took two months to finish the theoretical matters started from July 2018 until September 2018. The researcher started to gather the data in March 2019. It took about one month for the researcher to prepare the instrument and gather the data. It took another month for the data analysis, evaluation, and also the reporting.

Research Participants

There were four students who became the participants of this research. Those students belong to English Language Education Department of a private university in Yogyakarta. The researcher selected the participants from batch

2015, they were experienced in using vocabulary.com while they were taking a course called “Capita Selecta on Grammar 2” on their third semester in 2016.

In selecting the participants, the research used purposive sampling technique. The research used purposive sampling technique because the participants will be selected from particular characteristics. Cohen, Manion, and Morrison (2011) stated that “In purposive sampling, often (but by no means exclusively) a feature of qualitative research, researcher hand-pick the cases to be included in the sample on the basis of their judgment of their typicality or possession of the particular characteristics being sought” (p.156). The researcher used purposive sampling in choosing particular participants because the participants are considered to be beneficial for this research. The participants’ name and gender are not revealed in this research. The researcher uses pseudonym for the participants’ name. The participants called Taylor, Ariana, Selena, and Justin.

The researcher maintained a criterion in choosing those four students from batch 2015. The criterion was the students who were still using vocabulary.com to improve their vocabulary by the time the research was conducted. The researcher aimed to find the participants who still have a fresh memory in using the website, thus the researcher maintained the criterion. After getting the list of batch 2015 students who are still actively using vocabulary.com, the researcher chose four students with the highest vocabulary scores. Those four students will be the participants of this research.

Data Collection Technique

The data gathering technique used in this research was interview. Cohen et al. (2011) argued that one of the purposes of doing an interview is, “to sample respondents; opinions, as in door-step interviews” (p. 411). The researcher choose interview as the data collection method because the researcher wants to find out the participants opinions or perceptions towards the benefits and challenges in using vocabulary.com website in improving vocabulary mastery. Thus, by using interview the researcher will get detailed information from the participants’ answers and the interview is the most suitable instrument for the research.

The type of interview the researcher used was standardized open-ended interview. According to Kerlinger, there are some advantages of using open-ended items (as cited in Cohen et al., 2011). Open-ended items are flexible and allow the researcher to probe. Thus, the researcher used the open-ended interview.

The questions format of the interview used in this research is indirect question format. According to Tuckman, the example of indirect question format is asking the respondents’ views toward education in common or how the school's function (as cited in Cohen et al., 2011). The response mode in the interview was unstructured response. According to Tuckman, unstructured response allows the respondents to answer the questions in the way that they want (as cited in Cohen et al., 2011). The researcher will chose this response mode because it encouraged the participants to answer the questions as they wish.

Data Collection Procedure

The data collection procedure of this research was done in a few steps. The first step the researcher was preparing the interview guideline. After the researcher gets the name of participants, the second step was to contact the participants personally via WhatsApp messenger. The researcher discussed the participants' availability. The interview took time in March and April 2019.

The language that was used in the interview is Bahasa Indonesia. There were some reasons why the researcher chose Bahasa Indonesia rather than English. The first reason was that the participants are native speakers of Bahasa Indonesia, so they felt more comfortable and fluent in giving their answers using their native language. The second reason was to avoid the misunderstanding during the interview. The researcher did not know the participants' English proficiency, so it will be better if the interview using Bahasa Indonesia.

The researcher recorded the interview by using a cellphone. The whole conversation was recorded in the researcher's cellphone. The length of each interview was different, depending on how deep and complete the answers the participants gave. When the researcher thought that the answer was complete the research question, the researcher ended the interview process. If the participant's answer was not complete, the researcher took more time to dig deeper for more information.

Data Analysis

In the data analysis, the researcher had several steps to analyze the data. The first step was transcribing the recorded interview. The data transcribe was done by writing down the recorded audio of the interview into a conversation. This conversation is called Verbatim. According to Saldana (2009), verbatim is changing the result of the recorded audio into sentences. In verbatim, everything is written exactly the same with the recorded audio. There is no addition or decrement in verbatim, and it contains what the participants said during the interview.

In the process of data analyzing, the second step was member checking. This step does not belong to Saldana's but the researcher applied this step in order to recheck whether the data to be analyzed is valid enough or not. According to Cole and Harper (2012), member checking gives the participants review the accuracy of the statements. During the transcribing process, there might be some mistakes done by the researcher. In order to prevent the invalid data, the researcher ensured it by showing it to the participants. This

The next step after the data transcribing was compacting facts. In this part, the researcher reconstructed the sentences to be more structured then give the code to the important ones. The next step was actually probing. The researcher did not do this step because it is aimed to dig a deeper information from the respondent if there is something unclear. However, the researcher was already satisfied with the response. The next step in doing the coding is gathering similar facts. In this part, the researcher grouped the similar facts and made

interpretations from them. After gathering the similar data, the following step was categorizing. In this part, the researcher made some categories based on similar facts and the interpretations. The last step in the coding was to build the concept and narrating. In this part, the researcher decided the categories that can be used to answer the research questions and made a narration for the findings.