

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses some aspects of methodology. It presents research design, site and respondents, data collection techniques, and data analysis. It provides the description of how the present research was conducted.

3.1 Research Design

The research employed qualitative approach and case study method to gather the data needed to answer the research questions comprehensively. Case study method facilitates a researcher to discover the fact in detail in which he cannot control the behaviours under investigation (Yin, 1994). It provides comprehensive and in-depth data about the issue under research. The subject of a case study can be an individual, a group, an institution or a community and if no other cases are available for replication, the researcher is limited to single-case design (Arikunto 1986 cited in Nurcahyo, 2008).

Therefore, case study was used in the current research related to the research questions and the aims of this research; to get in-depth understanding of the implementation of the portfolio method in teaching writing, to identify problems faced by the students and strategies used by the students in handling problems in making portfolio.

3.2. Site and Respondents

The research would be conducted to first grade students of SMA Pasundan 1 Cimahi. SMA Pasundan 1 Cimahi would be the site of the research and seven students of first grade students would be the respondents. SMA Pasundan 1 Cimahi is a private school located in the center of Cimahi. It implements KTSP (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan). The teacher of the first grade students applied portfolio method in teaching writing.

3.3. Data Collections Techniques

Two ways of data collection were employed in the research. The techniques were observation and interview. The observation would be applied to capture the phenomenon about the ways teacher applies the portfolio method in teaching writing. The observation was conducted from 22nd of September 2010 to 6th of October 2010. Before observing the class, the observer and the teacher checked the problems to be investigated and the schedule, and decided the class to observe.

Naturalistic observation was used for the research. The observation would be conducted by watching directly the process of teaching writing in English classroom without getting involved to the teaching process.

During the observation, the researcher would become a complete observer. The observation would give real condition that happen exactly. Any condition which related to the problems of the research would be perceived during the

observation. The result of the observation would be taken into observation schedule and converted to a field note as the primary data.

Adding the data from observation, the open interview would be conducted to find out more aspects about the problems of the research. Some conditions which could not be captured by other instruments would be observed during the interview.

Semi-structured interview would be employed in the research. The interview type was chosen because it is more systematic and comprehensive than informal conversational interview. The interview would consist of some questions related to the problems faced by the students and the strategies used by the students in handling problems in making portfolio. Six students were involved in the interview session. Before opening the interview, it was important to explain the objective of the interview to the respondent.

The interview were tape recorded in order to capture data more faithfully. It avoids hurriedly in noting the verbatim data and made the researcher more focused on the interview. Tape-recording has some strength, which are: it preserves the actual language of the interviewee, the data can objectively be recorded, the data characteristic is natural, it records interviewer's contributions as well, and the data can be re-analyzed after the interview.

3.4 Data Analysis

The data would be analyzed by using Miles and Huberman analysis (cited in Sukamayadi, 2005), which consisted of three concurrent flows activity: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/ verification.

Data reduction means choosing, simplifying, and transforming rough information that emerged from the interviews and observations. Since the observations were done to select core data of the study, all of the observation data were written into the field note, but only the selected data would be analyzed. The selected data from field notes were coded in categorization. The categorization was based on the indicator of the ways the teacher applies the portfolio method in teaching writing.

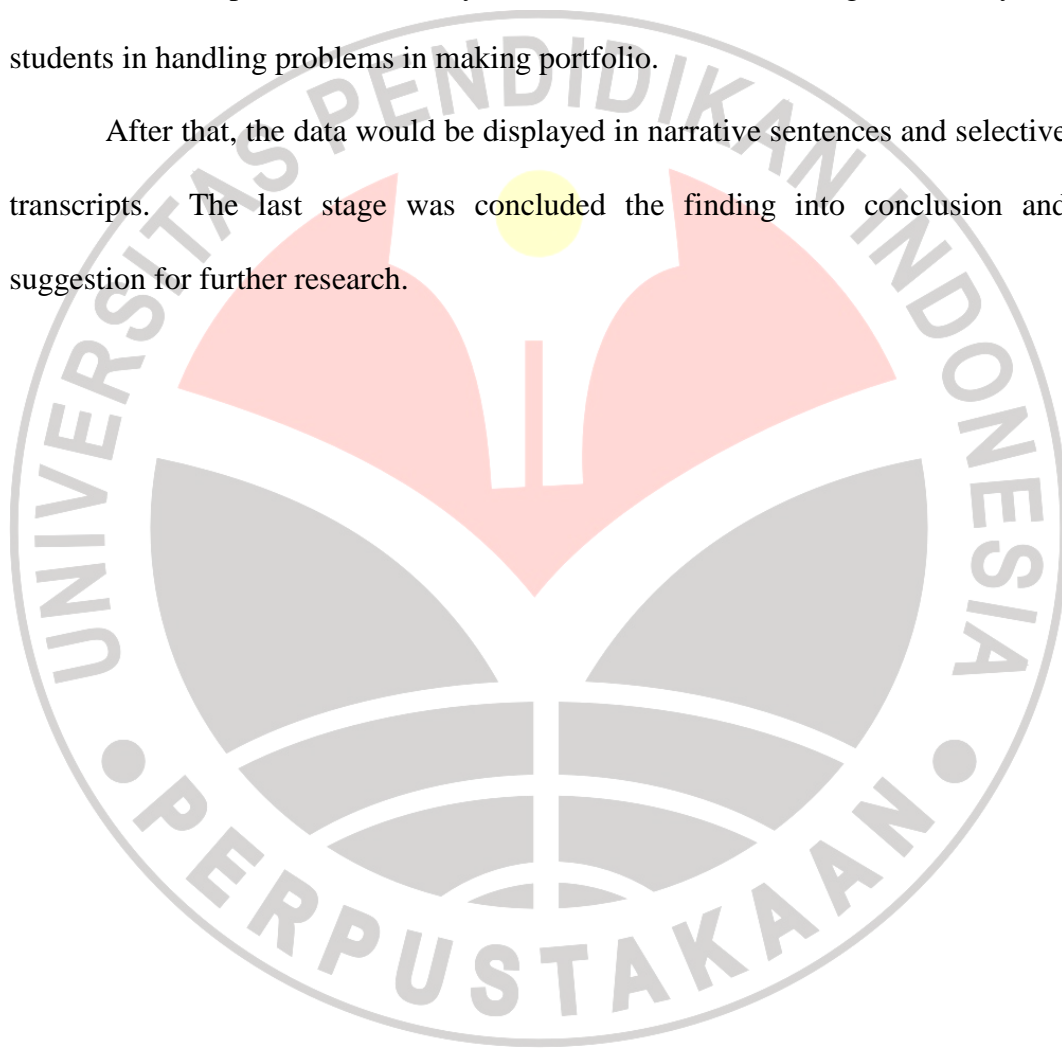
Data display was the second major activity which the researcher should go through, and this means taking the reduced data and displaying it in an organized, compressed way so that conclusions can be more easily drawn. The methods of the analysis of the research could be in form of narrative analysis and coding. The data from observations would be displayed in narrative sentences to build meaningful information that is related to the research.

After displaying the data, the next step was taking conclusion of the finding. The finding and discussion place into conclusions and suggestions to exemplify the research entirely.

Actually, the stages in analyzing the data from interview were same with analyzing the data from the observation. First, the data from tape recorder were transcribed in order to make the data easier to be analyzed. Considering the

research used the semi-structured interviews, the data obtained from the interviews were selectively analyzed based on the importance point related to the research, and the additional information of the data would be eliminated. The selected were coded in categorization. The categorization was based on the indicator of the problems faced by the students and the strategies used by the students in handling problems in making portfolio.

After that, the data would be displayed in narrative sentences and selective transcripts. The last stage was concluded the finding into conclusion and suggestion for further research.



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