

## **CHAPTER III**

### **METHODOLOGY**

This chapter describes the methodology used to collect and analyze data in this study. There are six sections in this chapter. In the first section, aims of the study are displayed in the introduction section to show readers the research problems addressed in this study. Second, research design is discussed to inform research method and approach applied in this study. Next, data collection is described to show research site, subjects of study, steps of data collection and techniques used in collecting the data. Finally, data analysis is explained to report how the collected data are analyzed step by step to answer research questions.

#### **3.1 Introduction**

It was acknowledged in chapter one that this research mainly aims to report students' anxiety in English foreign language classroom. To fulfill the aim, three research questions are proposed; the first deals with language anxiety level that students' experienced in EFL classroom, the second relates with sources of students' language anxiety and the last investigates the coping strategies students' used for their foreign language anxiety. The following sections elaborate the methodology used in collecting and analyzing the data to answer the proposed research questions.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

Based on the categorization of research design from Nunan and Bailey (2009), this study can be classified as a case study research because the case in this study has physical boundary (this study was conducted in a certain State University in Bandung), temporal boundary (this study investigated students

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behavior which had a beginning and an end) and bounded instance (this study focused on one classroom). This study was also conducted in naturally occurring situation and context without manipulating variables (p.162). Hence, the result is centered on description, inference and interpretation.

Three types of case study research designs include exploratory, explanatory and descriptive. (Hancock & Algozzine, 2006). This study belongs to descriptive designs which attempt to present a complete description of a phenomenon within its context. (p.33)

This study applied a qualitative approach by giving questionnaires and taking transcripts of observation and interview to find students' language anxiety in EFL classroom. To make the description clearer, some qualitative data were quantified to show the number, percentage and distribution of students' language anxiety. In this case, Nunan and Bailey (2009) state:

All qualitative data can be quantified in some way. In other words, things can be counted in qualitative data. In fact, there is almost no limit to the things that can be counted in qualitative data sets. Consider a lesson transcript....(Nunan & Bailey, 2009, p.414)

The description of research design and data analysis hopefully can give a clear picture on how this study was carried out to answer the three research questions mentioned above.

### **3.3 Data Collection**

This part answers who were taken as subjects of study and where, when and how the data were collected:

#### **3.3.1 Research Site**

This study was conducted in an EFL classroom in one of State University in Bandung. The course was designed for first year university students to learn

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English as foreign language (EFL). There were three classes (class A, class B, and class C). The class was divided based on the placement test scores. Class A belongs to students who get the highest scores, class B belongs to moderate students, and class C belongs to those who get the lowest scores.

This course was chosen as research site for several reasons. The first reason was the English course serves as a typical case (Nunan & Bailey, 2009) to find out information from a specific case to fill in the gap of previous research. In this case, the site fit with the researcher's intention to investigate students' language anxiety in EFL classroom. The program in this course is very fit with this study which related to EFL learning.

The second reason was the researcher's convenience (Patton, 1980, in Alwasilah, 2002) to conduct research in chosen research site due to its support and accessibility. The research was fully supported by the director and the lecturers since the researcher is one of the lecturer there and the research was expected to improve the teaching learning activity in the classroom. In addition, the research site was fully accessible. In this case, the researcher was fully permitted and supported to conduct research in the classroom.

### **3.3.2 Subjects of the Study**

After several considerations, class A was chosen. This class was taken due to several reasons. The students in class A was more expressive and corporative comparing to other classes. The class consists of 35 students who got the best scores in placement test. The students in the class were also considered as active students who usually take part in class interaction.

Classroom interaction usually lasted in 90 minutes. However, the interaction that was transcribed only focused on those students who were contributed in interview session. At the time of the study, they were all taking the

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same required classes offered by the university to students of different ability levels that would train them in the skills of English listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It should be noted that although the participants were homogeneously grouped for English classes, when the data collection procedure was undertaken, they were only at their second semester.

### 3.3.3 Steps of Data Collection

Data collection for the present study was conducted in four weeks. The following table is the schedule of data collection for this study:

Table 3.1  
The Schedule of Data Collection

|  |            |  |
|--|------------|--|
| Monday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014     | 90 minutes | Video – audio recording, field note    |
| Wednesday, March 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014  | 90 minutes | Taking questionnaire data              |
| Monday, March 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2014    | 90 minutes | Video – audio recording, field note    |
| Wednesday, March 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2014 | 30 minutes | Taking interview data (2 participants) |
| Monday, March 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2014    | 30 minutes | Taking interview data (2 participants) |
| Wednesday, March 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2014 | 30 minutes | Taking interview data (2 participants) |
| Monday, March 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2014    | 90 minutes | Video – audio recording, field note    |

Observation in the class was conducted for three meetings. Those three meetings covered listening-speaking class, reading class and grammar class. The interviews were conducted before the class started.

### 3.3.4 Data Collection Techniques

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This section describes the procedures utilized to collect the data. Broadly speaking, there are three techniques for collecting qualitative data: observation, interview, and document review (Best & Kahan, 2005). There was also three data collection techniques employed in this study. Questionnaires, observation and semi-structured interview. The three techniques were used to corroborate the findings to answer the research questions. By employing three different techniques, this study is expected to provide triangulated findings and analysis on students' language anxiety in EFL classroom.

First, the participants were observed in their EFL classroom for a period of four weeks. Informal interviews were conducted as frequently as possible in order to acquire additional information useful in checking the accuracy of the impressions obtained during the observation period. In addition, semi-structured interviews were conducted in the period of observation with more detailed questions. Field notes were written during and immediately after each observation, as suggested by Emerson, Fretz, and Shaw (1995). The interviews were conducted in native languages, Indonesian in the case of the student participants. All semi-structured interviews were tape-recorded and transcribed.

#### **3.3.4.1 Observation**

The purpose of observation is to collect the qualitative data that are helpful in answering the research questions of this study - detailed notations of behaviors, events and contexts related to language anxiety. As explained before in the discussion of the merits of qualitative research, observation has several advantages in such a task (Patton, 1980, as cited in Alwasilah, 2002) make a better understanding of the context, within which students react and cope with their language anxiety; 2) allow for inductive approach, thereby making it less dependent on prior conceptualization; 3) offer an opportunity to gain information

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on sensitive topics, such as interpersonal competition among certain students, that they may not be willing to talk about in an interview; 4) provide the resources otherwise unattainable - observer's impression, feeling, reflection and introspection. These can be part of meaningful data to allow for understanding and interpreting the events and behaviors with a holistic perspective.

To achieve those purposes, the classroom interaction was observed electronically by recording the interaction using audio and video recording (Nunan & Bailey, 2009). Besides, the researcher presented there to make sure the recorders worked well and jot down some important things regarding the focus of this study. During three meetings (90 minutes per meeting) of lesson were recorded using a video camera and a digital audio recorder. Before the students entered the class, the camera was turned on and put on the three port behind the students. to make sure the voice could be well recorded; an audio recorder was turned on and put on teachers' table in front of the class. By setting up a camera at the back side and an audio recorder in the front side of the classroom, it was hoped that all interactions were well documented.

In observing classroom interaction, the researcher took a role as a non-participant observer. The researcher did not take a part in planning the lesson nor in teaching and learning process. She only put the video and audio recorder in a hidden place in the classroom. The lecturer was informed that the researcher was going to record the classroom interaction without specifically mentioning what features of interaction were going to be investigated.

Even through a very attentive observation, it is hardly possible to capture everything happening in the classroom. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on certain kinds of activities and events that provide the particular information and insights helpful for answering the research questions of this study. This strategy not only helps sensitize the observer to certain kinds of events, activities and

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behaviors relevant to the purpose of this study, but also makes the observation work manageable (Patton, 1987). Conforming to this strategy, the focus of the observation (i.e., what to observe) in this study was made on the following elements, as suggested by Merriam (1998, as cited in Cha, 2006):

1) The physical setting

A close observation on physical environment (e.g., classroom layout) is indispensable in this study, since it can affect students' feelings and behaviors. For instance, a particular classroom layout facilitating group work, can promote a higher level of student to student interactions during class and thus their sense of camaraderie, which has been found to render a diminishing effect on language anxiety (Young, 1990; Samimy & Rardin, 1994)).

2) The participants

This element of observation will identify who are in the classroom, that is, demographic characteristics of participants, including not only main participants but also their classmates and teachers. It is important to understand the demographic characteristics of all participants, for they may yield useful clues to appreciating the mechanism of language anxiety, which is otherwise difficult to grasp.

3) Activities and interaction

The observation was made on specific activities and behaviors of all participants relevant to language anxiety, such as the competitiveness, level and types of interactions, sequence of activities. For example, the researcher tried to find out the pattern of teacher's manner of error correction, and to see whether or not student's making a mistake in English is followed by giggling or lending a hand.

4) Conversation

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The content of conversations among students as well as with teachers was noted. Their conversations were directly quoted, paraphrased or summarized in the field notes, as needed to answer the research questions. In addition, I also noted silence and nonverbal behaviors, such as avoidance and withdrawal that have important bearing of language anxiety.

5) Subtle factors

The researcher looked for less obvious but relevant behaviors to language anxiety that contain symbolic and connotative meanings such as biting nails, making face, sweating, gazing, the way of raising hand, etc. More importantly, the researcher was equally attentive to ‘what does not happen,’ in other words, “absence of occurrence” (Patton, 1987; p. 91).

6) My own behaviors

Merriam (1998) points out that the thoughts, comments, roles of the observer are as important as those of participants, since like the latter, the former also affect what is being observed. Put differently, the observation is not merely a close look on the scene with perfect neutrality, but necessarily involves a cognitive process that cannot totally exclude subjectivity of the observer (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2003). Therefore, what the observer is thinking about what is going on in observation is necessary to be noted, for it can be used later to have as wide a perspective as possible in deciphering the sequences and patterns of events and activities recorded in the field notes.

### **3.3.4.2 Semi-Structured Interview**

Interviews most often used in qualitative research can be divided into three types: 1) informal (unstructured), 2) semi-structured, and 3) formal (highly

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structured or standardized) interview (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2003; Merriam, 1998). These types of interview are distinguished by the amount of structure involved. The informal interviews of this study do not have any predetermined question topics or sequence of questions or any particular forms of questioning. Questions would come forward from the immediate context as the conversation unfolds, and would be asked in the natural course of conversation.

Although informal interview is prone to produce less systematic and comprehensive data, it allows the researcher to be responsive to individual differences of participants and to enhance the salience and relevance of questions (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2003). The second type of interview used in this study was a semi-structured interview. The semi-structured interview has a fairly open framework, thereby allowing a great deal of flexibility in the kind of information that interviewees choose to give (Patton, 1990). Furthermore, this type of interview offers “sufficient flexibility to probe some aspects in depth and, where necessary, to let the respondent lead in much the same way as in open interview” (Heigham and Croker, 2009, p. 186, as cited in Cha, 2006). In other words, unlike formal (standardized) interview, where detailed questions are prepared in advance, semi-structured interview has the questionnaire framework that starts with more general questions or topics. As such, semi-structured interview is formulated ahead of time only in the sense that some form of interview guide is prepared beforehand and provides a framework for the interview. Similarly, a large part of questions in semi-structured interview are not formulated and phrased in advance, but created during the interview, enabling both the interviewer and the interviewees the flexibility to probe for details or discuss issues. This facilitates gaining the information the interviewer needs without overly influencing the participants' responses. This flexibility during the interview is important in qualitative research because it allows the researcher to respond to the situation at

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hand while bringing up information that the researcher might not anticipate, potentially shedding a whole new insight onto a problem (Merriam, 1998; Fraenkel & Wallen, 2003). In summary, semi-structured interview can be characterized as a relatively guided and relaxed discussion based around a predetermined topic.

Furthermore, To make the interview like a guided conversation, broad questions were asked so as not to constrain the conversation. As the semi-structured interview, moreover, the set of questions had been prepared in advance, but they were open enough to allow the interviewees to express their thoughts, feelings, or opinions freely throughout the interview. And questions were generally simple with a logical sequence to help the interview move naturally. For an example, first, a broad question was asked such as “How was speaking English in EFL class?” If the answer to the above question is “difficult,” then, new questions came forward as a result of the answer, such as “Why is that so?”

The complete set of interview questions had not been formulated in advance, since many of relevant interview questions emerged during observation. They were formulated fully as observation showed issues, behaviors, events and so on that formed the basis of interview questions. The language used in interviews with participants was Bahasa Indonesia. Since the researcher conducted interviews with the participants in Bahasa Indonesia, their native language, it was possible for the researcher to catch the linguistic nuances and cultural connotations behind their overt expressions. It appeared that the use of native language in interviews has compensated the difficulties often arouse by the interviewees to express themselves clearly.

To conduct a semi-structured interview, the interviewer focused on the analysis of students’ language anxiety using Foreign Language Classroom Anxiety Scale by Horwitz. Thus, based on the result, two EFL students who

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exhibited high level of anxiety were interviewed according to a set of semi-structured questions to find out their source of language anxiety and their coping strategies. In addition, two EFL students who exhibited moderate level of anxiety and two EFL students who exhibited low level anxiety were interviewed also. The time required for the interview ranged from 10 – 15 minutes.

The detail schedules for the interview can be seen as follows.

Table 3.2  
The Detail Schedule of the Interview

| No  | Student/Subject                      | Date                                     | Duration      |
|-----|--------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| 1.  | Student 1 (high anxiety student)     | Wednesday, March 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2014 | 9:54 minutes  |
| 2.  | Student 2 (high anxiety student)     | Wednesday, March 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2014 | 10:13 minutes |
| 3.  | Student 3 (moderate anxiety student) | Monday, March 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2014    | 12:05 minutes |
| 4 . | Student 4 (moderate anxiety student) | Monday, March 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2014    | 9:30 minutes  |
| 5.  | Student 5 (low anxiety student)      | Wednesday, March 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2014 | 10:11 minutes |
| 6.  | Student 6 (low anxiety student)      | Wednesday, March 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2014 | 11:32 minutes |

Henceforth, the interview data were interpreted to answer research problems and compared to the theory underpinning the study (Emilia, 2009, p. 197).

### 3.3.4.3 Questionnaires

The 33-question Foreign Language Classroom Anxiety Scale (FLCAS) developed by Horwitz et al. (1986) was translated into Bahasa Indonesia by the researcher and used to measure learner anxiety in this study. There were five response choices for each statement: strongly agree (SA), agree (A), neutral (N), disagree (D), and strongly disagree (SD). The five-point Likert-type scale has the

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different point per item (1 = strongly disagree; 2 = disagree; 3 = neither agree nor disagree ; 4 = agree; 5 = strongly agree). A good instrument (whether test or non-test) must be valid and reliable (Sugiyono, 2011,. P.169). This is intended to collect the valid and reliable data. Sugiyono (2011,p. 168) notes that by using the valid and reliable instruments in collecting data, it is expected that the result of the study is also valid and reliable. The Indonesian version of this instrument is highly reliable, with a coefficient alpha of .96. In terms of validity, basically, validity is divided into three types: content validity, criterion-related validity, and construct validity (Hatch and Farhady, 1982, p.251). Since the instrument used in this study was a non-test instrument, which was FLCA, according to Sugiyono (2011, p.170), to be stated as a valid instrument, it only needed to fulfill construct validity.

Dealing with construct validity, Hadi (cited in Sugiyono, 2011, p.170) treats construct validity like logical validity or validity by definition. Thus, an instrument can be stated for having construct validity if it can be used to measure the phenomenon as its definition is. Further, to utter an appropriate definition, the researcher needs several theories to consult with. In this case, Hadi states that when the theories used to utter a definition are already appropriate, the result of measurement using the instrument which is based on those theories is already able to be stated as a valid result.

To test the construct validity, the judgment from experts was employed in this study. For expert judgment, at least three doctorate experts are needed (Sugiyono, 2011, p. 172). Hence, in this study, the judgment was done by two doctorate lecturers from English Education (who concern in Second Language Acquisition) and a doctorate lecturer from Educational Psychology.

### **3.4 Data Analysis**

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Data analysis in this study focused on data collected above: data from observation, interview and questionnaire. The observation data result was transcribed, coded, categorized and analyzed. Meanwhile, the result of interview was coded and analyzed. Then the data from questionnaire was counted, displayed and analyzed. At last, the analysis of each data collection was synthesized and discussed to answer the research questions. The following parts explain the process of analysis of each collected data to fulfill the aims of study.

### **3.4.1 Analyzing the Data from Observation**

The data from observation (audio and video recording) were transcribed, coded, categorized, described and analyzed to reveal the different types of language anxiety source and coping strategies.

The process of analysis started with transcribing the data. In this case, the transcription focused on the following elements, as suggested by Merriam (1998, as cited in Cha, 2006):

- 1) The physical setting
- 2) The participants
- 3) Activities and interaction
- 4) Conversation
- 5) Subtle factors
- 6) My own behaviors

After the recording of interaction were transcribed, the data were coded and categorized by adapting the categorization of language anxiety coping strategies by Erhman (1996) to answer the third research question collaborating with interview result.

### **3.4.2 Analyzing the Data from Interview**

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The data from interview were transcribed and analyzed qualitatively. The interview data were analyzed to collaborate and confirm the findings from observation and questionnaire in answering the second and third research question. In analyzing the data, the researcher carried out several steps. First, data from interview were transcribed. Second, the transcribed data were coded by following Alwasilah's coding strategy (2002, p.232) by categorizing the data based on the responses given by the teacher. Third, the result of coding was condensed to confirm or contradict the findings obtained from observation and questionnaire.

In supporting the findings from observation, the findings from interview were cited in the analysis following Creswell's (2003, p.197) suggestion to use the wordings from participants to give a detailed descriptive portrait. The wordings from interview were also compared and contrasted with the data from observation, theories and previous studies on language anxiety.

Considering the guidelines for interview data, in categorizing this result, the researcher used Horwitz categories for language anxiety sources (communication apprehension, test anxiety and fear of negative evaluation) in order to answer the second research question. Besides, Ehrman's (1996) defense mechanism categories for students' coping strategies of language anxiety (flight behavior, aggressive behavior, group manipulation behavior, and compromise behavior) were used to answer the third research question.

### **3.4.3 Analyzing the Data from Questionnaire**

The data from questionnaire, which is adapted from Foreign Language Classroom Anxiety Scale (FLCAS) by Horwitz, was analyzed quantitatively. FLCAS consists of two kinds of statement which are positive and negative. The positive statement scale ranged from 1-5 with answer "Strongly Agree" to

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“Strongly Disagree”. They are 9 positive statements in the questionnaire which are number 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 18, 22, 28, and 32. While, the negative statements are in number 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, and 33. The data were calculated manually with the range of score started from 61 to 139. After the each score from students’ results of FLCAS gained, it was categorized into some levels of anxiety started from “High Anxious”, “Moderate Anxious”, and “Low Anxious”.

The Likert’s scoring scale table to measure students’ anxiety level using FLCAS is shown below:

Table 3.3  
Likert’s Scoring Table adopted from Horwitz et al. (1986)

| Statement | Scoring        |       |                            |          |                   |
|-----------|----------------|-------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------|
|           | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neither Agree nor Disagree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| Positive  | 1              | 2     | 3                          | 4        | 5                 |
| Negative  | 5              | 4     | 3                          | 2        | 1                 |

The following table is the score for each anxiety level perceived by students:

Table 3.4  
FLCAS Anxiety Scale

| Range   | Level       |
|---------|-------------|
| 61 – 87 | Low Anxious |

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|           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| 87 – 113  | Moderate Anxious |
| 113 – 139 | High Anxious     |

In order to give more description, the result was transformed into percentage. Furthermore, to calculate the mean of anxiety level to each item, first multiplied a score of each answer by its percentage, divided the calculated score by the sum of percentage. The means of every item can clarify the overall level of students' language anxiety.

### 3.5 Validity and Reliability

In maintaining validity, the researcher did several things:

- a. Methods Triangulation: Multiple methods were used in collecting the data including observation, interview and questionnaire.
- b. Theory triangulation: Various theories were brought to bear in this study including interaction, output and noticing theories.
- c. Member validation/member checking: It involved asking the participants after the questionnaire to confirm their answers and interpretation.

In maintaining reliability of this study, the researcher applied interceding process, following Nunan&Bailey (2009) who suggest researchers to conduct intercoder agreement with the following steps:

One way to sort out this problem is to determine intercoder agreement-an index of the consistency with which different people categorize the same data. A simple percentage is calculated by dividing the number of items upon which coders agree by the total number of items that were coded. The general rule of thumb is that intercoder agreement should be at least 85% for readers to have confidence in the reported findings (Nunan&Bailey, 2009, p. 428)

In applying intercoder agreement, the researcher carried out several steps. First, a partner was purposively chosen as an intercoder. She was chosen due to

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the researcher's assumption of her linguistic ability. Second, the partner was trained to code the data base on detail descriptors. Third, the researcher and the intercoder coded 10 % of data together as an internalization of agreement toward the descriptor. Fourth, the researcher asked a partner to code 90 % of data (see Sheen, 2004) and looked at the result whether agreement reached more or less than 85 % after the coding process was finished; the results were compared to look at the level of agreement. As a result, the agreement for learners' anxiety codification reached 95 % while the agreement for interview codification reached 86 %. The differences were resolved by discussion and modification of descriptor.

### **3.6 Concluding Remarks**

This chapter had drawn the qualitative study, particularly the case study design, as the methodology of the study. Therefore, the data were collected by means of the questionnaire analysis, the observation analysis and the interview. Consequently, all the data obtained were analyzed qualitatively to be compared and contrasted or triangulated to enhance validity.

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