

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter deals with the research method employed in the present study. It covers the research design, data collection, and data analysis which explain the step-by-step processes in conducting the present research.

3.1 Research Design

The study was aimed to investigate how Negara Islam Indonesia (NII) was represented on the online newspaper, namely *The Jakarta Post* and *Jakarta Globe*. To achieve the aim, qualitative approach was employed in the study. This is because in investigating the representation, the more important thing to be conducted is interpretation and not numerical display as quantitative research model does. In addition, qualitative research entails collecting primarily textual data and examining it using interpretative analysis (Crocker, 2009). Thus, since the result of the study would be based on the interpretation of the researcher, qualitative research is suitable for the present research.

Bogdan and Biklen (1982) elaborate several characteristics of qualitative research. In their book entitled *Qualitative Research for Education*, they explain that qualitative research is descriptive and the researchers are concerned primarily with “process”, rather than outcome products. In addition, qualitative researchers tend to analyze their data inductively and are interested in “meaning” how people make sense of their lives, experiences, and their structures of the world.

As cited by Crocker (2009), qualitative research needs textual data which are detail and descriptive capturing what researchers have seen and heard. Related to the present study, the researcher thought about the articles talking about NII that have been collected, then added her thoughts and reflections which lead to a thick description of NII as participant.

Moreover, qualitative research puts process over outcome (Bogdan and Biklen, 1982). Different from quantitative research which focuses on the

importance of outcome, qualitative research emphasizes the process of what happens in a setting with a more detailed focus on participant. The present study focuses on the NII portrayal in society, what NII did, what NII said, and what people think about NII to finally draw a conclusion of NII representation.

In addition, since qualitative research focuses on process and not outcome, it does not search out data or evidence to prove or disprove hypothesis which come before entering the study. The outcome of the research will come after collecting and spending time with the research subject. Thus, qualitative research is called inductive research. In the present study, the researcher did not make any hypothesis regarding NII representation. The researcher merely collected the data which are articles taken from two English online newspapers and analyzed them to get the outcome.

Since qualitative research sees meaning as socially constructed as said by Merriam, 2002 (cited by Crocker, 2009), the research focuses on the participants and how society sees them. Regarding this point, the present study emphasized the NII as participant. The NII movement and actions which lead to what people believe about it is the focus of the study.

Furthermore, since there are several designs in qualitative approach, a case study was applied in the present research. A case study focuses upon a single entity (Bromley, 1986, Yin, 2003) and the data analysis on the case study covers in depth (Gall, 2003, as cited in Duff, 2008). The focus of the present study was NII as entity and the collected data about NII were analyzed in depth to draw a conclusion of NII representation on the online newspapers.

Hood (2009: 68) noted that case study is a bounded system. He also said that if the boundaries of that system are unclear, it is researcher's task to identify and explore those boundaries. Related to the present study, the researcher made a boundary of the study by focusing on NII. Even though the clauses in the articles also discussed politics and Al-Zaytun, the clauses deeply analyzed were merely clauses related to NII.

3.2 Data Collection

The data used in the research were articles taken from online English newspapers in Indonesia, namely, *The Jakarta Post* and *Jakarta Globe* because online newspapers offer several advantages over printed one. Online newspapers can spread the information faster so that the readers find it easier to get new information. In addition, online newspapers have a more widely coverage of distribution because the only thing the readers need is the internet which has become a part of modern life. Additionally, not many printed newspapers are free to the readers but mostly online newspapers are. Moreover, the readers can easily get information published in the past. Last, online newspaper can enhance interaction since there is online comment space for the readers to deliver their opinion regarding particular issue. However, the present study did not put comment on the online newspaper as the focus of analysis.

Therefore, due to the eminence of online newspaper elaborated above, online newspapers have more readers compared to printed newspaper. It was cited in a survey of the *New York Time* online media kit in 2007 showing that the number of online reader is more than twelve fold to printed reader (13.372.000 online users in compare with 1.120.420 weekday print circulation and 1.627.062 Sunday print circulation).

Furthermore, both newspapers were chosen because the two newspapers are well-known in Indonesia particularly in the upper-middle class. In addition, the research conducted by www.indonesia.com (2011) shows that *The Jakarta Post* and *Jakarta Globe* are two most popular English newspapers in Indonesia.

In the study, the researcher considered Negara Islam Indonesia (NII) to be the focus of study since it became a major issue in mass media in Indonesia in 2011. It became a major issue because of the university student abductions done by NII. Furthermore, the two articles related to the issue under discussion are displayed in table 3.1.

Table 3.1 The Data Source

Daily	Title	Publication Date
The Jakarta Post	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NII ban not needed: Assembly leader	Monday, 4 May 2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NII: The father of modern radical Islam	Thursday, 19 May 2011
Jakarta Globe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Govt Must Move Againsts NII: Activist	Thursday, 5 May 2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NII: A Radical Group in Name Only?	Wednesday, 18 May 2011

The articles were taken in May 2011 because the issue was massively published and publicly discussed in the media in that month. Moreover, Milroy (1987) elaborated that in applied linguistics, no matter how many samples are taken, the result will be similar because the sample taken are not clearly different from those which are not analyzed. Thus, in applied linguistic research, the number of sampling is not essential.

3.3 Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) developed by Fairclough (1989) was employed. Fairclough (1989) states that texts are analyzed according to three inseparable elements, namely description, interpretation, and explanation. To achieve the interpretation and explanation, the data description was examined through Functional Grammar (FG) proposed by Halliday (2004). The particular tool of FG applied in this research was system of transitivity proposed by Halliday (2004). Transitivity is a complete analysis of representation from ideational meaning which entails the addresser's point of view regarding a particular event. In addition, ideational meaning deals with the representation contained in the text. Therefore, since the focus of transitivity is similar to the focus of the present research which is representation, transitivity is suitable for the research.

After analyzing the data by using transitivity, the researcher moved to the next stages, namely interpretation and explanation. In the process of interpretation, the researcher also took some textual evidences which consists of NII portrayal to reveal conclusion regarding the case presented in the research. Furthermore, the relationship between the texts and the social reality was revealed as the process of explanation.

This following example presents the analysis that is conducted in the present research:

(Clauses taken from *Jakarta Globe*)

Clause a

The NII	Is	no radical group
Carrier	Attributive	Attribute

Clause b

They	're	a bunch of thieves and liar
Carrier	Attributive	Attribute

The clauses above are Relational process (attributive: intensive) since the process assigns a quality of something (Gerot & Wignell, 1995). “They” in that clause is referred to NII, as mentioned in the previous clause (clause a) ‘The NII is no radical group’. NII is classified as Carrier since carrier is frequently realized by nominal group which is the first phrase in the clause. Then the attribute of this Relational process is realized by “a bunch of thieves and liars”. It shows the quality of NII. Thus, in this clause, *Jakarta Globe* tended to apply Relational process to define NII as a bunch of thieves and liars. From that interpretation, it can be inferred that *Jakarta Globe* has a tendency to generally represent NII in a negative way.

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The Representation of Negara Islam Indonesia (NII) on Online Newspapers: The Jakarta Post and Jakarta Globe

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