CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the procedures for the subject selection in this study. It is divided into two parts, namely the formulation of problems and the research methodology. The formulation of problems covers the research questions investigated in this study. Afterward, the research method reveals the research design, the participants, the data collection, the data analysis and the examples of data analysis.

3.1 Formulation of Problems

The problems of the research are formulated as follows:

1) What types of sound changes have occurred in *Palembang Malay* in comparison with *Standard Malay*?

2) What are the distributions of the *vowel* and *consonant phonemes* in *Palembang Malay* used by the participants?

3.2 Research Methodology

3.2.1 Research Design

This study primarily employs a *qualitative method*. It was conducted to the native local language of *Palembang Malay* in Indonesia. It is concerned with the details of the kinds of changes that have happened in the language. Wu and Volker (2009) state that a *qualitative method* is used to understand human intricacy in all natural settings

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they have experienced. Thus, this study tends to be directed to understand everyday human linguistic behavior in a routine situation. In addition, this study specifically seeks to describe the changes of sounds from *Palembang Malay* which are considered to be interesting phenomena to analyze.

In a similar vein, Creswell (2008) states that a *descriptive method* investigates detailed interpretation of people, places, or events in a setting in the *qualitative method*. This study is intended to describe the language change phenomenon in the *phonological* field when there has been a change in the system in which those sounds exist. Therefore, the investigation approach of the study has also affected the field of *historical linguistics*, especially in the *comparative method*. It is interesting to examine the process of how the language shapes the sounds in order to make variations in the languages. In this study, the investigation uses a historical linguistic *comparative method* to compare the sound changes between an ancestral language *Standard Malay* and its descent language *Palembang Malay*.

3.2.2 Participants

The participants of this study are Indonesian specifically from *Palembang* native speakerswho are considered *Palembang Malay* to be their first language. The participants consist of seven native speakers refer to those whose age ranges from 20 to 40 years old must have regularly spoken at least ten years of *Palembang Malay*. The observations and voice recording were surreptitiously conducted from 15 May to 21 May, 2012. Conducting the observation, voice recordings and group interview

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were conducted several times in order to obtain natural results from participants' chatting activities.

3.2.3 Data Collection

The data were collected from the voices of the participants using *Palembang Malay* that were recorded along group conversations and interviews. Even though this study had planned to have individual interviews, it ended up having group interviews with seven participants. The collection of data and the observation of the participants were conducted during May 2012 until September 2012 in Palembang and Bandung.

This observation was conducted by monitoring the process of sound changes in *Palembang Malay*. Voice records and interview notes were used as the data sources. Alwasilah (2009) argues that the transcription was used in the research to understand how respondents organized their perspectives. Consequently, the voice recordings were transcribed into voice transcriptions.

3.2.4 Data Analysis

The results of the voice recordings were transcribed and used as the main source to be examined. Meanwhile, the observations conducted by the writer were documented in forms of field notes. In this stage, the data obtained from two techniques were divided into several steps of analysis to answer the research questions. Miles and Huberman (1984) state that there are three steps on analyzing

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the data, namely *data reduction*, *data display*, and *conclusion (drawing/verifying).* It

is described in the following figure:

Components of Data Analysis: Interactive Model

Source: Miles and Huberman (1984)
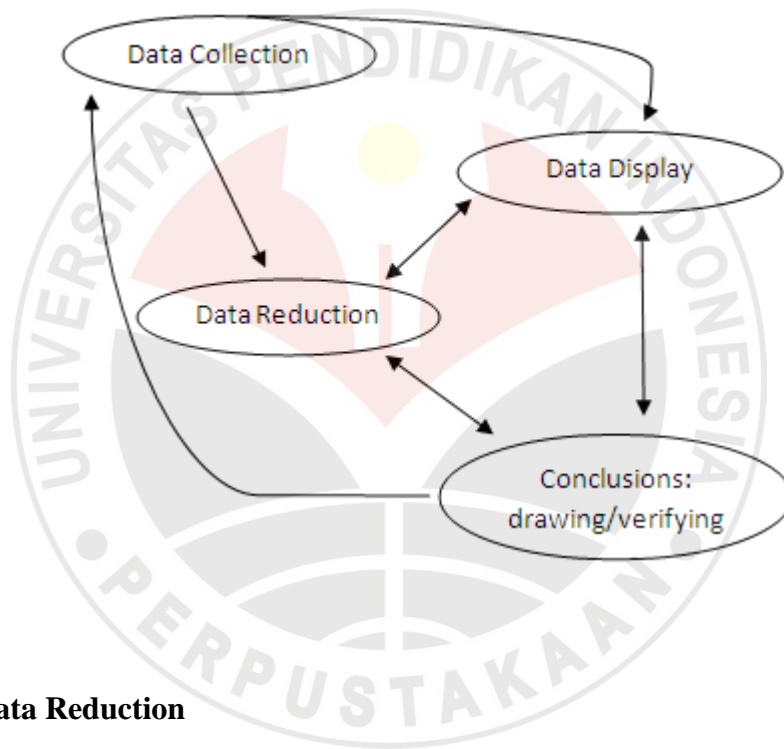
3.2.4.1 Data Reduction

Data reduction refers to the process of *selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting,*

and transforming the data that emerge in written-up field notes or transcriptions

(Miles and Huberman 1984). The analysis of this study was easier to be conducted by

reducing several data which were not necessary with the research questions as

aforesaid.

In this study, *data reduction* was done by *coding* and *categorizing* to give a clear picture of which data actually needed. *The coding* and *categorizing* process were conducted after the data were obtained from the field notes, the voice transcriptions, and interview transcriptions. Finally, the writer classified those data into categories of sound changes to address the research questions.

3.2.4.2 Data Display

After the data were reduced and the important items remained, the next step was to display the data. Miles and Huberman (1984) suggest that data are frequently displayed in the form of narrative text. In this study, the data were shown not only in narrative text but also in the form of tables. The tables were used to display the distributions of data including the calculation of the frequencies and the percentages. Since the related study about *phonological* change, *phonetic* transcription was treated in this study. The study used *PhoTransEdit Online* application that helped the writer to find the correct *phonetic* spelling using the *International Phonetic Alphabet* (IPA) *phonetic* symbols.

3.2.4.3 Conclusion Drawing and Verification

The third step of *Interactive Model* from Miles and Huberman (1984) is *conclusion drawing* and *verification*. In this study, the researcher made conclusions through verifying the data from the observation, the participants' voice recordings, and the group interviews. There should be a validation of the data obtained from the

instruments in order to determine the accuracy of the data. There were many procedures conducted by the researcher to validate the findings. Therefore, by applying three procedures above, the study was expected to have the accuracy of the data.

3.2.5 Examples of Data Analysis

In this study, *Standard Malay* is believed to be the *protolanguage* of *Palembang Malay*. *Wilkinson* dictionary is used to be the source of *Standard Malay* spelling system in this study because it is considered to be the first *Malay* spelling system that was coined by Richard James Wilkinson in 1904 (Omar, 1989).

As have been mentioned in the data collection, Miles and Huberman(1984) introduced the *interactive model* of data analysis. Hence, this section presents examples of data analysis. The first step of data analysis of this study was data reduction. The data were obtained from the transcribed group conversations and interviews. Then, the data were elaborated by reducing several data. The analysis is presented as follows.

Raw Data: Voice Transcription of Group Conversation in the Kitchen

Speaker 1: Yah **ngapo**cakitu Put? Uji kau **dikit-dikit**, **geler**an aku dikit bae.

Speaker 2: Windotkau**biso**Windot!

Speaker 3: Bundo, yang mano**piso**yang **palengtajem**?

Speaker 4: Yang **mano**bae, **cubo** yang tengah.

Speaker 1: Cuboke di **perot**kauhahaha.

Speaker 3: Cubo nah Winhahaha.

Speaker 1: Cakmanoini**ibuk**?

Speaker 2: Nah**jingok**.

Speaker 4: **Galo**nyobekastanganWinda.

Speaker 1: OiyaAllohBundo.

Next, *data reduction* was done by *coding* to give a clear picture of what data were really needed. The data were obtained from the voice transcription. The important words were indicated by the texts in bold, such as **ngapo, dikit, geler, biso, piso, paleng, tajem, mano, cubo, perot, ibuk, jingok,** and **galo.** The selected texts bold are considered as those sounds which have undergone change from *Standard Malay* into *Palembang Malay*. In this step, the researcher identified all the data not only by observing the voice transcriptions but also the interview transcriptions and the field notes to obtain the occurrences of sound changes.

After reducing the data, the next step was to classify the data into types of sound changes. Then, the data were analyzed by using *phonetic* transcription. This study used *PhoTransEdit Online* application that helped to locate the correct *phonetic* spelling using the *International Phonetic Alphabet* (IPA) *phonetic* symbols. The investigation used a historical linguistic *comparative method* to compare the sound changes between an ancestral language *Standard Malay* and its descent language *Palembang Malay*.The example of the data is displayed below.

Table 3.1 Example of Data Display Using *Phonetic* Transcription

No	*Standard Malay*	→	*Palembang Malay*	**Types of Sound Changes**
1	*apa	→	[ŋapɔ]	*Split*
2	*sadikit	→	[dikit]	*Aphrentesis*
3	*gilir	→	[geler]	*Total Assimilation*
4	*bisa	→	[bisɔ]	*Split*
5	*pisaṷ	→	[pisʊ]	*Monopthongisation*
6	*paliŋ	→	[paleŋ]	*Partial Assimilation*
7	*tad͡ʒam	→	[tad͡ʒəm]	*Variation of Phoneme /a/*
8	*mana	→	[manɔ]	*Split*
9	*tʃoba	→	[*tʃobɔ]	*Split*
10	*perut	→	[pərʊt]	*Partial Assimilation*
11	*ibu	→	[ibuʔ]	*Phoneme Insertion /ʔ/*
12	*d͡ʒəŋuʔ]	→	[d͡ʒiŋɔʔ]	*Metathesis*
13	*gəgala	→	[galɔ]	*Aphrentesis*

After *phonetic* transcription was applied in all data collection, the data were shown in the form of tables to display the distributions of data which consisted of the frequencies and the percentages. The example of the calculation is presented as follows.

Table 3.2 Example of Sound Changes' Distribution

No.	Types of Sound Changes	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1.	*Assimilation*	72	42.35
2.	*Lenition*	34	20
3.	*Sound Addition*	6	3.53
4.	*Metathesis*	2	1.18
5	*Dissimilation*	3	1.76
6	*Abnormal Sound Changes*	6	3.53
7	*Split*	23	13.53
8	*Variation of phoneme /a/*	18	10.59
9	*Monophthongisation*	6	3.53
	Total	170	100

The last step was to make conclusions through verifying the data. Furthermore, the entire analyses are given in the chapter four of this study. The rest of

data displays are shown in the appendices of this study. Many procedures were used by the researcher to validate the findings. By applying several procedures above, the study was expected to obtain the accuracy of the data.Finally, those data were analyzed to address the research questions.