

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research Design

This study used a largely qualitative method with quantitative descriptive statistics. According to Nassaji (2015), the qualitative descriptive method aims to explain an occurrence and its aspects. This study is more of an explanation than the reason or procedure for doing something. Furthermore, Maxwell (2005) argues that the advantages of conducting qualitative research arise primarily from its experimental approach, focus on terms rather than numbers, and attention on events occurring or persons. It is in line with Cresswell's (1997) argument that qualitative research may be applied to provide a clear understanding of knowledge and values.

This study investigates the density of words' meanings using a qualitative approach. According to Nassaji (2015), qualitative research data can be obtained qualitatively. It is frequently assessed technically, with frequency ranges, proportions, trends, or other analytical studies used to discover correlations.

Reflecting on the problems raised above, the researcher considers the strategy suitable for use in the study. This study uses Matin, Maton, and Doran's (2014) theory framework to investigate the density in legal documents constructed by authorities to look for meaning-making choices and emphasize the level of complexity implied using some lexicogrammatical choices.

3.2. Data Collection

This study used a qualitative descriptive method. The method suits the study because the study involves a fifty-four-page text, which is then investigated critically and requires descriptive and interpretive measures. It is the reason for this study to select the descriptive method. The data is a legal document from customs regulations for passengers published on the internet in 2021. With reference to projects that study police decrees and summons (Fisilla & Gunawan 2020), the data for this study were also legal documents but from a customs regulations for passengers text which was downloaded from the internet on 21 December 2021, at 2 PM Western Indonesian Time. The reason is that this field is adapted because it is essential to learn more about how the text is constructed to fulfill a person's rights and obligations to avoid inaccuracy that can cause a problem. Thus, the data can be analyzed with the same project in different environments. The data chosen is from 2021 because it is the most recent one.

3.3. Data Analysis

The data are analyzed using Martin, Maton, and Doran's (2019) Legitimation code theory, specifically semantic density. This study is conducted in the following steps. First, the complex words in noun phrases of the texts are identified. After being identified, it will be labelled as decrees based on the frequency. High frequency of density is labelled as technical and lower frequency is labelled as everyday. Next, the data is then classified based on the frequency of usage by using semantic profiles. After that, texts are analyzed according to the frequency. By then, the phrase suggests a different level of complexity. The last step involves

discussing the frequency by employing Maton and Doran’s theory (2019). The findings are investigated to build the meanings of semantic density.

Wording tool for establishing ESD includes three levels of delicacy which are type (technical and everyday), subtype (conglomerate, compact, consolidated, and common), and sub-subtype (properties, elements, specialist, generalist, nuanced and plain) (Maton and Doran, 2017). The tool focuses on ‘content words’ such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, rather than ‘grammatical words’ such as prepositions, determiners, or conjunctions. After separating each phrase into three levels of delicacy, each finding will be discussed by employing the theory of Maton and Doran (2019).

3.4. Data Presentation

An example of the analysis is shown in the table below to illustrate how the analysis will be undertaken.

No	Clauses
1	petunjuk pelaksanaan impor dan ekspor BARANG yang dibawa oleh pelintas batas
2	dan PEMBERIAN PEMBEBASAN bea masuk BARANG yang dibawa oleh pelintas batas

Table 3.1 – Data Presentation

Table 3.1. above shows the analysis of complexity in the text with the key to the annotation of the wording of examples is shown in Maton, Doran (2013): all technical are in bold, with compacts plain bold and CONGLOMERATE in small capitals; words not in bold

are everyday, with commons unadorned and CONSOLIDATED in small capitals.

As seen on the table, the bolded word in the text is less than the normal one. By taking this action, it is presumed that the potential interpretation is that the authorities tried to minimise complexity in the text.