

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Method and Procedure of the Research

As Best and Kahn (1989:24) assert “descriptive research describes *what is*, describing, recording, analyzing, and interpreting conditions that exist. It involves some type of comparison or contrast and attempts to discover relationships between existing nonmanipulated variables”. This research is intended to discover the similarities and differences of English and Arabic relative pronouns. To conduct this research, a qualitative was used, involving descriptive method to describe events, persons, and so forth scientifically without the use of numerical data. (Best and Kahn, 1989:89)

In accordance with the characteristics of descriptive research elucidated by Best and Kahn (1989:89) who state that “They use the logical methods of inductive-deductive reasoning to arrive at generalizations”. Therefore, descriptive method is set for this research. In addition, Gay (1987) proposes that :

A descriptive method is a method of research that involves collecting data in order to test hypothesis of the answer questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study. The descriptive study determines and reports the way things are. (p.45)

In addition, Nazir (1988) affirms that descriptive method occupies the study of status of a group of people, an object, and set of condition. In summary, the purpose of descriptive method is to sistematically, factually and correctly describe or demonstrate the facts.

3.1 Samples

Best and Kahn (1989:11) define population as “population is any group of individuals that have one or more characteristics in common that are of interest to the researcher”. The population of this research is taken from The Holy Qur’an English Translation of the meanings and commentary by Dr. Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din al-Hilali and Dr. Muhammad Muhsin Khan (2005). There are many relative pronouns found in the Holy Qur’an, that is all relative pronouns available in the Holy Qur’an. Therefore, it is important to choose the representative samples in order to help the researcher in comparing English and Arabic relative pronouns. This research uses purposive sampling.

In terms of samples, as proposed by Best and Kahn (1989:89) in the five characteristics of descriptive research who state that “They often employ methods of randomization so that error may be estimated when inferring population characteristics from observations of samples”. This research employs purposive sampling, that is, “non-probability samples in which researcher uses special knowledge or expertise about specific group to select subjects who represent this population”. (Berg, 2004 in <http://www.theorywatch.com/ist501/terms.html>). This is the type of sampling that will be used to select the Qur’anic verses. With this type, samples are chosen with a specific purposes in mind and their relevances to the topic of investigation.

Samples are 18 verses of *Surah An-Nissa* (The Women) as the main samples. It is appropriate to discuss briefly, as to why the researcher has chosen *Surah An-Nisaa* is that it contains most of the variations, characteristics and

valuable data of the relative pronouns she wants to investigate. They are verse 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 23, 25, 27, 34, 36, 37, 123, 127 and 136.

To support the samples in *Surah An-Nisaa* above, the researcher chooses another verses which reflect the investigated relative pronouns that are not available in *Surah An-Nisaa*. Those verses are : *Surah Al-Baqarah* verse 8, 12, 22, 247, 272, verse 29 of *Surah Fushshilat*, verse 11 of *Surah Al-Muddaththir*, verse 50 of *Surah Al-Imraan*, verse 92 and 96 of *Surah An-Nahl*, verse 6 of *Surah Luqmaan*, verse 14 of *Surah Al-A'la*, verse 4 of *Surah At-Talaq*, verse 25 of *Surah Al-Haaqqah*, verse 146 and 154 of *Surah Al-An'aam*, verse 1 of *Surah Al-Jumu'ah*, verse 7, 12 and 21 of *Surah Al-Kahf*, verse 124 of *Surah At-Taubah*, verse 82 of *Surah Yoseph*, 2 of *Surah Al-Mujaadilah*, 42 of *Surah Jonah*, 18 of *Surah Lail* and verse 1 of *Surah Al-Maa'uun*.

3.2 Technique in Collecting the Data

The data in this research are derived through the some steps. Analyzing the definitions of both English and Arabic relative pronouns gained through library research is the first step done by the researcher. Then, the process of selecting the Qur'anic verses that contain particular qualities of the relative pronouns is crucial stage in this research. After that, the next step is analyzing syntactical aspects of English and Arabic relative pronouns (*al-ismu al-maushul*) in Qur'anic verses. The last step is interpreting data in terms of similarities and differences between English and Arabic relative pronouns.

3.4 Data Analysis

Data are analyzed through some stages. The first stage is comparing the similarities between English and Arabic relative pronouns found in the samples, both definition, type and function. The second stage is contrasting the differences between English and Arabic relative pronouns found in the samples, both definition, type and function. The last stage is interpreting data in terms of similarities and differences between English and Arabic relative pronouns.

