

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter presents: (1) research design, (2) Operational definitions, (3) research site and participants, (4) data collections, (5) data analysis, and (6) establishment of trustworthiness.

3.1. Research Design

This research used qualitative method. Creswell (2012) stated that a qualitative method is a study that attempts to explain the phenomena of what the research participant experiences, such as behavior, motivation, opinion, reaction, and others. In other words, in qualitative analysis, data is gathered and analyzed using words or images rather than in numbers. This study used a case study. According to Creswell (2002), a case study investigates a program, an event, an activity, a process, or one or more individuals in greater depth. Therefore, the researcher used qualitative research with case study in order to find out the EFL students' reading comprehension difficulties at MAN 1 Muara Enim where the data were obtained through interviews as an instrument and the data were analyzed using thematic analysis.

3.2. Operational Definitions

In order to prevent any misunderstandings, the researcher had included a glossary of words that assist readers in comprehending this study as follows:

EFL Students are students in a non-English-speaking country who are not considered English as their first language, but as their foreign language, in this study, the EFL students were MAN 1 Muara Enim students.

Reading Comprehension is the process of creating meaning from a text that has been read.

Difficulties are the quality or state of being hard to perform, deal with, or understand in reading comprehension.

3.3. Research Site and Participant

This study was conducted at MAN 1 Muara Enim, which located at Jalan Pasar II, Muara Enim Sub-district, Muara Enim district, South Sumatera. In this research, the researcher used purposeful sampling. Bernard (2002) stated that purposeful sampling occurs when a researcher determines what information is required and sets out to identify people who can and are willing to provide the information based on their knowledge or experience. The tenth grade students of MAN 1 Muara Enim were chosen as the participants in this study by using a purposeful sampling technique. There are many purposeful samplings. One of them is maximal variation sampling. According to Creswell (2012), maximal variation sampling is a purposeful sampling strategy in which the researcher selects cases or individuals who differ in some characteristic or trait. Based on preliminary study, there were 5 classes of tenth graders in MAN 1 Muara Enim, and the researcher chose 1 class, which was 10 IPS B. The researcher chose this

class because it already studied descriptive text, which made that class already have background knowledge in reading comprehension. The researcher selected students based on reading scores in the class through maximal variation sampling. Nine students were selected. 3 students who had high score, 3 students who had moderate score, and 3 students who had low score. Teacher also recommended these students to be the participants as well. Briefly, it was selected to be applied in this study. In this way, the researcher found various difficulties experienced by students in order to achieve the purpose of this study, namely EFL Students in reading comprehension difficulties.

3.4. Data Collection

In conducting this research, the researcher used interview to collect the data. Interviews were used to obtain useful information on the difficulties experienced by students. Students had their respective difficulties due to differences in their mastery of reading comprehension. According to Cresswell (2012), In the interview, involves the activity of giving several questions from a researcher to one or more participants to gather information. After that, the researcher got more information about the difficulties of the students from the interview.

In conducting this research, the researcher used semi-structured interview. Semi-structured interview means during the interview, the interviewer may change the format or questions even though the interviewer has previously formulated the area of interest and the chosen

question (Ary et al., 2010). The researcher asked the listed questions and explored the questions to get more information about EFL students' difficulties in reading comprehension. Interviews were carried out via cellphone, then the researcher recorded the interview activities and took a note of the answers.

3.5. Data Analysis

In this research, the researcher used thematic analysis. According to Creswell (2009), there are six steps in thematic analysis. Those steps were such as compiling and preparing data, reading the data as a whole, analyzing in detail with the coding process, making a data description, explaining the information that has been analyzed, and interpreting the data.

3.5.1. Analysis of EFL students' reading comprehension difficulties

In analyzing the EFL students' reading comprehension difficulties encountered by the students of MAN 1 Muara Enim, the researcher followed the six steps of thematic analysis by Creswell (2009). First, the researcher prepared information of interview, then took a notes of interview material. Second, the researcher read through all the data totally in order to find the general meaning. Third, the researcher analyzed the data and labeled the categories with the term. In other words, it was known as coding. Fourth, the researcher explained using coding, which was divided into themes. Fifth, the researcher described the data that had been analyzed. Moreover, it needed to be related to research questions. Finally, the researcher made an interpretation of EFL students' difficulties in reading comprehension.

3.6. Establishment of Trustworthiness

In descriptive qualitative research, the accuracy of findings and interpretation must be ensured during the data collection and analysis process. Validating findings means that the investigator determines the accuracy or credibility of the findings through strategies such as member checking or triangulation (Creswell, 2012). Therefore, trustworthiness was used in this study by conducting member checking.

This research used member checking to make sure the data. Creswell (2012) stated that member checking is a process in which the researcher questions one or more participants in the research to check the accuracy of the data. In other words, member checking was used in this research as a quality control which aims specifically to increase the reliability, accuracy and validity of the data obtained from the interview activities by involving the activity of asking several research findings such as whether the description is realistic or not to one or more students. There were some steps in the member checking process. First, the researcher used interviews to collect data. Second, the researcher used member checking where in this process the participants saw the final report from the interview that had been conducted earlier in order to get feedback from them about the accuracy of the findings. Third, the researcher found out that the data were accurate because the researcher had already done the member checking to all of the students.