CHAPTER III

METHOD OF THE STUDY

3.1 Research Approach

In this study, the writer was applies descriptive qualitative method. It is appropriate with the aim of this study, which is to analyze narrative structure of the participant's life story, which is categorized as a widow. According to Burns (2002, p.388), by using qualitative method, the researcher is able to capture and understand individual definitions, description and meaning of events. Since the data is a life story, the writer thinks that it is appropriate to use qualitative method because it is more concerned with the truth as the participant understands and perceives it.

The researcher obtained the data by interviewing the participant. The interview process is by directly asking several questions related to the sample's life story. While the participant answering the questions, the researcher recorded it. In analyzing the data, the writer used Labov's narrative structure theory. By analyzing the structure of narrative, the writer expected to find the structure of widow's life story. The data of this study is taken from the interview of a life story which tells about events of daily life from ordinary people. It means the researcher tries to dig up the social reality that is product of meaningful social interaction as perceived from the perspectives of those involved, and not from the perspectives of the observer. In other words, Burns (2002) states that qualitative method gives access to individual meaning in the context of on going daily life.

Qualitative research method is another way of understanding people and their behavior. A qualitative research can never be objective because both the interviewer and the interviewee have subjective perceptions which are involved. Both of them share their knowledge about the world in their manner. Thus, the strength of qualitative studies then lies in research that is descriptive or exploratory and that stresses the importance of context and the subject's frame of reference (Burns,2002)

Through this thesis, the writer tries to analyze the data regarding to the widow's life story by using qualitative method because it has access to individual meaning and can capture individual definitions, descriptions, and meaning of events. Therefore, this qualitative method is suitable for this study, since it is aimed to test the pattern of narrative structure found in the data.

3.2 Participant

In getting the data, the writer chose her neighbour who fulfills the requirements and characteristic of a widow. The interviewee was a widow; she is sixty four years old and lives in Sidoarjo. She has six children, all of them are girls. Her first daughter is thirty two years old, her second daughter is thirty one years old, her third daughter is twenty nine years old, her fourth daughter is twenty seven years old, her fifth daughters is twenty six years old, and her last daughter is twenty four years old. Most of her children were married, except for her fifth and last daughters have not married yet.

The writer assumes that the participant was struggle to fulfill her family. The data chose for this study was collected from an interview between the writer

and a widow. The participant was the writer's neighborhood. She is a widow who was born in Sumenep and comes from a Royal family. Her name is Ibu Mangku. She was sixty four years old Madurese and lived in Sidoarjo. She had six children, all of them were girls. The writer considered that the participant could be a good subject of this study and gave a good significant for the research. The reasons were: first, it was aimed to analyze how the Madurese woman's narrative structure based on Labov, so it did not need any specific interviewee which fulfilled certain requirements; second, the writer chosen her among other widows in neighborhood since she was different from other widows. For instance, she was an independent woman who earned money by her own self in order to take care and prosperity for all her daughters; third, the interviewee was a mature woman who felt experiences in her life; happy, sad, and tragic unforgettable. Therefore it was really appropriate to use her life story as the data since the writer could choose some events that were reportable from her past experiences.

3.3 Instrument

In this research, the writer was involved in the narration process itself because the qualitative method required a deep understanding in the theme, context and situation in obtaining a valid description of the participants or object. Therefore, the writer used a tape recorder to record the interview and after that she transcribed the data. For the interview process, the researcher gave time limitation because in qualitative research, the length of the conversation did not give a big influence to the result.

3.4 Technique of Data Collection

In collecting the data, the writer did several steps.. The writer collected the data by interviewing the participants or the object. The writer was directly involved to the narrative process or the conversation in order to get valid data and to understand well the story that the participants told about.

The writer used tape recorder to record the narrative. In doing the interview, the participant answered and retold her memories naturally as if she was talking to her own daughter. The narration process happened in participant's house and flowed naturally. To build a sequence event, the writer did not give limitation time to the process of interview.

Finally, after the interview finished, the writer tried to examine the recorded whether there were some mistakes in the recorded. Then, the recorded data was transcribed to make it easier to be analyzed. The writer did not use specific tool to transcribe the data, the recording was only transcribed into written form. In short, the steps that the writer takes for the data collection are:

1. Choosing the interviewee

2. Making schedule for the interview

3. Doing the interview

4. Recording the interview

5. Listening simultaneously to the recorded interview for several times

6. Transcribing the recorded data

3.5 Technique of Data Analysis

After transcribing the data so that it could be analysed easily, the data were classified based on Labovian structure. In short, the steps in analyzing the data are as the following:

a. Reading and understanding the oral data.

By reading the data, the writer can understand the whole life story including its meanings and elements.

b. Finding out the theme of the story.

After reading the oral data, the writer can divide it into two big themes, which are her life story from the time she was single to after married and her life after being a widow.

c. Coding the story into sub plots.

Finished deciding the two big themes, the writer divided the story into sub plots in order to make easier when analyzing the data based on Labov's theory.

d. Finding out the narrative structure of each sub plot.

Based on the sub plot, the writer then analyzes it to find out the narrative structure of Labov's six elements.

e. Discovering and arguing the presence or absence.

During the study, the writer finds both presence and absence elements. It leads to further discussion in how the life story follows and deviant from the theory.

f. Interpreting the findings.

All of the result from the analysis, the writer then interprets it in order to find significant conclusion that represents the connection between Madurese widow's life story and Labov Narrative structure.