

CHAPTER III

METHOD OF THE STUDY

In this chapter, the writer explains about the method that the writer used in collecting and analyzing the data. The writer divided into several points. The first point explains about the approach of the study that the writer used. Second point describes about the subjects and settings that the writer took. Next points are about the instrument that the writer used to get the data and then the quality of the recording. The last two are about the technique of data collection and the technique of data analysis.

3.1. Research Approach

In observing the activity of gossip talk between English department female students in Faculty of Humanities Airlangga University, the writer conducted the research by using qualitative approach because the data are in spoken form. The qualitative data focuses on the definitions, meaning, and descriptions (Smith, 2009). Dabbs also stated that qualitative data is about “what”, while quantitative data is about “how much”. It does not mean that qualitative is not dealing with number (2009).

3.2. Subjects and Settings

The subjects of this observation are the writer’s friends. They are female students 2009/2010 of Faculty of Humanities Airlangga University. The reason

for choosing her close friends is because gossip mostly happens among them and the writer ensures that they did not know that their conversation were being recorded because the writer thought that if they knew then it would make the conversation unnatural. The closer the relationship means the more personal the topic that can be brought up. The writer took the conversation around the building of Faculty of Humanities such as wi-fi gallery, canteen, reading room, the waiting seats in third floor and so forth. These places are where the students usually interact and socialize with others in campus so we can find many activities of gossiping done by female students.

3.3. Instrument

The writer used voice recorder from her mobile phone as the instrument to help her record the data. The data collection took place in Airlangga University Surabaya especially in Faculty of Humanities. During recording the data, the writer did not give limitation of time. She took as many conversations as possible. She also tried to be involved in the conversation but as a passive participant which means that she may not involved actively in the gossip. This is one way to get better understanding of the topic may occur.

3.4. Quality of Recording

There are several difficulties in producing the recordings because there were too many people in the area in Faculty of Humanities and sometimes the people in the surrounding are sound louder than the speaker, but the writer still

can catch most of the words of all participants. The mobile phone as the recorder was put right in front of the participants so that the writer can ensure the quality of the recorded interactions.

3.5. Technique of Data Collection

First of all, the writer will find where her female friends were. After knowing where her female friends were, she joined their conversation. She started recording her friends' conversation in the middle of the talk and made sure that her friends did not know that their conversations were being recorded. The writer thought that this would make the conversation sound natural when it was taken in the middle of the conversation. The writer also took part in the conversation in order to get better understanding about the topic of conversations. Instead of taking part in conversation, the writer also made a note about the place where the conversation taken. After the data transcription is finished, the writer began to analyze the data.

3.6. Technique of Data Analysis

In this part, the writer analyzed each of conversation by following these three steps:

1. Transferring the data into computer
2. Listening to each conversation
3. Identifying the functional categories of gossip based on Jones' theory such as house talk, scandal, bitching, and chatting.

4. Identifying the conversational features based on Coates' theory such as minimal responses or back-channels, hedges, tag questions, questions, commands and directives, swearing and taboo language, and compliments.

The writer then made a summary of the whole conversations using a simple table in order to count the number of the use of functional categories of gossip and conversational features see table in chapter 4.