

CHAPTER III

METHOD OF THE STUDY

This chapter elaborates the methodology applied by the writer in conducting the research. It begins with the description of the research approach used in this study. After that, the writer explains the population and sample in detail. Then, the writer explains steps on collecting and analyzing the data of this research in the techniques of data collection and techniques of data analysis.

3.1 Research Approach

In conducting this study, the writer used qualitative research because the writer described the uses of hedges in linguistics and literature theses. Qualitative research based on Dornyei (2007), works with a wide range of data including recorded interviews (with the transcribed recordings), various types of texts (for example, field notes, journal and diary entries, documents) and images (photos or videos). In this study, the writer used the introduction section in the students' theses. Then, this is appropriate to this study since this study investigated the text of undergraduate theses that did indicate neither ordinal values nor about numerical data. In this study, the writer identified and described the hedges, uncovered which type of hedges that frequently occurred and identified the function of hedges used in the introduction section of linguistics and literature theses based on Hu and Cao (2011) taxonomy of hedges before interpreting the findings.

3.2 Population and Sample

Population is an entire group of persons or elements that have at least one characteristic in common (Ravid, 2011). Thus, for the population, the writer used the theses made by students of English Department in Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Airlangga Surabaya who graduated in 2013 and the number of the theses is 160 theses. There are 77 theses for linguistics theses and 83 theses for literature theses. As the population is too big, the writer decided to choose a sample of the population. Sample is a small group of observations selected from the total population (Ravid, 2011). In order to make the writer obtain the reliable data from the samples, the writer determined to use purposive sampling. Based on Isgiyanto (2009), purposive sampling is sampling that is done with a certain evaluation. Hence, the writer determined to use linguistic and literature theses whose scores are A and AB for the subject in order to obtain the reliable result.

For the linguistics theses there are two theses for score A and 19 theses for score AB. For literature theses, there are seven theses for score A and 20 theses for score AB. Because the number of linguistic and literature theses is unequal, the writer determined to use four theses whose score A (two linguistics theses and two literature theses) and 20 theses whose score AB (10 linguistics theses and 10 literature theses). Then, the total theses of both linguistics and literature that the writer used for the sample were 24 theses. The introduction section was selected because the introduction section includes the background information about the topic and it is the outline of the writer's idea about what is going to be discussed in the theses. In other words, the writer tends to use more hedges as one of

metadiscourse expressions in the introduction section in order to present idea of the writer in the theses. A good introduction tells the reader why the paper is important in terms of the problems to be investigated, the context for the research question, what place this research question has in understanding addictions, and what is original about the endeavor (Bahrani & Soltani, 2012).

3.3 Techniques of Data Collection

The writer obtained the data through seven steps. The data collection began with finding and calculating the quantity of the linguistics and literature theses. The writer copied the database about the number of the theses to determine the quantity of the linguistics and literature theses placed in 2013. After calculating the theses, the writer separated the linguistics and literature theses. Then, the theses were split into several groups based on the score. The next was making the amount of the theses equal between linguistics and literature before collecting them, especially those whose scores are A and AB. When the number of the linguistics and literature theses is equal, the writer printed the introduction section of theses. Because of the copyright of the theses, the writer could not copy the soft file of the theses. Then, the writer scanned the hard copy of the introduction section of theses that had been printed and converted the files into Microsoft Word. However, after converting the file into Microsoft Word, half of the text in each page cannot be converted and missing. Thus, the writer should type a half of each page to get the complete data. After the data had been completed, the writer calculated the number of the words in both Linguistics and

Literature's introduction. The introduction of Linguistics theses consist of 20,509 words and introduction of Literature theses consist of 32,946 words. Thus, all of them, 24 introductions consist of 53,855 words. The last was identifying the hedges and the frequency of occurrence in the soft file of theses.

Thus, the procedures of data collection are as follows:

1. Finding and calculating the quantity of the linguistics and literature theses.
2. Copying the database about the number of the theses to determine the quantity of the linguistics and literature theses.
3. Separating the linguistics and literature theses.
4. Dividing the theses into several groups based on the score A and AB.
5. Printing the introduction section of theses.
6. Scanning the hard copy of the introduction section of theses.
7. Converting the hard copy into Microsoft Word.

3.4 Techniques of Data Analysis

After obtaining the data, the writer began to analyze it. In the data analysis, the writer used five steps. The first was identifying the hedges in the introduction section of linguistics and literature theses based on Hu and Cao (2011) taxonomy of hedges. In this step, the data was presented into a table based on each type of hedges and the frequency of occurrences. Second, the writer calculated each type of hedges in the linguistics and literature theses to uncover which type of hedges that frequently occur both in linguistics and literature theses. Then, she

determined which one that used more hedges between linguistics and literature theses. Third, the result of the calculation, which was found in the table, was compared between linguistics and literature theses. The fourth was identifying the function of hedges used in linguistics theses, literature theses, and both in linguistics and literature theses. Finally, the writer interpreted the findings.

Thus, the procedures of data analysis are as follows:

1. Identifying the hedges in the introduction section of linguistics and literature theses based on Hu and Cao (2011) taxonomy of hedges.
2. Calculating each type of hedges in the linguistics and literature theses and settling which one that used more hedges.
3. Comparing the result into table.
4. Identifying the function of hedges used in linguistics theses, literature theses, and both in linguistics and literature theses.
5. Interpreting the findings.