

## **CHAPTER III**

### **METHOD OF THE STUDY**

#### **3.1 Research Approach**

As the same with the general characteristics of qualitative research, the will be collected using a set of questions asking respondents about their comment towards several items about the national exam, both internal and external factors are included in the questions along with their personal comment in each necessary questions.

#### **3.2 Populations and Sample**

This research took place in schools located in Sidoarjo, specifically in SMA Negeri 1 Sidoarjo. The reasons of choosing this particular school are based by the top ten ranks of the highest average score in East Java. The result shows that Sidoarjo takes the first place in the rank, having the average score of its student 8.60 (Jawapos, 2012). Sidoarjo beats the other top cities such as Mojokerto (8.55), Lamongan (8.49), Trenggalek (8.45), and even Surabaya as the capital city with the score (8.42).

Not only that, SMA Negeri 1 Sidoarjo has made some of its students into the national top rank of highest national exam score. Two of the students place themselves in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> place of the national rank; even one of the students has succeeded placed herself in the seventh place of the highest national exam score (Agustin, 2012). Based on the data, it can be seen that SMA Negeri 1

Sidoarjo has high standard to its students, even ranked as the top region in East Java as the best at national exam score this year. Thus it can be said that by using the school to gather participants, it should eliminate the probability of data that not uniform caused by the gap of score of students which have above average score with some that have below average score; as almost all of the students have good scores. In addition to that, because these students are successful students in terms completing the test, or in other words, the type of students that is in concurrence with what is expected from the national exam, I find that it is important to understand how these 'good' and successful students think of the national exam to improve the quality of the exam in the future.

The participants of this study were students from each department that consist of science major (IPA), social major (IPS), and language major (BAHASA). The writer gave the participants questionnaires to be filled to ask their comments about national exam. The consideration in choosing the student will be based on criteria. The participants were the students that having average national exam score for each subject department, in which to get the participants the writer used the score list acquired from the school. By using the data taken from SMAN 1 Sidoarjo, the writer decided which students that suitable as the participants of the study. The number of participants needed is approximately 30 people, based by the minimum requirements to be a respondent (Creswell, 2011).

### **3.3 Technique of Data Collection**

The data used in this research was collected based on qualitative

approach method, by giving questionnaires, also supported with interview. Firstly, the writer asked permission to the respective school to gather data about their students' score necessary to make a selection of participants. The writer asked the school for the complete students' score list of national exam. The data include the highest, lowest and average score of all students in all majors. Then, the writer chose the students who have the same score with the average score listed in the students' score list. The writer assumed that students that have score in middle range would be a representative sample for the study, because the score is not too high or too low. The average score of science students is 8.56, whereas for IPS students are 8.36 and 7.60 for students majoring in languages. Since there is no students' score that match this number perfectly, then writer rounded up the score to 8.60, 8.40, and 8.00 to simplify the sampling process. The numbers of samples obtained from this selection are 33 students: 28 students from the science department, 3 students from the social department, and two students from the language department.

After determining the respondents, then writer asked for personal contact of each individual student. In this stage, the sample was contacted, and asked permission to be respondents in the writer's research, which intends to find out their responses towards the national exam. Respondents then were asked to complete a questionnaire, which contain questions that address various aspects about the test. Questionnaires were distributed either directly to the students themselves or through their email, due to the difficulties to meet them after school. Since their study period in school was over so it was difficult to meet

them at school.

After the respondents completed the questionnaire, then the writer summarized the data for each question, in order to make it easier to be used in subsequent analyzes.

To strengthen the results that has been obtained from the questionnaires, the writer also made an interview session with several random chosen respondents who already participate in the questionnaire session, from each department available. The interview was done to find out the reasons for their answers in the questionnaire in more depth. Also due to the ethical issue, the identity of both respondents and interviewees would not be revealed for their sake.

With the combination of data collection collected from both students and teachers, writer would hope to gain a lot of information to support later analysis of the situation. For short, steps used to collect the data are listed below:

1. Asking permission from the school that writer would like to conduct research that aims to determine high school students' opinions about the national exam, with their students as the respondents. Respondents were selected from a score list held by the school.
2. From the score list, writer chose students that would be the respondent in the study using average score that was written in the list, rounding it up to facilitate the selection process of respondents. Respondents were selected from every department in the school; students from science department, social department, and language

department. The total respondents collected were 33 people that consist of 28 students from the department of science, 3 people from the Department of Social Studies, and 2 people from the language department.

3. After the respondents have been selected, writer then contacted them via the contact information that has been provided by the school. The author asked permission to students to be respondent of writer's research, and also explain the intent and purpose of the research.
4. Respondents were given a questionnaire that aims to get their views on national exam they have done. Questionnaires were distributed to respondents in person or via email for easy communication.
5. The next step was to select respondents randomly to be interviewed. Respondents chosen at were come from all three departments are available at the school.
6. The conversation from the interview was translated into text to be used as supporting evidence of previous data from questionnaires.
7. Results obtained from those processes then summed and divided for each question to facilitate the subsequent analysis.

### **3.4 Technique of Data Analysis**

The data obtained then would be summarized, analyzed, and compared with the theories used in the research. After the process of summarizing

the data was complete, then the respondents' answers in the questionnaire were compared with face validity theory, especially with the points that used as a standard of determining a good test. The writer also explored and analyzed the answers of the respondents, as well as other factors that may influence their final answer.

For short, these are the steps used in analyzing the data:

1. Summarizing and presenting answers gathered from respondents for each question on the questionnaire.
2. Analyzing respondents' answers and their reasons for filling such responses along with their comment on it.
3. Finding out the key points from respondents' answers.
4. Analyzing the interview result that has turned into text, grabbing important point of the interview. This result then will be merged together from the result from questionnaires.
5. Summarizing the respondents' answers from both data, and summarizing their comments and perception toward national exam, and finding influential factors of their comments.