CHAPTER III

METHOD OF THE STUDY

3.1 Research Approach

The method used in this study is qualitative. According to Strauss and Corbin (cited in Rahmat, 2009) qualitative is a type of research method in which the findings are not obtained through statistical procedures and other forms of quantitative, through research about the life, history and the behavior of a person. In addition, it may also be about the role of an organization, social movements and reciprocal relationship. In qualitative research, researchers are expected to be flexible and reflective, but still take a distance, in an effort to achieve imaginative insights into the world of the respondent.

In this study, the writer chooses qualitative method to find out errors in sentence structures found in the writing made by the first grade students of SMPN 39 Surabaya. A particular strength of qualitative research is the variety of data sources that can be used including face-to-face interviews, phone interviews, focus groups, videos, observation, diaries, or historical documents (Corbin and Strauss, cited in Rahmat: 2009). In this study, the writer needs the writing products, which are descriptive texts, made by students of the first grade of Junior High School in SMPN 39 Surabaya.

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3.2 Population and Sample

SMPN 39 Surabaya is the location of this study. It is located on Jl. Raya Panjang Jiwo. The writer chose SMPN 39 as her object because the writer was a student at SMPN 39 Surabaya; therefore, the writer wants to help the English teachers in that school to know the errors in sentence structure that students made. In addition, the location is near the writer's home, so that it is more accessible.

The population of this study is the first grade students of Junior High School in SMPN 39 Surabaya. The writer chose first grade student because in that grade the student have already learned about descriptive paragraph. So that it is appropriate to make the first grade as the subjects of this study. In that school, there are eight classes of first grade students and each class has 36 students. It is impossible to choose all of the first grade students in SMPN 39, so the writer took two classes randomly as a sample of this study. The classes used for the sample are VII A and VII B.

3.3 Techniques of Data Collection

According to Patton (cited in Newman and Benz, 1998) qualitative data are defined as detailed descriptions of situations, events, people, interactions, observed behaviors, direct quotation from people about their experiences, attitudes, beliefs, and thoughts and excerpts or entire passages from document, correspondence, records, and case history. The data of this study were descriptive writing collected from two

classes of first grade students of SMPN 39 Surabaya. To collect the data, the writer cooperated with the teacher to ask the students to make descriptive text. The descriptive text that the writer asked is about family or described their school. To generate accurate data, the process of writing was not done in their home as homework but it is a class assignment. So, the writer also saw the process of making that assignment by first grade student.

To obtain the data, first the writer asked permission to the SMPN 39 to do an observation. After that, the writer coordinated with the English teacher of the two classes to join English classes to collect the data. Next, the writer asked the students to make a descriptive paragraph with the topic "my family" or 'my school" in a piece of paper. In this case, the teacher herself gave the instruction to the students.

The writer succeeded in collecting the data on 25th of March 2013 for the first class (VII 7 B) and the second class (VII 7 A) on 3th of April 2013. The writer did not collect the data of two classes in the same week because after 25th of March 2013 the students had the midterm test, so the test for the second class was conducted a week after the midterm test. After collecting the data from the students' works, the writer identified the data and classified all those errors in sentence structure and used of simple present tense.

3.4 Techniques of Data Analysis

Bogdan and Biklen (cited in Hoepfl, 1997) define qualitative data analysis as "working with data, organizing it, breaking it into manageable units, synthesizing it, searching for patterns, discovering what is important and what is to be learned, and deciding what you will tell others".

After collecting and selecting data, the writer began to analyze the data. In this analysis, the writer adopted qualitative interpretation, in which, this study describes the data observed without using statistical counting. According to Corder (cited in Kirkgoz, 2010), this analysis was carried on systematically. First, the writer selected sentences that contain errors in sentence structures made by the students. After selecting sentences, the second is identifying the errors found in the sentences. And then third is classifying and tabulating the errors based on error sentence structure that found in students' writing. The fourth section is correcting and explaining the errors or reconstructuring those errors to the correct forms. After selecting, identifying, classifying and correcting, the writer had to make the interpretations of the findings.

CHAPTER IV
DISCUSSION