CHAPTER III

METHOD OF THE STUDY

3.1. Research Approach

In this study, the writer applied a qualitative approach in order to obtain and analyze lexical errors in Basic Essay writing produced by the first year students of English Department 2013 at Universitas Airlangga. Polio (2012) stated that a qualitative approach is useful to analyze the phenomena in second language acquisition such as second language writing, second language reading, and etc. by concentrating on the descriptive or conversational analysis of the written or spoken data of the participants. Moreover, Wirjokusumo (2009) argues that a qualitative research concerns with descriptive data or written or spoken words, and observable behaviour of the participant as the result of the research. In qualitative research, the researcher tends to collect data where the participants of the study experience the problem (Creswell, 2007). Based on the definition above, the writer considered that qualitative approach is appropriate for this study because the case of this study deals with the real situation which is the writing session in ESL classroom. The phenomenon that was observed by the writer is the lexical errors production of the first year students of English Department 2013 at Universitas Airlangga in their basic essay writings.

3.2. Population and Sample

The writer selected the first year students of English Department 2013 at Universitas Airlangga as the population of the study. These students are divided into six classes from class A, B, C, D, E and F. Each class consists of twenty six until thirty one students. The writer selected the first year students of 2013 as the population of the study because those students have learned how to write essay. Besides, the students of English Department at Universitas Airlangga learn English gradually from the easiest part to the most difficult part such as learning how to write a good paragraph, essay writing, academic writing, and thesis in the end of their studies.

The writer recognized that the total number of the population in this study is too large to be investigated further. In order to minimize the number of the population, the writer used a cluster sampling random technique. According to Daniel (2012), cluster sampling is a particular probability sampling technique in which the population's elements are randomly chosen in naturally occurring groupings. The sample's selection of the population in cluster sampling should not be selected individually but in groups. Moreover, he states that the sample or cluster might be space-based, for instance, organization-based such as school district, school, grade levels, and classes. Therefore, the writer selected two classes from the same lecturer and those classes had the minimum re-taker as the sample of this study.

3.3. Technique of Data Collection.

The data that used in this study is the mid-term exam of essay writing of the first year students of 2013 from the basic essay writing class in Universitas Airlangga. The writer chose the data from the mid-term exam of basic essay writing class because those data are accurate for this study. All the participants had learned about essay writing and how to write a good essay writing in their class before the mid-term exam. So, they already master how to write a good essay writing. Furthermore, the writer chose the mid-term exam as her data because the data is easy to get. The writer does not use the final exam as her data because it needs a long time to get the data. The data source for this study was a descriptive essay. For the mid-examination, participants were instructed to write a complete essay on one of the three possible thesis statements provided in the exam: the ingredients of a proper handshake, the qualities of successful college students, and writing a good essay. They could complete the essay within 90 time limits. There were 53 essay writings. There were 25 students who chose the qualities of successful college students, 25 students who chose writing a good essay, 2 students who chose the ingredients of a proper handshake, and 1 student who did not follow the rule. He made essay about video games.

In collecting the data, the writer used some steps. These steps are important to collect the data in order to lead the writer to obtain adequate and appropriate data for her research. First of all, the writer conducted the lecturer who taught basic essay writing in C and F classes. Then, the writer asked

permission and asked the data from the lecturer. Lastly, the writer copied the data and returned the data to the lecturer.

3.4. Technique of Data Analysis

All of the data in this study was gathered from the basic essay writing of the first year of English department students 2013 of Universitas Airlangga. In analyzing the data of this study, the writer applied descriptive analysis to obtain the answers of the research questions. The research questions are the types of lexical errors and the most common lexical errors found in the English basic essay writing of the first year students of English department 2013 at Universitas Airlangga.

In conducting the research, the writer did five steps in analyzing the data of this study. First, the writer read carefully the essay writing of the participants. Second, the writer underlined the words identified as lexical errors based on errors identification explained by James (1998) in his classification of lexical errors. Third, the writer classified those lexical errors according to lexical errors taxonomy by James (1998). Then, the writer put lexical errors found in the essay writing of the participants into lexical errors sheet based on theirs classification of lexical errors. Fourth, the writer calculated the most common lexical errors found in the essay writing of the participants. The writer also created a table which provided lexical errors distribution found in the essay writing of the participants to help the writer in calculating the total number of lexical errors. Fifth, the writer made a general interpretation based on the results of this study.

CHAPTER IV
DISCUSSIONS