

CHAPTER III

METHOD OF THE STUDY

3.1 Research Approach

This study focuses on a hedging analysis of the introduction of theses made by linguistics students of the English Department Airlangga University in 2007. It examines hedging devices and their functions found in the thesis introductions. To accomplish the aim, the study uses the qualitative method. According to Punch (1998, p.148), a major characteristic of qualitative research is that it is naturalistic, preferring it to study people, things and events in their natural settings. In this study the sample consists of words, not numbers. The numerical information used in this study is supplementary to the textual evidence (Neuman, 2000:148).

3.2 Population and Sampling

The data of this study are the introduction sections of theses made by linguistics students of the English Department Airlangga University. There were 31 theses written in 2007, but only 15 introduction sections became the samples of this study. Sampling allows statisticians to draw a conclusion of a whole population by examining a part as such if the population is $N < 100$, 50% should be sampled (Jacobs, 2000). The 15 samples were chosen by using simple random. In addition, the writer preferred to take the data above for some reasons. First, the data above related to the

writer herself who took linguistics as her major. Besides, the result of this research can be acknowledged by all linguistic students.

Second, introduction section was selected because it is the main section that contains hedging devices (Kelly and Bazerman, 2003, p.42 as cited in Alkhars 2005). This section contains a high level of claims which may follow that the writer in these sections will need to 'hedge' more. Besides, there have been many studies that examined other sections such as the interpretation and conclusion. Finally, the writer was curious to know whether EFL student use hedging devices in their writing.

3.3 Techniques of Data Collection

The writer collected the necessary data by finding theses written by linguistics students of the English Department Airlangga University in the library. There are 31 theses of linguistics students but the writer only select 15 sample. Thus, second step was selecting 15 theses and copying the introduction sections. The 15 theses were chosen randomly needed for conducting research. The numbers of data taken above are a representative of the whole theses which the finding would also indicate the use of hedging for others theses.

The procedures of data collection are as follows:

1. Finding theses written by linguistics students
2. Selecting 15 introduction sections

3.4 Techniques of Data Analysis

After obtaining the data, the writer began to analyze it. In the data analysis, the writer used several techniques. The first was identifying hedging devices based on Hyland classification. After that, classifying the hedging devices based on Hyland's categories. In this step, the data was presented into table based on each hedging category the frequency of occurrences. The third was calculating each hedging categories to uncover which devices that frequently occur. In the following, the results calculation found in table was interpreting. The next step was finding the functions of hedging devices which frequently used by linguistics students. Making conclusions based on the results of analysis is the last step in data analysis.

The procedures of data analysis are as follows:

1. Identifying hedging devices
2. Classifying the hedging devices based on Hyland's categories
3. Calculating the hedging devices in each category
4. Interpreting the results of the calculation
5. Identifying the functions of hedging devices
6. Making conclusions based on the result of the analysis

DISCUSSION
CHAPTER IV