

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

A. Research Design

This study used qualitative approach to identify and explain the assessment tasks used by the teachers to assess the writing skill of junior high school students and to investigate students' perception about the assessment tasks in writing given by the teachers. This approach is considered appropriate for the aim of this study because it contains several characteristics of qualitative approach as identified by research experts, such as the natural setting with the information gathered by talking directly to people and seeing them behave and act within their context, researcher as the key instrument who gathers the information and interprets it, and focusing on the participants' meaning about the issue as the main source of interpretation (Creswell & Creswell, 2018, pp. 207-208).

To be more specific, this study used descriptive qualitative method that involves describing natural phenomenon in a particular research field, so the research data are the information that already exists without any attempts to manipulate the setting.

B. Research Setting

This study took place at MTs Hidayatullah Bahaur, Central Kalimantan. The reason for choosing junior high school level is because writing skill as the main topic of this study starts to be emphasized since junior high school

according to the current curriculum. Therefore, this research setting provided more accurate information related to the research topic addressed in this study.

This study was conducted for a month by using several data collection techniques to obtain more comprehensive and detailed understanding about the research context.

C. Research Participants

There are two different types of research subject, namely primary subject and secondary subject. Primary subject is a person who has the main information related to the research topic that decides the direction of the whole research process, while secondary subject is the one with additional information that can improve the understanding of the research topic (Prastowo, 2014, p. 28).

This study only uses the primary subjects, namely two English teachers and ten students of class VIII at MTs Hidayatullah Bahaur. The subjects are selected using purposive sampling technique because there are certain purposes or criteria behind the selection of subjects. These class VIII junior high school students are considered appropriate to be research participants because based on the preliminary observations with the teacher, the students are currently learning about many materials related to writing activities.

To make data analysis process easier, the initials of the participants were converted into several codes as presented in the table below.

Table 1
Participant Code Names

No.	Initial	Gender	Code
English Teachers			
1	RS	F	Ms. RS
2	RH	M	Mr. RH
Students			
3	RM	M	MRM
4	LN	F	FLN
5	MR	F	FMR
6	SR	F	FSR
7	FK	M	MFK
8	NY	F	FNY
9	GR	M	MGR
10	NS	F	FNS
11	SI	F	FSI
12	AM	F	FAM

D. Data

Data is the collection of facts about certain occasion that can be the main source to arrange some information (Arikunto, 2006, p. 118). In this study, the data needed for studying the research topic are the assessment tasks used by English teachers in junior high school to assess students' writing skill and students' perception about those assessment tasks, some documents related to students' English exam and practice scores, and some other documents related to the assessment tasks used by the English teachers.

E. Techniques of Data Collection

This study used some different techniques of data collection to get more comprehensive and accurate information related to the research topic, namely observation, interview, and documentation.

1. Observation

Observation is a data collection technique by taking field notes about the behavior and activities of the research subjects in a particular research setting (Creswell & Creswell, 2018, p. 212). The field notes could be a written note or a recorded video that may help the observer capture and remember everything seen in the field, because simply observing and remembering without any notes may cause the data to be lost and forgotten.

Observation in this study occurred in the teaching and learning process conducted by the English teachers to observe the teaching and learning process of writing skill materials, especially the assessment part. This technique added the information and the context of teaching and learning to answer the first research question.

2. Interview

Interview is one of alternative techniques in data collection, especially for descriptive qualitative research. It involves human beings in a natural setting in the form of social, interpersonal contact (Cohen, Manion, & Morrison, 2018, p. 506). However, the data collection process through interview is aimed for specific purposes according to the interviewer's intention, so the topic to be discussed during the interview is related to the information needed to complete the research process.

In this study, interview is the main data collection technique used to achieve all the research objectives, identifying and explaining the

assessment tasks used by the teachers to assess the writing skill of junior high school students and investigating students' perspectives about those assessment tasks. The interview involved two English teachers and ten students at MTs Hidayatullah Bahaur.

3. Documentation

Documentation is a process of collecting some important documents related to the research topic being observed (Basrowi & Suwandi, 2008, p. 158). This may add further information that cannot be found from other data collection techniques or simply be a proof of what has been stated from the interview. In this study, the documents that are considered important to collect are students' English exam and practice scores and the assessment tasks used by the English teachers to assess the writing skill of junior high school students.

F. Data Analysis

Analyzing data means describing in detail all the information gathered to obtain the meaning of it for further interpretation (Creswell & Creswell, 2018, p. 217). There are several techniques of analyzing qualitative data, namely:

1. Data Condensation

In this phase, the research data are concentrated to find the meanings related to the research purposes (Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2014, p. 31). Since the data collection process may take a long time, this phase runs

together with the other research processes, so the data collected was directly condensed or concentrated.

2. Data Display

This phase is related to the presentation of data in the form of many types such as narrative description, diagram, and table. In this study, the explanatory framework was the main form of displaying the research data. Therefore, the results of this analysis stage are detailed description of the data that may answer the research questions.

3. Conclusion Drawing and Verifying

In this last stage, the final results were transformed into a brief conclusion. However, evaluation of the results is necessary before making up the conclusion, such as by making sure that all steps of the research process are in the same line with the research purposes.