

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

#### **A. Research Design**

This study employed a photovoice design approach to investigate and comprehend students' emotional experiences and difficulties with their thesis proposal writing. Photovoice was utilized in this study because it has the potential to elicit data that may deepen understanding of the lived experience (Plunkett et al., 2013). Wang and Burris in McKernan et al. (2019) stated that PhotoVoice utilizes a participatory approach to data generation, in which participants are requested to take contextual photos to capture a visual understanding of their own life experiences. Photovoice was originally developed by Wang and Burris (1997) as a method for individuals to identify, represent, and improve their community using a unique photographic approach, and nowadays, this method has also been used by some researchers in an academic context.

Furthermore, the photovoice method was chosen because the researcher intended to observe the natural phenomenon of the proposal writing process. This photovoice research design is a qualitative procedure in which the research object captures pictures in the individual's life that the researcher requires, gathers, and analyzes through interviews or discussions.

The Procedure for Conduct of Photovoice Research Design:

1. Determine the research topic, conduct a literature review

In this step, the researcher focused on students' experiences in the process of writing a thesis proposal. After reviewing relevant theories and previous studies related to thesis proposal writing, the purpose of this study is to understand students' emotional experiences when writing thesis proposal.

2. Find the participants

Researcher tried to find a suitable research site. The researcher chose the Students of Islamic State University of Antasari Banjarmasin as a research site and asked permission from the authorities to conduct research there. After determining the criteria for selecting participants, the researcher chose the students of the English Education Department batch 2021 who had taken the seminar in the English language teaching course because in this course it was required that students have completed a thesis proposal.

3. Introduce the photovoice methodology to the participants

During the retrieval of data, the researcher informed the participants about the photovoice research design and explained the type of image data they had to complete for this study. The researcher asked students to take photos and express their emotional experiences when writing a thesis proposal by describing the photos that had been taken. It was expected that one photo could describe their emotions from the early stages of writing until the stage of completing the proposal, as well as the difficulties they faced when completing the thesis proposal.

#### 4. Interview the participants

At this stage, the researcher interviewed several students who had collected data to obtain more detailed and in-depth information.

### **B. Research Setting**

This research was conducted at the State Islamic University of Antasari Banjarmasin, which is located in the city of Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan province. The researcher selected this university as the site of research based on direct observation and experience. The researcher found that the average student encountered difficulties during the process of writing a thesis proposal, particularly those majoring in English who wrote thesis proposal in English. Additionally, the researcher noted that they had taken a seminar in the English language teaching course, which indicates that they have completed a thesis proposal. Consequently, the researcher felt the need to observe the emotional experience of students as an illustration and potential solution for students who will be writing a thesis proposal in English.

### **C. Participants**

The participants of this study were Antasari State Islamic University Banjarmasin students of the English Education Department the batch 2021. The researcher obtained six participants who provided the data needed for this research. The six participants were selected because they met the research criteria, such as having completed a seminar course on English language teaching in which the lecturer required students to submit a thesis proposal in order to advance to the proposal seminar. In addition, the researcher ensured

that the students retained a clear recollection of the emotional experience associated with the proposal writing process, from the initial stages of formulating the title to the final stage of securing the supervisor's approval. Lastly, they had sent photos and descriptions that appropriately represented their feelings during writing thesis proposal. To this end, the researcher recruited participants who were willing to provide data as needed in this study and facilitated their engagement through the platform. Participants submitted photographs that captured their emotional responses to the thesis proposal writing process and the challenges they encountered. These images were accompanied by detailed descriptions.

#### **D. Data**

The data presented were collected from participants. Participants were instructed to take one photo using their handphone camera, where the photo represented or illustrated the participant's overall experience while writing the proposal thesis. Subsequently, the data were combined with photovoice writing, written by participants, and related to the context, reasons for taking photos, emotional experiences, and difficulties in writing a thesis proposal. Thus, there are six photos with descriptions, which are the data source.

#### **E. Technique of Data Collection**

Data collection is a method for gathering data in order to conduct successful research. There are two methods used in the data collection approach used in this research as follows:

## 1. Documentation

The first technique of data collection used in this study was the documentation. Sugiyono in Nilamsari (2014) stated that writings, images, diaries, life histories, rules, policies, or a person's colossal efforts can all be considered documentation. Therefore, because the researcher used a participatory method, photovoice, in this study, the documentation was taken by the participants.

## 2. Interview

The interview is another data collection method employed in preliminary studies. Interviews have the advantage of conducting verbal communication to obtain data about the behavior, beliefs, and experiences of the participants (Nathan et al., 2019). It allows researcher to gain deeper insights into the subject under investigation.

In gathering the data, the researcher informed the participants about the methodology used in this study, which was the photovoice method. The researcher also explained the objective of the research, the reasons behind employing this approach, and the kinds of data that were required. Subsequently, the participants were requested to collect images pertinent to the subject of the study, namely their experiences writing thesis proposal, based on all stages involved in writing a thesis proposal, from title creation to supervisor approval, The framework was transformed into the pre-writing, while-writing, and post-writing stages, which were adopted from the framework by Hedges in Anugrah and Kurniasih (2013). In more detail, participants were asked to take

the photo that, according to the participant's point of view, could depict or represent the experiences they had gone through in carrying out the following stages:

1. At the pre-writing stage, express or represent your experiences, feelings, or challenges in looking for problems that will be used as the basis for research, creating titles, looking for theories and references related to research, looking for previous research that can be used as a reference to create gaps, determining research designs, data collection techniques, and data analysis, then consulting with your supervisor. These will be used to help with starting research.
2. At the while-writing stage, express or represent your experiences, feelings, or challenges in writing from chapter 1 to chapter 3, beginning with writing an introduction related to the research topic, writing research objectives, research questions, research significance, literature review, previous study, then continuing to write the research design that will be carried out, writing the place and participants studied, afterward from data collection and analysis techniques to writing references, then meeting with the supervising lecturer again for a writing consultation.
3. At the post-writing stage, express or represent your experiences, feelings, or challenges in revising the writing thesis proposal after consultation, ensuring that the writing structure adheres to the thesis proposal criteria, obtaining supervisor approval for entrance to the seminar, and submitting it to the department.

Subsequently, the participants were instructed to describe the photo in written form or voice recording using the following approach, which is based on the PhotoVoice data collection design by Ferdiansyah et al. (2020):

- a. Context of the picture taken
- b. Reasons for taking pictures
- c. Emotional experiences of student during the writing of thesis proposal.

The participants should describe themselves as follows:

1. Students' emotional experiences during the writing thesis proposal at the pre-writing stage.
  2. Students' emotional experiences during the writing thesis proposal at the while-writing stage.
  3. Students' emotional experiences during the writing thesis proposal at the post-writing stage.
- d. The difficulty the students had when writing their thesis proposal.

## **F. Data Analysis**

The process of data analysis entails the processing, organization, and segmentation of data into smaller units. The thematic analysis technique was employed in this study as the chosen methodology for data analysis. Braun and Clarke (2006) defined thematic analysis as a process of coding information that can result in the production of a list of themes, complex models of themes or indicators, qualifications typically associated with that theme, or any combination of the aforementioned.

Braun and Clarke (2006) delineated a six-stage process for thematic analysis. These steps include familiarizing yourself with the data, producing initial codes, looking for themes, reviewing themes, defining and identifying themes, and preparing the report.

The initial steps taken in analyzing the data were based on the six steps of data analysis outlined by Braun and Clarke (2006). The data analysis included familiarization with findings presented in the form of photos and interview results from participants, and then assigning a color code to the description of the reflection or explanation of the photo. The codes were grouped into four themes, which were based on the four categories in PhotoVoice: context, reasons, emotional experiences, and difficulties. Each of the four categories of PhotoVoice will be included in a theme based on each stage of writing a thesis proposal: pre writing, writing, and post writing. As part of the final step of the analysis stage, this research concludes the interview data and photo descriptions from the participants by matching them with facts from existing theories and then presenting them as conclusions for each determined theme.