

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

A. Research Design

In conducting this research, the researcher used a qualitative research design. Qualitative research, according to Creswell (2018), is a research strategy that investigates and grasp the definition people or groups give a human or societal issue. This means that to check its validity and offer recommendations in line with the research results, qualitative techniques are employed to closely analyze the issue or phenomenon that happens.

Similarly (Boase, 2008) mentions that stories attempt to clarify, get it and account for encounters, encounters don't automatically take on a story form, or maybe we develop stories through the method of reflecting on encounters. In this way, accounts comprise of recollections, encounters, information and reflections of a individual almost a specific phenomenon. So also, Connelly and Clandinin (1990) point out that the utilize of narrative research includes the utilize of a individual as a narrating life form who exclusively and socially leads a story life. This means that each individual features a story around a specific phenomenon and the analyst must extricate this story in an organized and important way so that the readers can get it the phenomenon from the point of view of the storyteller (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Narrative research may be

a inquire about strategy that changes human involvement into a clear and sensible story around a specific occasion or human activity (Chand, 2024). In this study, the researcher analyzed the information through interviews with participants.

This study used narrative inquiry to investigate international students challenges and strategies in developing English language proficiency. The method used for the research was adapted from Cresswell s(2012). These protocols delineate distinct and comprehensive phases involved in carrying out this narrative inquiry. Next, the process is made operational in the context of the research. Here's how the steps are explained:

Step 1: Identify the Phenomenon to be Researched

In this step, the researcher at Antasari State Islamic University in Banjarmasin focused on the challenges faced by foreign learners when studying English and the strategies they employ to get better at the language. Identifying a problem advances the goal of the research and encourages the researcher to comprehend the social or personal experiences of the informant. Interviews were done by the researchers in order to identify this phenomenon.

Step 2: Select Participants

International students majoring in English education and Islamic religious education at Antasari State Islamic University, Banjarmasin have participated in this research.

Step 3: Collect the Story From the Participant

The researcher used interviews to collect data. This step requires participants to tell their stories in a narrative framework, specifically about their challenges in learning English and the strategies they used to improve their English skills, such as listening and speaking skills.

Step 4: Re-story or Retell the Individual's Story

Narrative data from the interviews were analyzed qualitatively. Narrative analysis techniques were used to identify international students' challenges and strategies in developing English language skills. Narrative data from the interviews were analyzed qualitatively.

Step 5: Composing the Narrative

Throughout the process, the researcher continued to engage with the participants, collecting, telling, and summarizing their stories. After conducting these activities, individual case narratives were compiled to create an in-depth description of each participant's experience.

Step 6: Validate Report Accuracy

The research results have been reflected and validated with participants to ensure that the interviews are consistent with their experiences. Researchers can ensure accuracy by validating the data during the research activities.

B. Research Setting

Antasari State Islamic University Banjarmasin has become the location of this research. The English Education and Islamic Education Departments have several international students, so the researcher chose this location. Process began on December 20th 2025, and was completed on February 20th 2025. The researcher used in-depth interviews in data collection. The researcher selected four international students from Thailand to be interviewed. The researcher used initials to maintain their privacy. The following are the results of data collection from the interview.

C. Participants

Arifa (2022) stated, that all research participants are human components involved in physical and emotional activities as respondents and informants. According to Moleong (2014), research participants are people or organizations that will contribute data based on the subjects needed. Sumarto (2003) defines research participants as individuals who participate in a study, and their participation helps researchers collect the data needed. Individuals who participate in the research process and function as informants for every question or data needed by researchers can be considered research participants.

The participants in this study were international students who were studying in the Department of English Education and Islamic Religious

Education at Antasari State Islamic University Banjarmasin. There were four participants, one from the English Education Department and three from the Islamic Religious Education Department. All participants were female and aged 21 and 22 years old. The reason they chose to study at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin is because they received a scholarship here and have relatives who also graduated from UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

D. Data

According to Debora and Stefani (2022), data collection is how a researcher determines the technique to obtain data that meets the needs of the research. According to Sugiono (2019), primary data is a source of data directly provided by the informants to the researcher. In this study, data collection was conducted through individual interviews and recordings as a tool to collect data from four participants, all of whom were international students studying at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

In addition, the researcher acted as the interviewer. The interview questions totaled twenty questions. The researcher used in-depth interviews to obtain data from the participants about the challenges faced by international students and their strategies in developing English language proficiency. The interview guide consisted of questions to ask the students about the common challenges they face in learning English, the most difficult challenges, the best

actions to overcome the challenges, and the effectiveness of the strategies in facing the challenges.

E. Technique of Data Collection

The definition of an interview is a dialogue or conversation that occurs between two or more parties with the aim of obtaining as much information as possible from the questions posed by the interviewer.

In-depth interviews were applied in this study, to obtain qualitative information containing participants opinions or expressions of attitudes. In-depth interview is a qualitative research method that allows in-depth exploration of participants experiences, perceptions, and emotions, which is very useful in research. As with the research to be conducted by the researcher, the researcher wants to know the opinions, ideas, or perceptions of international students regarding students challenges in learning English and how to overcome these challenges.

Qualitative research technique that relies on thorough interviews with a flexible and open-ended data collection attitude is known as in-depth interviews (Nuraeni, 2019). Deep interviews have a predetermined list of questions or subjects to steer the conversation, but the interviewer can ask follow-up questions or investigate fresh issues if they arise.

Several students from of the English Education Study Program class of 2023 and the Islamic Religious Education Study Program class of 2022 were interviewed by the researcher herself. To facilitate the informants participation, the interviews were held at Antasari State Islamic University in Banjarmasin. In order for informants to give thorough responses and interviewers to communicate all relevant information, interviews were performed in Indonesian.

The interviews were conducted face to face, but the content of the interviews was recorded using a smartphone to obtain authentic results. The researcher asked questions in a neutral way and did not force the participants to give specific answers. Therefore, during the interview process, the participants were able to answer freely and in detail based on their experiences. The researcher, as the interviewer, recorded the content of the interviews, asked about the challenges that the students faced in learning English and how they dealt with them, and asked follow-up questions based on the participants answers.

F. Research Instrument

The research instrument used in this study is an interview protocol developed by the researcher to collect data on common challenges faced when learning English and strategies to overcome those challenges. In-depth interviews are used in this technique to encourage participants to discuss their

thoughts and experiences. The purpose of the questions is to find out the internal and external elements that influence their English proficiency. By allowing participants to express their experiences freely and ensuring a comprehensive data collection, the use of in-depth questions facilitates flexibility in responses.

For the research instruments, please refer to appendix I.

G. Data Analysis

Data analysis is the process carried out after the data collection stage through interviews with participants. Data analysis is important to validate the results. According to Bogdan and Biklen (1982), qualitative data analysis is an effort made to obtain data, then sort the data into materials for processing so that results can be determined and shared with others. In this study, the researcher has used the qualitative data analysis process from Seidel (1998) in Moleong (2021), which includes:

1. Taking notes and producing field notes to process the obtained data sources
2. Collecting and sorting the obtained data until a summary is obtained and classifying the acquired data.
3. Thinking to create the obtained data until it has patterns and meanings from the findings.