CHAPTER III
RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter presents the research method which is used in this research. This chapter discusses research design, subjects, data collection, and data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

Research design is an essential aspect in conducting a research. According to Ary, et al. (2006), research design is the plan of the researcher to go on to obtain an understanding of phenomenon in its context. In the research context, a case in a previous research can be explored to gain in depth investigation by a research using a case study research as the part of the plan. Based on the Gillham (2000), case study is a case-based study that designed to find out a specific of evidence and answer a specific question, in which it investigates the individual, group, institution, community, or multiple cases. Moreover, Merriam (2009) defines case study as an in depth description and analysis of a limited system.

This research used case study as the research design. This research aimed at analyzing a case based on the previous research. This present research used case study to gain in depth description in the elements of culture shock as a part of the cultural adjustment problem in the previous research. Then, this research also figured out the ways in dealing with the culture shocks. Therefore, it is clear that this research used case study because it investigated a case that faced by International students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM) in China.
3.2 Research Subject

The International students of UMM were used as the subjects of this research, with which they joined a credit transfer exchange program to Tongren University in 2016 in China. Purposive sampling was used in this research in which the criteria were UMM students. Based on the criteria, there were three students as the subjects that involve two females and a male student.

3.3 Data Collection

The data collection was needed to gather the correct data and gain the accurate information which included the technique, instrument, and procedure of this research.

3.3.1 Techniques and Instruments

In order to gain the data, the researcher used questionnaire and interview because these types were appropriate for the research purposes.

3.3.1.1 Questionnaire

Open-ended questions were chosen in this questionnaire. Questionnaire is a written instrument to gain information from the subjects. According to Creswell (2012), questionnaire is a form which is completed and returned by the subjects in a research. In this questionnaire, a lot of kinds of information can be obtained based on the researcher’s needs. Questionnaire, which covers various subjects or issues, can be very detail. Moreover, it can be very simple and only focus on one important area (Wilkson and Birmingham, 2003). This flexibility matches with this case study research especially in the open ended questions. Open-ended
questions lead the subjects to recount experiences, opinions, and understandings in their own words because of the less structured questions (McGuirk and O’Neill, 2016). This in-depth information was needed in this case study research to gain clear and detail information about the elements of culture shock and the ways to deal with the culture shock faced by International students of UMM in China.

To gain the research purposes, the researcher had to be careful in writing the questionnaire. Questions, which lead subjects to comfort in answering the questions without feeling challenged by the phrases and words used, should be unambiguous and clear (Brace, 2004). Further, this questionnaire consisted of some questions that were directly asking about the elements of culture shock and the ways to deal it in easy words.

3.3.1.2 Interview Guide

In this research, the researcher also used interview guide as the instruments to confirm the subjects’ answers in the questionnaires and take deeper information about it. Interview provides an opportunity for the researcher to investigate ideas and beliefs of the participants and gather the data that may not have been attained by another method such as observation (Cohen, 2000, as cited in Sharma, 2010).

In conducting this research, semi-structured interview, which was used to collect the data, was selected by using the interview guide as the instrument. Semi-structured interview is one types of interview that is between the structured and unstructured interview; moreover, the questions of interview can be modified by the researcher though those questions already have been developed before
(Ary, et al., 2006). This semi-structured interview was appropriate for this research because the purposes were to confirm the subjects’ answers in the questionnaires and take deeper information about it. In another part, interview guide was needed to catch the interview goals. Kajornboon (2005) mentioned that an interview guide consists of list of questions, issues, and topic by which it covers of the researcher goals during the interview. So, the researcher constructed the question list of this semi-structure interview in more details to gain in-depth information which related to the literature review.

3.3.2 Procedure

As mentioned above, the researcher used questionnaire and interview to collect the data. In collecting the data, procedure consisted of some steps which were built by the researcher to make the process structured. The procedures, which used to collect the data, were as follow:

1. Preparing the instruments such as questionnaire and interview guide;
2. Sending the questionnaire by e-mail to the International students;
3. Transcribing the result of the questionnaire;
4. Conducting the semi-structured interview with the International students;
5. Transcribing the result of the interview.

3.5 Data Analysis

The last step to present the research was data analysis. In analyzing the data, Ary, et.al (2006) mentioned three stages namely organizing and
familiarizing, coding and reducing, and interpreting and representing. Based on the stages, the data analysis was conducted by using the following steps:

1. Organizing the data based on the results of data collection;

2. Coding and reducing the data which focused on the framework;

3. Classifying the data based on the research objectives.

4. Comparing the data with the related literature in order to get objective interpretation; and

5. Drawing conclusion refers to the final interpreted-data in order to solve the research problems.