CHAPTER III
RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter, the researcher explains several important points including research design, research subjects, data, data collection, and data analysis.

3.1. Research Design

This research uses a qualitative approach with the case study method through descriptive techniques. Besides, it will describe certain characteristics of a phenomenon to a learning experience of a group of students who take part in the International Credits Transfer (ICT) program through distance/online learning. To obtain the authenticity of this phenomenon, the selection of this approach is deemed appropriate. Additionally, Bogdan & Bilken (1998) states that the qualitative research is investigative in nature to get the original as they are.

Qualitative research provides opportunities and possibilities for a researcher to obtain original information and describe facts through observation and direct interaction with actors in the field (Iskandar, 2009; Moleong, 2000). This qualitative approach is used to explain phenomena with the rules of scientific thinking that are applied systematically as Lincoln & Guba (1985) said that qualitative research or naturalistic inquiry is a method of research intended to understand actuality, social reality, and existing human perceptions. This idea is supported by Ezzy (2013) thought, "Meanings are constantly changing, and are produced and reproduced in each social situation with slightly different nuances and significances depending on the nature of the context as a whole". Qualitative research is more about giving meaning and interpreting the object under study.

In this recent research, the researcher needs measurable and planned actions in uncovering the learning experience phenomenon of the UMM students who participate in the International Credit Transfer program. According to Rahardjo (2017), case study is a series of scientific activities

carried out intensively in detail on a program or event that exists at the individual or group level.

3.2. Research Subjects

In qualitative research, humans are the main instrument called key informants or research subjects. In addition, important documents are needed in qualitative research and also events that can be seen through observation. Data sources are an important aspect of research because accuracy in choosing and determining the type of data source determines the accuracy and feasibility of the data obtained (Ulfatin, 2015). According to Sarosa (2021) informants are people who provide data or information in qualitative research, by both ways of interviews and observations.

The recent study requires the subjects from UMM students who were joining the International Credit Transfer program 2022. Besides, they were active undergraduate students in the year 2019 and 2020. This subject is the main informant in the current research because it will provide a few facts and information on their learning experiences directly.

3.3. Data

This research uses qualitative data that describe non-numeric data. Besides, the type of data in this research is in the form of opinions, phrases, and words. The data are obtained from the experiences of research subjects who match the criteria.

3.4. Data Collection

Data is an important element in research. Data collection techniques are the most strategic steps in research, the main goal of research is to obtain data (Sugiyono, 2017). Data collection techniques in a study can be done by observation, interview, questionnaires, documentation, and a combination of the four. In this study, the researcher uses semi-structured interview as the data collection technique.

3.4.1. Interview

In current research, researchers decide to use interviews to obtain clear and accurate data. Interviews are conducted with the aim of obtaining specific information, through what people said, thought, and even what people felt (Sujadi, 2002). She added that in interviews conducted by both sides, namely the researcher as the interviewer and the subjects or respondents as the interviewee. In this study, researchers will conduct interviews with three UMM's students, who were joining International Credit Transfer Program, to get data that are in accordance with the research problem.

The interview technique that will be used in this research is a structured interview. Structured interviews are used as a data collection technique if the researcher knows for sure what information will be obtained (Sukardi, 2008).

In the next step, the researcher prepares a temporary list of questions that contain the main points to be conveyed through the interview based on the research problem. Next, the researcher will ask general questions. The interviews will be held in a conducive, relaxed atmosphere so that the informants or research subjects provide accurate information. The informants will be given the opportunity openly and freely organize their thoughts. In addition, the questions will focus on the things that are revealed according to the research problem based on several prepared questions. Meanwhile, in the end, after the researcher has received a lot of information, the conversation between the researcher and the informant will be summarized and re-checked whether what the respondent said was correct or not.

3.4.2. Documentation Studies

In addition, obtaining data can also be done through documentation studies, namely by studying and reviewing documents relevant to the research theme. The study of documents in a study will provide

reinforcement to other data obtained by researchers through observations and interviews conducted.

3.5.   Data Analysis

In qualitative analysis techniques, the researcher builds words from the results of interviews or observations of the data that needed to be described and summarized. Questions can be made by researchers to know the relationship between the various identified themes, behavioral relationships, or individual characteristics such as age and gender (Saldana, 2011).

According to Miles et al. (2014), analysis of qualitative research data can be carried out through four streams of activities that occur simultaneously, as follows:

3.5.1. Data Condensation

In this section, the researcher filters the collected data by separating relevant and irrelevant data/junk data. In this stage, the researcher will get the appropriate data needed for data analysis.

According to Miles & Huberman (1994) data condensation is a process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming raw data found in the field. Data reduction will be carried out continuously during this research, until the completion of the research report. Thus, data condensation is a form of analysis that sharpens, classifies, directs, guides, forms unnecessary, and organizes data so that in the end a conclusion and reinforcement are obtained.

3.5.2. Data Display

Presentation of data is an activity of presenting description data result in the complete information form. As emphasized by Miles et al. (2014), the presentation of data is intended to find meaningful patterns and provide the possibility of drawing conclusions and acting. Presentation of data will be arranged according to a pattern relationship so that it is easier to understand. In addition, the presentation of the data in this study is also

intended to find a meaning from the data that has been obtained, then arranged systematically, from a complex form to a simple form information in selective.

Presenting good data is an important step towards achieving a valid and reliable qualitative analysis. In presenting the data, it is not merely a narrative description, but accompanied by a continuous analysis process until the conclusion is drawn. Besides, researcher presents the data by assembling words and sentences using logical and systematic language so that it is easier to read and understand them.

3.5.3. Data Interpretation

Data interpretation is the process of reviewing data to arrive at relevant conclusions using various analytical methods. According to Umrati (2020) the results of the interpretation of qualitative data analysis are strongly influenced by the background and subjectivity of the researcher. The current study, researcher will analyse about experiences and opinions of the subjects through interviews. Moreover, the researcher will obtain conclusions about their significance thoughts in joining International Credit Transfer program.

3.5.4. Conclusion Drawing or Verification

This stage is the stage of drawing conclusions from all the data that has been obtained because of the research. Besides, drawing conclusions or verification is an attempt to find or understand significance, regularity, patterns, explanations, causal flows, or propositions. In drawing this conclusion, the researcher concludes and verifies that the research results are better and more accountable. The conclusion in this study was based on the number of collections of field notes, literature review, retention, retrieval method used, and the skill of the researcher. The conclusions in this study may also be new findings, so after conducting the research a clearer picture is obtained.

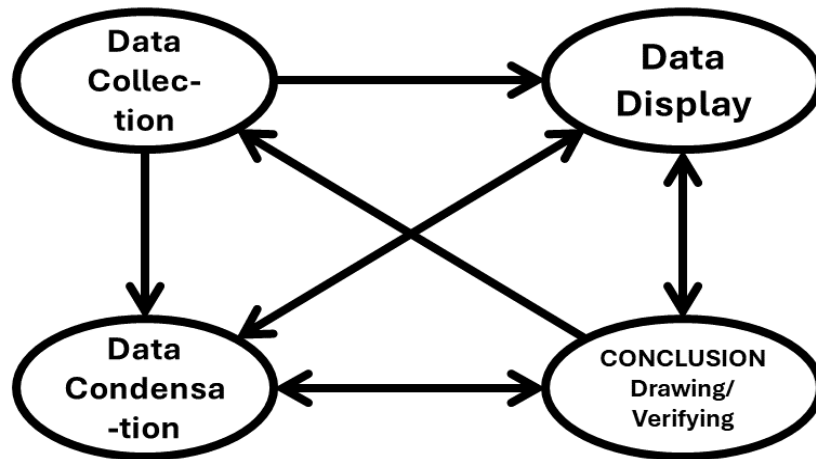In this data analysis, an interactive model is used according to the following picture:

Figure 1 Components of Qualitative Data Analysis: Interactive Model