

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter presents the research method that was used in conducting study. The discussion covers research design, data and data sources, method of collecting data, technique of data verification and data analysis.

A. Research Design

This research applied a qualitative descriptive method since it described phenomenon in the society, especially related to linguistics problem, which was the application of politeness. Qualitative research is concerned with developing explanations of social phenomena. That is to say, it aims to help us to understand the social world in which we live and why things are the way they are. (Hancock, et.al, 2009: 7). In this research, the phenomenon of the use of politeness strategy in debate communication was lifted up. The phenomenon was reflected in the debate done in one of debate forums that is debate.org. Since this research used descriptive study to carry out the research, the data was analyzed in descriptive way. It described phenomenon such as words, sentence gotten from debate.org forums produced by debaters without any manipulations.

B. Data and Data Source

In Qualitative research study, as stated in Brenner (1985: 118) “The raw material of the qualitative research is most typically words

because as Laffal (1969) has noted words are the determinants of consciousness.” Thus, since this research is qualitative research, the data were in forms of spoken but written utterances produced by debaters gotten from debate.org forum which contained FTA and politeness strategy. Furthermore, the context of data was in the form of dialogue of the debate participants. The source of the data in this research was taken from debate participants dialogues gotten from debate.org forum.

Rahardi (2001) differentiates the data source into two categories, primary data and secondary data. Primary data is the data gained directly from the source meanwhile secondary data is the one gained indirectly.

1. Primary data

The primary data of this research was debater’s written utterances gotten from debate.org forum as the data sources. Then, the researcher analyzed written utterances containing politeness strategies.

2. Secondary data

Secondary data were any data gotten from other sources. In this research the secondary data were the rules of the debate in debate.org forum, and list of debate topics.

C. Technique of Data Collection

The strategy in collecting the data in Qualitative Research as stated by (Goetz & LeCompte, 1984) generally can be divided into two ways, the first is collecting the data interactively and non interactively. Interactive method includes; interview, observation, and focus group discussion.

While non interactive method includes; questionnaire, content analysis and observation which is the observers don't take the role. (Sutopo, 2002: 58).

Reference with those theories above, the data of this research was collected by doing documentation. Documentation here refers to the wide range of data which will be selected into the needed data as what stated in Ary (2006: 502). In this case the researcher kept the needed data from the wide range data which were gotten from the printed debater's words and sentences gotten from debate.org forum and kept them to be well organized and in a retrievable form. The data of this research were collected by using the following step:

1. The researcher opened debate.org forum
2. The researcher read some debates toward some topics
3. The researcher copied the debaters' words and sentences to the office word document.

D. Technique of Data Verification

“To gain the trustworthiness of the data, there are four standards of rigor for the research; Credibility, Transferability, Dependability or trustworthiness, and Confirmability.” (Ary, 2006: 498). But in this study the researcher gained two standards of rigor for the research.

In this research, to achieve those trustworthiness' criteria, the researcher applied credibility and transferability process. As explained by (Ary, 2006: 498) that credibility involves how well the researcher has established confidence in the findings based on the research design,

participants, and context. In order to get that credibility, the researcher gained through consultations with the lectures regularly from the beginning until the end of the process of finishing this research. Peer discussion was also conducted to check the data analysis. The researcher asked two students from English department who are majoring Linguistics to do the validation of the data. While, doing the discussion with the researcher's lectures were useful in getting the correctness of the findings and the data's interpretation.

The result of this research was also transferable because the findings not only can be used for the debaters in debate field but also in our daily conversation. Because in debate, actually happened a conversation between each speaker. What made difference with daily conversation was this debate was running through a certain rule and in a particular time and place. But it didn't change the existence of the conversation itself. When the term of debate was used here may be some people will assume that in conversation doesn't happened debate. But actually in everyday life we do debate with others in our daily conversation unconsciously. Because "Individuals may use debate to reach a decision in their own minds; alternatively, individuals or groups may use it to bring others around to their way of thinking." Freeley & Steinberg (2005: 6)

E. Data Analysis

In this research, the techniques of data analysis were gained through qualitative analysis. Ary (2006: 481) described qualitative analysis as an analysis which was done by doing three steps; organizing and familiarizing, coding and reducing, and interpreting and representing. Following the theory above, the researcher took the steps below to analyze data:

1. Organizing and familiarizing.

The first stage in analyzing qualitative data involved familiarization and organization where the data can be easily retrieved. (Ary, 2006: 481). In reference with the explanation above, in order to make the data to be well organized and familiarized the researcher categorized and finding the pattern of the data then deciding what was important related to the data analysis. In this research, the data were collected from debaters' words and sentences which were contained FTA and politeness strategy then the researcher categorized the data based on Brown & Levinson's theory and finally summarized and concluded the data analysis based on the objectives of the research.

2. Coding and reducing.

Codes can represent information you expected to find, information you did not expect to find, and interesting or unusual information. Reducing is sorting of codes into categories and categories into themes. (Ary, 2006: 483). In the context of this study, coding and reducing was

done by giving codes to the debaters' words and sentences containing FTA and politeness strategy gotten from debate.org forum as follows:

a. Coding

01/01/Con(against) Themeaman909(T909)/Does age matter on this website? : Topic's number/Round/Debater's position(Pro (agree) or cont (disagree)) and debater's initial name/Debate's topic

3. Interpreting and representing.

Interpreting involves reflecting about the words and acts of the study's participants and abstracting important understandings from them. (Ary, 2006: 490). Here, the researcher interpreted the collected data to find the meaning and the right category of the data based on the theories which were used. Here, after the data had been sorted, then they were interpreted in the analysis. To present the data, the researcher described the analysis in the descriptive details. The researcher described what politeness strategy and face threatening acts used by debaters then the researcher described what are face threatening acts and politeness strategy mostly performed by the debaters.

