

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In every research, there are two kinds of methodology used in collecting data. Researchers use either quantitative methodology, qualitative methodology or even both of them. Specifically, representatively, and deep in questioning are the characteristics of qualitative methodology (Bogdan & Biklen, 1998). According to Sharan B. Merriam who is a professor of adult education at the University of Georgia, says that qualitative methodology's purposes are to look for and uncover an event, its process, and also world's perspective on the people or groups involved in that particular event (Jr, 2005). Therefore, this study used qualitative research as the method. Furthermore, the writer focused on the ceremonies done in funeral home those done in cemetery or crematorium place. The ritual objects used were also analyzed in order to find out the superstitious meaning behind them. The reasons of Confucians doing those rituals were revealed in this study as well.

3.1. Data Collection

Methods of data collection were conducted in two ways. Primary data were gotten directly through deep interviews with three informants and observation, while secondary data were collected from books, journal, and another sources from internet. The writer has done the method of data collection as follows:

1. Observation

In order to collect data about death rituals done in the funeral home and crematorium, as well as the ritual objects used in each ritual, the writer needs to do observation. The purpose of doing observation was because the data interpretation would be more clearly in the explanation later.

2. Interview

In this research, deep interviews were the most important part to obtain data. The writer interviewed three interviewees whom really know Confucianism, particularly on its death rituals, ritual objects, and also their superstitious meanings. The writer got complete information from this step.

3. Documenting

Besides observation and interview, the writer was also documenting the data by recorded the conversations between the interviewer and interviewees and took some related photos for the importance of collecting data.

4. Library research

The researcher obtained written data from journals, books, articles, and some literature references to complete the data which already acquired from observation and interviews. The aim of searching library research is to support interviewees' statements and as a complement if the data has not been enough.

3.1.1. Instruments

First the writer looked for information from one of the relatives whom embrace Confucianism. He gave some list of names and the writer tried to meet them in order to seek out related informations. However not all of them understand death rituals, yet they suggest to meet another person who is considered to master the rituals. It can be said that the process of finding the data was by snowball sampling.

3.1.2. Respondents

The first interviewee proposed by the researcher was a Confucian named Mr. Hok. He is a seventy seven year old man who embraces *Kong Hu Chu* since he was young. His parents are also Confucians. From Mr. Hok, the writer got enough information about Confucianism's death rituals and ritual objects used in each ritual as well as their superstitious meanings. However, the information was not enough. Therefore, the writer seeked other informants and interviewed Mr. Sinaryo who is a Confucianism religious leader. He knows a lot about Confucianism, yet the writer needed to look for another interviewee and found Mr. Peng Kim based on information from a relative. Evidently he is a Buddhist leader, but he knows really well about Confucianism's death rituals. By interviewing these three informants the writer has gotten enough information to write data analysis and interpretation in the next chapter.

3.2. Research Procedure

There were several steps done in order to analyze Confucianism's death rituals, Confucians' reasons for practicing death rituals, then the ritual objects and

superstitious meanings behind them. After the interviews, the writer took photos, and did observation. The writer, then, categorized the rituals told by each interviewee and grouped the ritual objects used in each ritual. Their respective reasons about practicing death rituals were also put in a separate place to be described later in chapter four. For the superstitious meanings, they were put in the same place with ritual objects. One by one ritual was elaborated along with the ritual objects used. This study's purposes are to find out the rituals done by Confucians, particularly death rituals in the funeral home and in the cemetery or crematorium place, to reveal Confucians' reasons for carrying out death rituals to this day, and seek out the ritual objects and their superstitious meanings. Furthermore, the writer took some sources from internet such as related journals, articles, and books to support the informants' statements.

3.3. Data Analysis

The data that had been collected were analyzed using qualitative method. It was used to obtain in-depth information about what rituals are done in the funeral home and cemetery or crematorium, and ritual objects used as well as their superstitious meanings. The writer collected the data and after that analyzed the data according to the interview results. Then the last step is the writer wrote data analysis and interpretation for chapter four.