

CHAPTER III

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

3.1 Type of Research

In collecting data on the offerings and their meanings in *Slametan* ritual in building a new house in Semarang, the researcher applied a qualitative method in this research. Qualitative research method is an approach for “exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups to describe a social or human problem” (Creswell, 2013). By using open-ended questions, the researcher intended to make the informants speak up their best explanations to express their knowledge about the meaning of the offerings used in *Slametan* ritual in building a new house in Semarang. In this research, the researcher used triangulation: interview, observation, and also pictures collection and note taking to collect data

3.2 Data Collection

The main purpose of this research is to find out what are the offerings consist of in the *slametan* ritual in building a new house in Semarang and the meaning behind the offerings. The researcher gained data by having a deep interview with the informants about the offerings used in *Slametan* ritual in building a new house to obtain the primary data, then secondary data were gained from journals, books and internet sources. Creswell (2013) explains that qualitative method includes observations, interviews, and documentation as

well as recording. The researcher gained the data in a way John W. Creswell explained before.

3.2.1 Population and Sample

The researcher needed informants to obtain data on the *sesajen* or offerings in *slametan* ritual to build a new house in Semarang. The best informants are the native residents of Semarang. To get reliable data the researcher set some criteria of the informants. The criteria are as follows:

- a) The informants are living in Semarang.
- b) The informants are Javanese descendant.
- c) The informants are supposedly understanding the meaning of *Slametan* ritual a new house in Semarang.
- d) The informants purportedly understand the offerings used in *slametan* ritual.

Snowball sampling method was applied to get the reliable information about the offerings in *slametan* ritual in building a new house. The researcher hopes by using this method he obtained sufficient data to analyze. The researcher used snowball sampling method to look for informants who have good understanding on Javanese culture, especially offerings in *slametan* ritual in building a new house. The idea of snowball sampling is that the researcher gets new informants by asking previous informant to recommend other person who could contribute to the research (Patrick & Dan, 1981). In this study, the

researcher initially got acquainted with one informant who understands Javanese culture well including *sesajen* used in *slametan* ritual in building a new house. He is Mr. Po (58 years old). He learned Javanese culture from his parents. He was later acknowledged by people as an elder in Tanjung Mas Semarang. Mr. Po recommended the researcher to meet Mr. Hartono whom he considered knows more about Javanese culture. Mr. Hartono (52 years old) then became the researcher's next informant. Mr. Hartono is an artist who has a formal education on Javanese culture. He has a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree from Semarang State University. Finally, my third informant was Mr. Supangat (52 years old). He was a person who had *slametan* ritual for building a new house in Sendang Guwo, Semarang. The researcher met Mr. Hartono when he was purchasing *sesajen* in Peterongan traditional market in Semarang. The researcher asked his permission to observe the ritual and did interview about *sesajen*, the offerings, used in *slametan* for building a new house.

3.2.2 Instrument

To gain the information needed in this research, the researcher conducted a depth interviews with the informants. The interviews done based on the questions on the interview protocol. The questions were mainly used to get deep information on the *sesajen*, or the offerings used in *slametan* ritual for building a new house. To document the interview, the researcher used a recorder, took

pictures using a camera, and made an outline to understand better the meaning behind the offerings used in the ritual.

3.2.3 Procedure

The researcher took the following procedures to collect the data:

1. The researcher used the library research such as books and articles about Javanese culture. Besides using library research, the researcher also used internet to help him complete the research when he cannot find the materials from books to explain his findings.
2. The researcher came to the informants' house and started the interview. By using snowball sampling, the researcher had the first informant recommend other person who might have additional information about the matters studied.
3. The researcher came to the Peterongan traditional market to find a person who will hold *slametan* ritual for a new house. The search of potential research subject started on November 28th, 2018 by standing near the *sesajen* seller, until finally the researcher met Mr. Supangat, who plans to hold a *slametan* ritual for building a new house on December 14th, 2018. When Mr. Supangat hold the ritual on December 15th, 2018 the researcher asked for permission to do an observation on the ritual performance of the new house. In addition to making observations, the researcher also

interviewed Mr. Supangat who held the ritual. The researcher took a documentation by capturing every moments when the ritual began.

4. There are two more informants who interviewed. They are Mr. Po and Mr. Hartono. Mr. Po is Javanese expert. The researcher met Mr. Po when joined a prayer in Solo Ceto Temple. He considered as the oldest person among the other participants in a prayer. The researcher asked him to do interview after the prayer has done. The researcher got recommend through Mr. Po to do interview with Mr. Hartono because he has a education background about culture. Mr. Hartono is an artist who has a formal education on Javanese culture. He has a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree from Semarang State University. The researcher interviewed the informants based on the researcher's interview protocol. During the interview, the researcher took some pictures on the offerings used in the ritual.
5. The researcher transcribed the recorded interviews, sorted them out and started analyzing the results to obtain the answer for the research questions.

3.3 Method of Data Analysis

In the data analysis chapter, the researcher analyzed every offerings or *sesajen* used in the *slametan* ritual in building a new house according the explanations that come up from the informants. The data collected from the informants were the findings of the study. Those findings were then understood and analyzed based on Sims and Stephen's theory of customary folklore and

previous studies done by Sri Cahyaning Putri (2015) with the research titled *Tradisi Slametan Pendirian Rumah di Desa Nglundu Denggungan, Banyudono, Kabupaten Boyolali* (Tradition of Slametan in Building a House in Desa Nglundu Denggungan, Banyudono, Kabupaten Boyolali) and Fridah Indah Sari (2014) with the title “*Ritual Memasang Kerangka Atap Dalam Membangun Rumah Baru di Desa Damarsi Buduran Sidoarjo*” (Ritual in Constructing Roof Frames in Building a New House in Damarsi Village, Buduran Sidoarjo). The results of the analysis were explained when the discussion about offerings used in *slametan* ritual in building a new house. The researcher made table of comparison to compare the findings with previous study. The table could be found in the appendix. The researcher wrote the result of the interview with informants in the appendix.

