

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHOD

3.1. Type of Study

In this study titled *The Dynamics of Javanese Women's Self-Adjustment to Committed Relationship with Western Men*, researcher use qualitative study method. Researcher chooses to use qualitative method because researcher wants to understand the phenomena, as well as subject's experiences in which include behaviour, perception, motivation, point of view, culture, and many other factors. Researcher also wants to deliver the result of this study into descriptive sentences and not with numbers or statistic.

Moleong (2002) said that qualitative study is study carried out in a holistic manner and description with the aim of understanding the phenomena (including behaviour, perceptions, motivations, actions, etc.) experienced by the subject. Hamidi (2004) explained that researchers who use a qualitative approach carries out their activities to obtain the knowledge, certain amount of information or detailed stories about the subjects and the social background of the study. From the detailed stories of the behaviour and actions of the subject, the researcher describe certain meanings hidden behind their expressions and activities, which in the end will be in the form of a scientific statement. This scientific statement is in the form of a concept or a correlation between concepts, commonly referred to as a thesis or theory.

Researcher uses the phenomenological approach in this qualitative study because the researcher will try to dig the information about the subjective experience of the subjects with different characteristic. Just as stated by Moleong (2002), the term of phenomenology is aimed at the subjective experience of several subjects found with different characteristic, using a phenomenological approach as well. Researcher also try to understand the meaning of each event along with all the interrelationships that occur to someone in a particular situation or phenomenon. Therefore, this phenomenological qualitative study is in accordance with the theme of this research, where the researcher wants to deeply understand the phenomena of intercultural relationship between Javanese women and Western men with different characteristics.

3.2. Theme of Research

Javanese women who are in a relationship with Western men experience differences, including perceptions, habits, point of view, and values because they come from different background and culture. This may lead into psychological problems if they cannot adjust themselves effectively to those differences. Therefore, Javanese women who are in a relationship with Western men are in dire need of knowledge about effective self-adjustment to cultural differences between them, thus they will be able to minimize the impact and psychological problems that may occur.

The theme that will be revealed by the researcher in this study is about the self-adjustment of Javanese women when they are in a committed relationship with Western men. The self-adjustment theme that will be revealed are if individuals have accurate perceptions toward reality, are able to cope with

anxiety and stress, are able to see themselves as positive beings, are able to control and express their emotions according to their feelings, have good interpersonal relationship and maintain their interaction with others, and also the factors behind it.

3.3. Subjects of Research

3.3.1. Characteristic of the Subjects

Spradley (in Sugiyono, 2012) stated in population is said differently in qualitative research. It is called social situation in which have three elements, namely the actors, the place, and the activity. The following is the breakdown of these three elements that is used by the researcher as a guide to choose the subjects for this research:

1. The actors, in which are also called the subjects of this study is the Javanese women, aged eighteen to forty in which is considered as the ages of young adulthood according to Hurlock (2008).
2. The place. The Javanese women who are chosen to be the subjects of this study stay in Semarang.
3. The activity. The Javanese women in Semarang who are chosen to be the subjects of this study are now in committed relationship with Western men for at least one year when this study is conducted. However, Haber and Runyon (1984) stated that adjustment is an ongoing process, therefore there should be no guidelines for determining how long to adjust to a partner. The researcher decided to choose the subjects who have been in relationships for one year because of in terms of stepping up to the next level of commitment, couples will take amount of time.

3.3.2. Sampling Technique

The sampling technique in this study is carried out by purposive sampling techniques because this study is only intended and requires young Javanese women aged eighteen to forty in Semarang who are in relationship with Western man for at least six month when this study is conducted. Purposive sampling is used in this study because the chosen subjects as the sample according to the theme of the study so that the subjects must be able to help the researcher to uncover the theme that will be revealed by answering various questions raised by the researcher.

The subjects in this study are selected purposively by being determined directly by the researcher, which do not rule out the possibility of developing the snowball technique. Hamidi (2004) explained that snowball technique is the process of extracting data through deep interviews from one subject to another and keep continuing this process until the researcher does not find new information, or the information is no longer qualified to support the research. In this case, the researcher can find the initial informant who is the first person to provide adequate information when the researcher begins to collecting the data.

3.4. Methods of Data Collection

Methods of data collection that are used in this study are observation, interviews, and source triangulation. The following is the descriptions of each methods:

3.4.1. Interview

The researcher uses a semi-structured interview to collecting the data for this research. Semi-structured interview is an interview that aim to find answers to the hypothesis with the questions that have been prepared before, but do not rule out the possibility for the researcher to ask some additional questions to obtain the data more completely (Moleong, 2002).

Interview is a technique of data collection that is popular in qualitative research. Conducting an interview means extracting the information from the respondents (subjects). In the interview process, the researcher must be able to ask as much as possible so that detailed information is obtained. The researcher should have understood and mastered the topic of the study when conducting an interview (Hamidi, 2004).

In this research, the researcher will use the following as guidelines of the interview:

1. The identity of the subjects.
2. The background of the subjects.
3. The process and factors of subjects' self-adjustment to committed relationship with Western men.
4. The pros and cons of having a committed relationship with Western men.
5. The subjects' knowledge of their partners' background.
6. The opinion of the subjects about committed relationship with Western men.
7. The feeling of the subjects about the differences in relationship.
8. The experience of the subjects regarding to maintaining committed relationship with Western men

3.4.2. Observation

Observing means the researcher sees and listens to what the subjects do and say or discuss in their daily activities. The observed activities are mainly those related to the topic of the study (Hamidi, 2004). The observation used in the study is carried out with the involvement of the observer as a full participant. Stated by Lofland (in Hasanah, 2016), full participant (complete participation) observation means the researcher totally involves into the subjects' personal life and experiencing the same impression with the subjects.

While conducting interview or involving in the same activities with the subjects, researcher observes and records the general impression of the subjects, including the appearance and physical condition, behaviour and attitude, facial expression, and emotions of the subjects that appear during the interview. These results will be later synchronized with the characteristic of the effective self-adjustment that have been discussed in CHAPTER 2.

The researcher chooses to do the observation with structured instrumentation because the researcher has determined the variables that will be observed from the subjects that is related to self-adjustment to a committed relationship with Western men. The instrument that is used in this study is a closed questionnaire in a behavioural checklist form related to the self-adjustment to a committed relationship of the subject. The behavioural checklist used in this study is compiled based on the theory of self-adjustment characteristic described in CHAPTER 2. This behavioural checklist will be filled out by the researcher without being known by the subjects, where the contents of the checklist will be adjusted to the subjects' visible behaviour. As stated by Hamidi (2004), everything that is heard and seen (including using a recorder or photo) by the

researcher is then recorded to a certain instrument so that this data or information can support the research.

The observation guidelines used by the researcher in observing the behaviour of the subjects are:

1. The general impression of the subjects includes appearance and physical condition.
2. Visible self-adjustment behaviour based on the characteristic of self-adjustment (Harber & Runyon, 1984):
 - a. Subjects have accurate perceptions toward reality, reviewed based on the subjects' reactions toward obstacles and opportunities that may affect their goals in relationship, and the comparison between those told by the subjects and other people.
 - b. Subjects have the ability to cope with stress and anxiety, reviewed based on how they keep continuing the interview process even though they might have negative feelings, such as sadness, anger, or giving up. This also could be seen when they do not turn their eyes and face away when the researcher looks at them when they tell their stories.
 - c. Subjects have positive self-image of themselves, reviewed based on the subjects' physical reaction to the questions about the impact of the differences in relationship, and how the subjects overcome with their strengths and weaknesses.
 - d. Subject have the ability to express their emotions and feelings, reviewed based on subjects' expression while telling their stories during the interview, such as crying because recalling bad memories, laughing to

funny moments, and also when subjects and the researcher are involved in some activities. Subjects should understand what feeling they felt.

- e. Subjects have good interpersonal relationship with others, reviewed based on during the interview session subjects do not do other activities such as texting or playing with gadget while answering the questions while, and also how subjects socialise with other people.

3.5. Validity of Data

3.5.1. Triangulation with Source

Triangulation is a technique to test the validity of the data that uses external factor of the data for checking or comparing the data that is obtained from the observation and interview. Denzin (in Moleong, 2002) explained there are four types of triangulation as a technique by utilizing the sources, method, investigator, and theory.

Triangulation with sources means comparing and checking the degree of trust to the information that is obtained through different times and tools in qualitative study (Patton in Moleong, 2002). This can be achieved by: (1) comparing the data of the observation to the data of the interview, (2) comparing what subjects say in public to what is said personally, (3) comparing what subjects say in the study situation to what they say all the time, (4) comparing the situation and perspective of the subjects with various opinions and views of others, (5) comparing the results of the interview to the contents of a related document (Moleong, 2002).

3.5.2. Perseverance of the Researcher

The purpose of perseverance of the observer is to find the traits and elements in situation that are very relevant to the problem or issue that being sought and then focus on these matters in detail. For this purpose, the researcher must be able to describe in detail how the process of the finding and analysing the information. The lack of the persistence of the observation lies in being too early to observe the main topic (Moleong, 2002).

3.5.3 Extension of Participation

The extension of participation is done by extending the data collection process with the aim of adding or completing data. It will allow an increase in the degree of trust of the collected data. The researcher will extend the participation of the study by increasing the intensity of meeting the subjects and doing additional interview needed until the data is sufficient to detect the distortions that might contaminate the data. The distortion can come from the subjects as with the aim of pleasing the researcher, or the subjects behave as if they should behave in the society by lying and pretending (Moleong, 2002).

3.6. Methods of Data Analysis

Patton (in Moleong, 2002) stated that data analysis is the process of arranging data sequences, organizing them into a basic pattern, category, and description. Moleong (2002) explained the data can be in the form of field notes and the researcher's comments, images, documents of reports, biographies, and articles. What is done in data analysis is arranging, sorting, grouping, coding, and

categorizing data with the aim of finding themes and hypothesis which are then used as substantive theories.

According to Miles and Huberman (in Sugiyono, 2012) data analysis will continue to be carried out interactively until the researcher no longer finds the data that needs to be explore. They have three data analysis method that the researcher uses in this research, they are:

3.6.1. Data Reduction

The longer study is conducted, the more complex data that the researcher will find. Therefore, reducing the data that has been obtained needs to be done. Data reduction is done by summarizing, selecting the main data, and focusing on the important things. The existence of the data that has been reduced will make it easier for the researcher to collect and look for further data as needed.

3.6.2. Data Presentation

In qualitative research, the presentation of the data can be in the form of brief description, charts, relations between categories, and flowchart. Narrative text is also can be used for presenting the data. The presentation of the data will be easier to understand what really happens so that the researcher can plan for the next step that should be done.

3.6.3. Conclusion Drawing and Verification

Verification should be done because of the initial conclusions stated are still temporary. The initial conclusions can be stated as credible if the researcher finds valid and consistent evidence to support the data that has been obtained,

but it does not rule out the possibility that the initial conclusions can change if there is no adequate data to support them.

The analysis method that the researcher uses is collecting the data from the interview and observation. The researcher will do extension of participation in order to complete the data. The extension of participation could also lead to data saturation. When the data is saturated, the researcher will need to reduce some data that might not be used or related to the research. After the data is reduced, the researcher will make a presentation in form of categories and flowchart in order to understand the process and plan for the next research if needed. The researcher will make a conclusion from the data presentation then verify the content with the triangulation subjects. The end result might be different from the dynamics of self-adjustment in CHAPTER 2 after the verification with the triangulation subjects.

