

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Type of Research

In collecting data about *selapanan* tradition among Javanese people in Kinibalu, RW 02, Semarang, the writer used qualitative research as a method. According to Cresswell, qualitative research consists of collecting data by using questions given to the informant to generate responses, by gathering words or images as data collection from the individual (2003, pp. 1689–1699).

3.2. Research Instrument

This research makes use of an interview that allows its informants to answer open-ended questions. By using open-ended questions in an interview, the informants can express their best opinion to explain their knowledge about *selapanan* tradition. The explanation of the informants was recorded and transcribed as the primary data for this research's analysis and interpretation. To support the data gained from the interview, the writer observed, and took pictures of the *selapanan* procession and provisions.

3.3. Research Sampling and Sample

This research makes use of snowball and purposive sampling method to gather key informants. In Kinibalu, RW 02, Semarang there are 6 RT, with each RT having 30 households. Thus, in total, there are actually 180 households to interview. Yet in order to be accommodative, the research makes use of a monthly

social gathering. In the gathering where the researcher went to, only 80 inhabitants came. In the gathering she asked the attendees to inform her who would be the most reliable person for her to ask questions about the *selapanan* procession and provisions.

In the gathering, 2 people were mentioned as reliable sources. From the 2 informants, the writer was then given a suggestion to purposively go to 1 other informant who practiced *selapanan*. Thus, in total there were 3 informants for this research.

According to Biernacki & Waldorf snowball sampling is “the method that yields a study sample through referrals made among people who share or know of others who possess some characteristics that are of research interest” (1981, pp. 141–163). This method is used when the interviewer asks the informants to recommend another person who could contribute and give information in a research. Meanwhile, according to Bernard (2006, p. 803) cited from Tongco, purposive sampling is especially exemplified through the key informant technique (2007, pp. 147–158).

In this research, snowball sampling was used in determining a key informant 1 (named Mrs. Lies Suharsono) as an elder who understands *selapanan* tradition. From Mrs. Lies, the writer got enough information about the reasons for performing the *Selapanan* tradition. However, as suggested by the RW 02 community, the writer also interviewed informant 2 (Mrs. Elisabeth Dwi Sofianita). These two informants suggested the researcher to purposively attend a *selapanan* ceremony held on the 21st of June 2018, where she could then add data

to her research by making a close observation of the ceremony, as well as interviewing informant 3 (Mrs. Andhini Setyaningtyas).

3.4. Research Data Collection Techniques

Data collection methods for this research include observation, interviews, and documentation, such as taking pictures and recording the interview (Creswell, 2003, pp. 1689–1699). To obtain the primary data, this research makes use of data obtained through a deep interview with 3 main informants. The secondary data were collected from journals, books and internet sources. In this research the writer has done the method of data collection as follows:

3.4.1. Library Research

The writer obtained supporting written data from books, journals, articles, and some literature references by use of library research to complete the data which was already acquired from the interview and observation session.

3.4.2. Observation

In order to collect data about *selapanan* tradition, the writer did an observation. The procession of *selapanan* could not be elaborated unless the writer observed herself what kinds of steps were done for the *selapanan* ceremony. In the observation, she used a camera to document what she saw.

3.4.3. Documenting

The writer also used the documenting technique to gather her data as follows. During her observation, she took some pictures to visualize what

becomes the procession of *selapanan*. She also makes use of her audio tape recorder to record the answers she asked through interviewing key informants.

3.4.4. Interview

In this research, a list of questions were used as a protocol to interview informants. The list of questions were as follows:

- a. What are the series of ceremony that need to be done to celebrate a baby's birth?
- b. Explain your opinion about *Selapanan*, is there any a specific procedure that must be followed for calculating the *neptu*?
- c. Why is *slametan selapanan* symbolized by odd numbers, are there any certain values to this?
- d. What are the procedures to celebrate *slametan selapanan*?
- e. What kinds of meals should be served during the procession of *selapanan*?
- f. What kinds of provisions should be provided to protect the baby from bad things?
- g. What values that can be obtained in conducting *slametan selapanan*?
- h. Why do the Javanese people still believe and perform *selapanan*?

3.5. Research Informants

Informants of this research were the Javanese people who live in Kinibalu, RW 02, Semarang. The writer imposes several limitations in measuring the degree of Javanese people, which are as follows:

- a. The informants were born from Javanese parents who live in Semarang.
- b. The informants are not those from a mixed marriage with other ethnic groups.
- c. The informants know and believe in Javanese tradition.

In order to find reliable information, the writer used snowball and later developed into a purposive sampling technique like explained above in 3.3.

3.6. Research Data Analysis

Research data analysis was done by firstly making a transcription of the interview and matching it with some pictures taken during a *selapanan* ceremony held by informant 3. Answers given through the interview were analyzed by making a categorization of which would answer the first problem formulation on this research, i.e. about the background of *selapanan* and its relationship with *petungan neptu*. The other categorization was to match up words, phrases and sentences that help describe the procession and provisions needed for *selapanan*. To support the analyses, pictures taken during the observation is also used as proof to finally arrive at interpretations for the data analyzed