

BAB III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter includes a discussion of the research design, research setting, research subjects and informants, data and data sources, data collection techniques, research instruments, data validity checking techniques, and data analysis techniques.

A. Research Method

The researcher used a descriptive qualitative approach in this study. According to Creswell, a qualitative approach is “a process of inquiry to understand a social or human problem based on building a complex, holistic picture, formed with words, reporting detailed views of informants, and carried out in a natural setting”.¹ According to Johnny Saldana the phrase “qualitative research” serves as an umbrella for a broad range of methodologies and approaches for the investigation of natural social life. The information or data gathered and analyzed is primarily (though not exclusively) non-quantitative and consist of textual materials like interview transcripts, field notes, and documents, and/or visual materials like artifact, photographs, video recordings, and internet sites that document human experiences about others and/or oneself in social action and reflexive state.²

The characteristics of qualitative research according to Bogdan and Biklen are the researcher is the primary instrument in qualitative research, with the natural environment serving as the direct source of data; qualitative research has a descriptive component. Instead of being shown as numbers, the data is presented in the form of words or images; qualitative research focuses on the process rather than just results or products; data analysis in qualitative research is frequently done deductively; “meaning” is important to the qualitative method.³

The implementation of the Merdeka Belajar Curriculum in Public and Private Islamic Junior High Schools is described in this research, which is of the descriptive research design. It has been established that the goal of this research is to explain the situation as best as possible using the data that has been collected, rather than to try to find explanations, test hypotheses, make predictions, or examine implications. However, many studies will be conducted on

¹ Joseph Quispe, ‘The Implementation of Merdeka Curriculum in English Teaching Learning at The Seventh Grade Of SMPIT Insan Mulia Surakarta In The Academic Year 2022/2023’, 4.1 (2023), 88–100.

² Prof. Dr. Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*, 2018.

³ Prof. Dr. Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*, 2018.

events that occur at the research site and examine the dynamics of relationships between phenomena to find the truth. Researchers must do fieldwork for this kind of research.

B. Research Setting

This research was conducted at MTs A and MTs B. MTs A is located in Prambatan Kidul, Kaliwungu, Kudus. MTs B is located in K.H Damaran, Kudus, on street K.H.R. Asnawi No. 30. It was done during the second semester of the 2022/2023 academic year.

C. Research Participant

The focus of this research is an English teacher who teaches seventh-grade students and the Vice Principal of curriculum of MTs A and MTs B.

D. Instruments and Data Collection Technique

The descriptive qualitative approach is used in this study. Auxiliary instruments, such as interviews, and document checklists, are used to help the researcher with the methods for collecting data. Because interview methods need the active participation of the researcher in the field, the instruments employed in collecting data are humans, particularly the researcher himself. Human instruments include responses, adaptability, knowledge, data processing, and taking advantage of opportunities to clarify information.

To assist in writing and collecting data, researchers used instruments such as interview guides, notebooks, cameras to take pictures and voice recorders. To collect data for this research, two methods were used, including:

1. Interview

The interview was used by the researcher to collect data. According to Stewards and Cash, an interview is a dyad (interpersonal) communication process in which questions are asked and answered to create meaningful interactions.⁴ In this interview, the researcher interviewed the Vice Principal of Curriculum and the seventh-grade English teacher at MTs A and MTs B. The researcher conducted a structured interview. The researcher asked the teacher's problems in implementing the Merdeka Curriculum in the teaching and learning process which

⁴ Lukman Nul Hakim, 'Ulasan Metodologi Kualitatif: Wawancara Terhadap Elit', *Aspirasi*, 4.2 (2013), 165–72 <<https://jurnal.dpr.go.id/index.php/aspirasi/article/view/501>>.

was used to answer the problem formulation. Researchers use documents on the stages of implementing the Merdeka Curriculum as interview guidelines.

2. Documentation

Data collection through this documentation of literature or literal studies photographs taken on location, and other written sources from books, journals, the *internet*, and other data sources relevant to the demands of data and information in research.

E. Research Data Validity

Data validity is very important because researchers must be able to account for the accuracy of the data obtained so that the research can be classified as scientific research. To obtain accurate information, researchers validate research data by triangulation. According to Wiliam Wiersma in the book entitled “Qualitative Research Methods” by Prof. Dr. Sugiyono stated that triangulation is qualitative cross-validation. It assesses the sufficiency of the data according to the convergence of multiple data sources or multiple data collection procedures.⁵

According to Moleong, triangulation is a technique of checking the validity of data that utilizes something other than data for checking purposes or as data comparisons.⁶ The triangulation source was used in this research. Source triangulation is used to test the credibility of data by comparing data acquired from many sources. Source triangulation is used to validate data by comparing the findings of an interview with the contents of a document using different sources of information data as a consideration. In this case, the researcher compares interview results to results from another interview.

F. Data Analysis Technique

The data collected by the researcher is then analyzed. Based on the findings from this analysis, a research report on the Implementation of the Merdeka Curriculum in Public and Private Islamic Junior High School was developed. Since the first data is collected, qualitative data analysis must be carried out. Data analysis

⁵ Prof. Dr. Sugiyono, ‘Metode Penelitian Kualitatif’, Bandung: Alfabeta CV, 189 (2018).

⁶ Joseph Quispe, ‘The Implementation of Merdeka Curriculum in English Teaching Learning at The Seventh Grade of SMPIT Insan Mulia Surakarta in The Academic Year 2022/2023’, 4.1 (2023).

is carried out for various purposes. Data analysis was carried out at the beginning of the research to help formulate the problem and focus of the research.

Then as the research progressed, data analysis was conducted to focus and validate the results. The data was then analyzed at the end of the research to conclude. In qualitative research, data analysis steps include:

1. Data Reduction

Data reduction is the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming the data that appears in the observation sheet or written transcription.⁷ Field reports is reduced and summarized, the crucial components will be chosen and focused on the most relevant aspects, and themes or patterns will be explored. During the study process, data is constantly being reduced. The researcher chooses and discards information discovered from interviews and field observations, then writes small notes.

2. Data Display

Displaying data that specifically makes it easier for researchers to understand the big picture or a particular research area. In this case, Miles and Huberman stated that what is most often used to present data in qualitative research is narrative text. By displaying data, it will be easier to understand what happened and plan further work based on what is understood.⁸ In this study, the data display consists of information about the implementation and problems of teachers in implementing the Merdeka Curriculum in learning English. In presenting the data, the researcher compiled the data systematically to get conclusions as research findings. The data displayed in this study includes details about the teacher's implementation of the Merdeka Curriculum for learning English and any problems they may have

⁷M Meisin, S Zulaiha, and T Meldina, 'Problematika Guru dalam Menerapkan Kurikulum Merdeka Belajar pada Siswa Kelas I dan IV di SDN 17 Rejang Lebong', 2022 <<http://e-theses.iaincurup.ac.id/id/eprint/1923%0Ahttp://etheses.iaincurup.ac.id/1923/1/Meisin%281%29.pdf>>.

⁸ M Meisin, S Zulaiha, and T Meldina, 'Problematika Guru dalam Menerapkan Kurikulum Merdeka Belajar pada Siswa Kelas I dan IV di SDN 17 Rejang Lebong', 2022 <<http://e-theses.iaincurup.ac.id/id/eprint/1923%0Ahttp://etheses.iaincurup.ac.id/1923/1/Meisin%281%29.pdf>>.

had doing so. The researcher systematically collected the data to make conclusions as study findings.

3. Drawing Conclusion and Verification

Drawing conclusions is the process of drawing content from the collected data in the form of good statements and clear data. Verification means testing the validity of temporary conclusions which show that after getting the data, it is analyzed continuously and its validity is verified.⁹ Researchers make an effort to find out and look for trends, themes, relationships, and similarities, as well as other characteristics that frequently occur and are outlined in tentative conclusions. But from varied facts, conclusions will be drawn through a constant verification process.

G. Research Ethical Considerations

After obtaining consent and permission from the participants, this study was conducted in accordance with the approved research principles, including:

1. Show respect for everyone's viewpoint.
2. The researcher protects the participant's confidentiality.
3. Enable fair sharing of opinions among the participants.
4. Before concluding the study, obtain participant consent.
5. The goals and objectives of the study were clearly explained before the research began, preventing participant misunderstandings is not.
6. All research-related communications must be made in an honest, open, and non-coercive manner.

⁹ M Meisin, S Zulaiha, and T Meldina, 'Problematika Guru dalam Menerapkan Kurikulum Merdeka Belajar pada Siswa Kelas I dan IV di SDN 17 Rejang Lebong', 2022 <<http://e-theses.iaincurup.ac.id/id/eprint/1923%0Ahttp://e-theses.iaincurup.ac.id/1923/1/Meisin%281%29.pdf>>.