

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the methodology used in this study. It starts with the research design that will be followed by time and place of the study, participant of the study, data collection method, data analysis procedures.

3.1 Research design

The study is focuses on the use of punctuation in students' descriptive text. To conduct this study, the writer used a descriptive study through cross-sectional design. This method is dependent to the instrument for measurement and observation to describe some phenomena of interest of the researcher. This is in line what Knupfer and McLellan (2001) said that:

“The nature of descriptive research is heavily dependent on instrumentation for measurement and observation. Once the instruments are developed, they can be used to describe phenomena of interest to the researchers.”

This study is to find out the occurrences of the use of punctuations in SMA IT Darul Hikmah Bekasi. This study applies cross-sectional design in which this study tries to find out the most frequency of the use of punctuations in SMA IT Darul Hikmah Bekasi through students' descriptive text and questionnaire. Polit et al (2001) stated that cross-sectional design “indicates the phenomena under study are captured as a particular point in time during one-data collection period”. Therefore, the study did not describe the cause whether the students could use punctuations in proper way or not in their writing.

In this research the writer also use homogeneous sampling. According to Patton (1990) a homogeneous sample is one in which the researcher chooses participants who are alike. Furthermore, all students in this study are male and they are in a certain age group. It

is because of the policy in SMA IT Darul Hikmah (YAPIDH) Bekasi that the students who are male and female are separated. So, the writer chooses male students.

3.2 Time and place of the study

The study was conducted in SMA IT YAPIDH Bekasi and the writer collected the data started at 3 until 7 June 2013. The time consideration was chosen due to the effectiveness of teaching-learning activities period (Kegiatan Belajar Mengajar) at that school.

3.3 Participant of the study

The participants of the study are senior high school students year 10 of SMA IT Darul Hikmah (YAPIDH) Bekasi during the instructional year 2012/2013. The writer focuses on finding out and describing the occurrence of the use of punctuation in English writing in SMA IT YAPIDH Bekasi. The reason of the writer chooses students in Senior High School because in this level they learn much about writing than students in Junior High School.

3.4 Data Collection

In investigating the use of the punctuations, the collection of data is needed. In this study, the data are collected using students' descriptive text, questionnaires and interviews.

3.4.1 Students' Descriptive Text

The writer takes 27 students' descriptive text from year 10 students in SMA IT Darul Hikmah (YAPIDH) Bekasi as the sample. The writer choose the

data sample of this study is to have objective result towards the use of punctuation in English writing since students in senior high school learn much about writing.

3.4.2 Questionnaires

The sample which is the year 10 students in SMA IT Darul Hikmah (YAPIDH) Bekasi consist of 33 students are given the questionnaire. The questionnaire attempts to explore students' knowledge about punctuations.

3.5 Data Analysis Procedures

The procedures of data collection in this study are as follows:

1. The 27 samples of students' descriptive text at SMA Darul Hikmah Bekasi were read to find out the occurrences of the use punctuations in students' descriptive text.
2. The 33 students' questionnaire were read and categorized in the table.
3. The occurrences of the use punctuations found in the students' descriptive texts were counted and categorized in the bar graph. The categories are period, comma, hyphen, colon, quotation mark, parentheses, exclamation mark, and apostrophe.
4. The occurrences of the use punctuations found in the students' descriptive texts were analyzed whether appropriate or not. It revealed in the bar graph.

3.6 Data analysis

In analyzing the research, There are 27 students' descriptive text, 33 statements of questionnaire that has related to the knowledge about punctuations. The main data were collected from students' descriptive text. After collecting the data, the writer analyzed the

use of punctuation in students' descriptive texts. Next, the writer described the occurrence of the use of punctuations by using bar graph.

After finishing working on the bar graph of all students' descriptive text, the writer described the occurrences of comma and period by grouping them into three levels: low, medium, and high. The level is determined by assessing their writing tasks. The writer does assessment by checking the content of their writing and the amount of punctuations that they use in their writing task. Then, the writer gives blue color bar graph for appropriate occurrences and red color bar graph for inappropriate occurrences.

In this study, questionnaire helped the writer in finding supporting data of the frequency of the use of punctuation in students' descriptive text.

