CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODS

In this chapter, the researcher will enlighten the research method which she used in collecting and analyzing the data. This chapter consists of research approach, subject of the study, instrument, data and data source, data collection, and data analysis.

3.1 Research Approach

In conducting this study, the researcher applied descriptive research to analyze the data which she has collected. According to Santika (2014: 24) Descriptive approach is taken as the analysis is about discussing, analyzing and finding the linguistic features of BVE. The collected data were utterances. The researcher used this method because she wanted to gain a deep understanding by giving rich description of the Black Vernacular English which is used by Bigger Thomas in Richard Wright’s Native son.

3.2 Subjects of the Study

The subject of this study was Bigger Thomas as the main character. Therefore, the researcher analyzed Bigger Thomas’ utterances while having conversation with the other characters. The researcher selected only Bigger Thomas as her subject because he is the main character in the Native son novel. From book one, two and three, Bigger Thomas often appear in the
conversation. And because of his emerge in conversation regularly, he automatically often apply Black Vernacular English.

3.3 Instrument

Arikunto in Santika (2014: 25) states that instrument as a tool or a means that the researcher used to collect the data. In this study, the instrument is the researcher herself who collected and analyzed the data. In descriptive research, the researcher is the most important instrument for gathering and analyzing the data. The researcher collected and then she analyzed the utterances which were containing Black Vernacular English.

3.4 Data and Data Source

In this study, the researcher’s data was utterances in conversation in the novel which is done by the main character, Bigger Thomas. The researcher selected the data from the novel entitled “Native Son” which is written by Richard Wright. Native Son was immediate best-seller novel, selling 250,000 hardcover copies within three weeks of its publication by “the Book-of-the-Month Club” on March 1, 1940 (Wikipedia.com). It was one of the earliest successful attempts to explain the racial divide in America in terms of the social conditions imposed on African-Americans by the dominant white society. It also made Wright the wealthiest black writer of his time and established him as a spokesperson for African-American issues, and the "father of Black American literature."
3.5 Data Collection

In collecting the data, the researcher took the following procedures. First was reading the novel many times and understanding it well to avoid misunderstanding before doing next step. The second was highlighting words which containing Black Vernacular English in the dialogue which uttered by Bigger Thomas. And in order to make simple, the researcher stated it in numbered.

a. The first was reading and understanding the novel.

b. Highlights words which containing BVE in the dialogue which uttered by Bigger Thomas.

3.6 Data Analysis

In data analysis the researcher applied content analysis as her method. “Content analysis was a method data analysis that identifies data by selecting utterances from a text, which are then classified and group together (Heigham & Croker, 2009, p. 307)”. After collecting the data, the researcher has done some steps to analyze the data. First, the writer categorizes the utterances in Native son novel produced by Bigger Thomas into syntactical and phonological features. “Category was a process in data analysis by grouping together related codes, either as examples or component of a particular concept, (Heigham & Croker, 2009, p. 307)“ . The second step was coding the specific features based on syntactical and phonological features in the form of
table. “Coding was one aspect of data analysis. When the researchers code, they are trying to make sense of the data by systematically looking through it, clustering or grouping together similar data, (Heigham & Croker, 2009, p. 308)“. Then, the researcher put the data into the table based on the criteria. After that, the researcher counted the frequency of the data into percentage. And then the researcher started to interpret the data and make conclusion.

In summary there were some steps of the data analysis:

a. Categorized the utterances in *Native son* novel produced by Bigger Thomas into syntactical and phonological features.

b. Coding the specific features based on syntactical and phonological features in the form of table. For example:

- AC: Absence of copula – be
- O’s: Omission of –s in third person singular
- Ain’t: The use of Ain’t
- DN: Double Negation

c. Put the data based on the table.

d. Counted the frequency of the data into percentage.

The formula to count the percentage of each features of BVE is:

\[
\text{percentage} = \frac{\text{total data of each feature}}{\text{total all data collected}} \times 100
\]
The use of Ain’t is appeared in the novel as many as 61 times and the total data is 206. So, we can count as follow:

\[
\frac{61}{206} \times 100 = 29.61\%
\]

e. Interpreting the data.

f. Drawing conclusion.