

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

3.1. Research Design and Method

This study employed by qualitative research design using thematic analysis as method (Braun & Clark, 2006). Thematic analysis based on Braun & Clarke (2006), they explained that this method is used to identify, analyze, and report the pattern or theme from the data. This study was designed to investigate international students' perceptions on students buddies' intercultural communication competence during the accommodation searching in Yogyakarta.

3.2. Research Setting and Participants

The participants of this research were two Australian undergraduate students who are taking Development Studies Immersion Program at *Australian Consortium for In-Country Indonesian Studies* in the same academic year under the support of *The New Colombo Plan*. *The New Colombo Plan* (NCP) is a signature initiative of the Australian Government, which aims to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific region in Australia by supporting Australian undergraduate students to study and undertake internships in the region. The NCP involves a prestigious scholarship program for study and a flexible mobility grant program for both short and longer term of study. Both participants are required to achieve academic

credits in Gadjah Mada University and to live in Yogyakarta for one semester. The participants chosen by the researcher are based on the consideration of their status where Nakula is a New Colombo Plan scholar from University of New South Wales and Sadewa is a New Colombo Plan mobility grant from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University. During the orientation, the participants experienced the accommodation searching process alongside the buddies within 4 days in the official schedule. For that reason, the participants have substantial information to help the researcher in understanding the focus of the study as they are relevant for their fresh impression and unbiased information toward their buddies, and open to discuss their experience with the buddies which is related to intercultural communication competence. Notably, it is also important to highlight that the participants' names are mentioned as sojourners.

3.3 Technique of Data Collection and Research Instrument

The researcher used an in-depth interview as the instrument of the study. A semi-structured interview was used by the researcher where the research questions had been conceptualized before the interview session. This in-depth interview would emphasize how the international students perceive their buddies' intercultural communication competence based on their experience during the accommodation searching. The researcher considered in-depth interview as the main instrument for it not only facilitates the researcher in order to get deeper knowledge and complete illustration of the event, but also

to further ask for confirmation about certain contexts that are necessary for the research. More importantly, this technique seemed to be suitable and matched with the characteristics of the participants who are open, willing, and elaborative in regard to the research interview. Therefore, the researcher only used interview as a main source data.

The interview session was arranged as one-by-one interview where the researcher interviewed face to face in the same place but different time. The entire interview process was recorded by using voice recording. Before the interview session was approved by ACICIS, the researcher needed to submit a data collection permit to the ACICIS board officer. Afterwards, the resident director informed the researcher that the document of the interview questions was necessary to be reviewed. Once the resident director approved the interview questions, the researcher should wait for ACICIS manager's recommendation for students as the participants. Furthermore, the researcher contacted directly to the students to talk about the research and their consent for the research. It is essential to mark that the entire process of approval took one and a half month before the interview. The interview was scheduled on Saturday at 10th of August 2019 in their boarding house. The interview with Sadewa was finished around 08.35 AM for 30 minutes 14 seconds and with Nakula was around 09.15 AM for 14 minutes 53 seconds.

Table 1 Interview Question

Subject	Foundation	Concept	Questions
Intercultural Communication Competence	Intercultural awareness	Individual's ability to learn cultural similarities and differences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How did you know about Indonesian culture especially in Special Region of Yogyakarta? 2. How did your buddy provide the information? 3. How did he/she explain to you about the similarities and differences about Indonesian and Australian culture?
	Intercultural sensitivity	Individual's ability to improve a positive emotion towards understanding and appreciating cultural differences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have you and your buddy ever experienced miscommunication about topics that are sensitive? How do you comply that? 2. How did your buddy respond to that? 3. How did your buddy react to different cultural understanding between the two countries?
	Intercultural adroitness	Individual's ability to do behavioral effectiveness and appropriateness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did you find your buddy's behavior unacceptable or offensive? How was it? 2. Would you mind describing any experiences if you have inappropriate treatment from your buddy? 3. How is your buddy reaction when you acknowledge or aware that s/he was doing inappropriate treatment