# CHAPTER III

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

## A. Research Method

The method of this research was descriptive method, because the researcher intended to have a description about condition of students that happened in this present time. A description about students' attitude towards learning English language based on gender, the eighth grade students' condition of SMPN 1 Boyan Tanjung in the academic year of 2015/2016. According to Ross (2005: 3), "Descriptive Research provides information about conditions, situations, and events that occur in the present". It meant that the result of this descriptive research would show the real situation or condition of the population of this research. Meanwhile, Singh (2006: 105) stated that there were four main objectives of descriptive research as follows:

1. To identify present conditions and point to present needs
2. To study immediate status of a phenomenon
3. Facts findings
4. To examine the relationships of traits and characteristics (trends and patterns)

According to that expalanation, from four main objectives of descriptive research, the first (to identify present condition and point to

present needs) was considered by researcher as the point or cause to use descriptive as method of this research.

## B. Research Population and Sample

1. Population

Population was a target of researcher to do study that had the same characteristic. "A population is a group of individuals who have the same characteristic" (Cresswell, 2012: 142). According to this explanation, population of this research was the eighth grade students of SMPN 1 Boyan Tanjung in the academic year of 2015/2016 which were divided into three classes, they were VIII A, VIII B and VIII C. From all these three classes, there were 36 female students and 35 male students.

2. Sampling Technique

The sample of this research would represent the population. "A sample is a subgroup of the target population that the researcher plans to study for generalizing about the target population" (Cresswell, 2012: 142). Considering this explanation, the sample that researcher took would give information about the whole population of this research. The sample would represent condition of the whole students in the population of the eighth grade students.

Researcher would take the sample through stratified sampling. Cohen, *et al*, (2005: 101) explain "Stratified sampling involves dividing the population into homogenous groups, each group

containing subjects with similar characteristics". Accordingly, researcher would choose the sample by firstly dividing into characteristic that was important or being purpose for the research, and in this research was gender that was defined as male and female.

So, in choosing the sample, researcher would use stratified sampling which was by dividing the population into two groups first, male and female groups. After that, researcher would measure the homogenity to know that the sample was homogeneous. Homogenity test of each group would take data from students' daily scores and would be measured by Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

## C. Research Procedure

Firstly, researcher prepared for questionnaires that would be given to the students as the way to collect data. After that, researcher would come to the target school to get meeting with the English teacher and ask for the document of students' daily scores to be measured its homogeninity. For the next, researcher would come into every class in the eighth grade of SMPN 1 Boyan Tanjung and researcher would explain clearly about researcher's purposes, ways to answer the questionnaire. Next, researcher would spread the questionnaires to the students, and surely would control the students during answering the questionnaire. If all data had been taken from all classes in the eighth grade, researcher would analyze the data. The final step of conducting this research would be write

the results of students' attitude towards learning English language based on gender and also the difference between male and female students' attitude towards learning English language.

## D. Technique and Tool of Data Collection

1. Technique of Data Collection

   The researcher would use indirect communication technique because it was the suitable technique of collecting data formed as descriptive which used questionnaire as the research instrument. This meant that the technique of data collection that would be applied in this research was indirect communication technique.

2. Tool of Data Collection

   Based on the research purposes, researcher would analyse the level of attitude that the Eighth Grade students of SMPN 1 Boyan Tanjung had towards Learning English Language. So, in this research, researcher decided to use questionnaire as the tool for collecting data. According to Brown (2001: 6) cited in Dornyei (2010: 3-4), "Questionnaires are any written instruments that present respondents with a series of questions or statements to which they are to react either by writing out their answers or selecting from among existing answers". Accordingly, through a questionnaire the researcher gave options that students could choose and from all the items answered

would be concluded as students' attitude. So, students would get statements and answer by choosing the exist answers.

Researcher had chosen the appropriate tool to collect data that was needed for this research. According to Richard (1995: 10, cited in Kitjaroonchai, 2014: 9) who states "The questionnaire method has proved to be a useful way(s) of gathering information about affective dimensions of teaching and learning such as beliefs, motivation, attitudes, and preference". It meant that questionnaire was the suitable one tool to collect data of attitude for this research.

Questionnaire would be used in this research as instrument or tool of collecting data which focused on the attitudes toward learning English language. The questionnaire items were modified from Abidin (2012), who had adapted questionnaire items from the Attitude and Motivation Test Battery (AMTB) developed by Gardner (1985). The questionnaire that researcher chose was suitable for getting data relate to students' attitude towards learning English language.

There were 21 statements or items in the questionnaire. The scale that was used was five points Likert Scale (Dornyei, 2010: 27), and the scale items on a scale 1 to 5, ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree where 1 meant strongly disagree, 2 meant disagree, 3 meant neutral, 4 meant agree and 5 meant strongly agree. The questionnaire included 14 positive statements and seven negative statements. Furthermore, it had to be noted that the questionnaire items were

translated into Bahasa in order to ensure that all the participants would be able to understand the statements correctly.

## E. Technique of Data Analysis

The data would be collected from students' result in filling the questionnaire. In analyzing students' attitude from the questionnaire, researcher would have the steps as follows:

1. In order to find out the answers of the first and second research questions, researcher would analyze through statistical analysis in term of percentage, means and standard deviation by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Analysis of the mean score of students in answering the questionnaire would show the level of attitude students had. To interpret the mean score, researcher adopted the interpreting procedure developed by Chaihiranwattana & Nookua (2010, cited in Kitjaroonchai, 2014: 10):

| Mean levels: | Score Range |
|---|---|
| Very positive | 4.21 - 5.00 |
| Positive | 3.41 - 4.20 |
| Neutral | 2.61 - 3.40 |
| Negative | 1.81 - 2.60 |
| Very negative | 1.00 – 1.80 |

The mean score indicated the level of the students' attitude: the highest score (4.21 - 5.00) indicated that students had very positive attitude, about 3.41 to 4.20 indicated that students had positive attitude,

while 2.61 to 3.40 indicated that students had neutral attitude. Next, the negative attitude towards learning English language was about 1.81 to 2.60, the last was about 1.00 to 1.80 indicated the very negative attitude towards learning English language.

Formula for mean score:

$$\bar{x} = \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \ldots + x_n}{n}$$

Where:
$\bar{x}$ = Mean score
$x_1$ = Mean score student 1
$x_2$ = Mean score student 2
$x_n$ = Mean score others (so on)
n = Number of students

After getting the level of attitude students had, there would be interpretation or description by using percentage as additional description for students' attitude. The percentage would be used to describe the number of participants who state agreed, strongly agreed, disagreed, strongly disagreed or neutral towards each statement or item in the questionnaire. The researcher calculated the data in percentage by using formula that was suggested by Arikunto (2006) cited in Yovita (2015) as bellow:

$$P = \frac{f}{n} x\ 100\%$$

Where:
P = Percentage
*f* = Number of students who answered
*n* = Numbers of all students

2. Then for the third research question, reseacrher would be analyzing through independent sample t-test, which would show whether any significant difference between the eighth grade male and female students of SMPN 1 Boyan Tanjung. Researcher would use independent sample t-test because independent sample t-test would compare the average values of male and female for this research. According to Urdan, (2005: 89), "using independent sample t-test is when the researcher wants to compare the means of two independent samples on a given variable". According to this explanation, in this research, independent sample t-test would be used to asses the difference in attitude by gender that defined as male and female, independent sample t-test would assess the difference in attitude between male and female of the eighth grade students. Furthermore, to asses whether there were significant differences, researcher would consider:

   if the Sig. Score < 0,05 the difference was significant

   if the Sig. Score > 0,05 the difference was not significant

   Urdan (2005: 62)

   This analysis would be conducted by using Statistical Package For Social Sciences (SPSS) computer software too. In using independent sample t-test, this computer software would compute means, standard error, t value and the significant difference that could be interpreted as

the result (Ary, *et al*, 2010: 171). The formula for independent sample t-test:

$$t = \frac{\overline{X}_1 - \overline{X}_2}{S_{X1-X2}}$$

Where:

$S_{X1-X2}$ : Standard error of the difference between two means

$\overline{X}_1 - \overline{X}_2$ : Deviation score in group 1 and 2