

Historical and Ethnographic Approaches in Qualitative Research

Muhammad Adriansyah Siregar¹, Muhammad Amin¹, Niswatul Azizah Nasution¹,
Rahma Winanda¹, Syfa Nailul Husnah¹, Nur Hasanah¹, Andriyadi Marta¹,
Putri Syahri¹

¹ Al Washliyah University Medan, Indonesia

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Abstract: As an effort to carry out research, research methods have a very important role in getting answers to the problems being researched. In addition, research also occupies the most important position with regard to science, which means that this step is aimed at developing and continuing research in the future so that it does not become extinct. In qualitative research, there are many methods used to collect data as research sources, both from text and non-text. The results of qualitative research are generally in the form of a research design based on the findings of previous researchers and are not in the form of statistical figures. Qualitative research is explanatory in nature and leads to an analytical approach that emphasizes facts on the problems studied and is also known as a method that proceeds from a specific discussion to a general focus. This process is then highlighted in qualitative research to thoroughly explain the series and results of the research so that it is easy for researchers and academics to understand.

Keywords: Ethnographic, Historical, Qualitative Research

I. INTRODUCTION

The development of science from time to time is in line with the development of human civilization patterns. In order to find out what happened, of course, new knowledge is needed based on the research that has been carried out. Therefore, according to Basrowi & Kelvin, qualitative research is very dependent on existing scientific developments to study the phenomenon being researched (Suwandi, 2008). This dependence is a manifestation of the purpose of qualitative research which focuses its research on understanding conditions, then is directed to explain thoroughly and centrally the actual situation in the field of study.

Another view on qualitative research came from Yusanto, who stated that in qualitative research there are many approaches so that researchers can choose an approach that is appropriate to the object of research (Yusanto, 2019). Furthermore, Yulianty & Jufri stated that for researchers who use qualitative research, they must carry out careful data analysis so that the data obtained can be re-analyzed and able to produce a good study to be used as a reference source for further research (Puspa Dewi Yulianty, 2020).

With regard to qualitative research, of course there are several research approaches that are often used, such as the historical research approach and the ethnographic research approach. The historical research approach is to carry out data collection as a whole about the truth of the research object in order to make it easier for further researchers to carry out research based on the results of current research and can be criticized again so that it is more focused (Winarno Surakhmad, 2003).

Whereas in an ethnographic research approach, researchers seek to extract information from a state of the research object such as society, culture and society. The use of this ethnographic research approach also aims to provide a detailed understanding of the research results. However, in practice, of course it is not as easy as one might imagine, considering that there are rules that must be included as well as several academic rules that must be heeded by the researcher so that in the end the validity of the research can really be accounted for (Rahmawati, 2016).

Guidelines in a study are required to be able to provide an explanation of how researchers can understand a problem and the characteristics of the test used as a tool to answer research problems (Mulyadi, 2012). Different ways of looking at systematics used as research guidelines will have an influence on the steps in compiling a research design. As a result, it will make a difference in formulating

research problems, determining techniques for collecting data, determining techniques for analyzing data, and so on (Warul Walidin, 2015).

II. METHOD

The qualitative research in this article uses library research, which is a method of collecting data that requires understanding and studying many theories from various literature about research. In Zed's view, there are four stages in the study of literature, including preparing complete research tools, compiling a working bibliography, managing research time well, reading more and more appropriate research reference sources and formulating what is needed in research (Zed, 2017). While the analytical method in qualitative research uses content analysis and explanatory analysis. Literature sources obtained from many references can be analyzed in depth and focused to be able to support the idea of what is being built therein.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Qualitative research relies on post-positivism philosophy which is used as a natural research target, researchers take part as the main work tool, sorting research samples, data sources used are random and rotating sampling types, steps in collecting data using combined techniques, analyzing data is general to the specific as well as the research results obtained emphasize the giving of meaning in general (Sugiyono, 2011). With these steps, the results of qualitative research have the potential to provide research results as new estimators for further research.

Qualitative research describes its own objectives which can be seen from the following aspects, namely;

- 1) Describe the object under study so that it can be interpreted by making documentation in the form of photos, videos, descriptions and brief explanations. Describing this object is usually in the form of events, social connectedness, socio-religious activities and so on.
- 2) Bringing up its own understanding behind the events studied by conducting in-depth interviews and direct observation.
- 3) Can provide an explanation of the events under study such as social conditions which are sometimes not in accordance with what should be the goal and core of the problem so that it requires a detailed and systematic explanation (Setiawan, 2018). Giving a rebuttal is deemed necessary to avoid misunderstandings, misunderstandings and misconceptions (Suwendra, 2018).

For a researcher or a group of researchers in carrying out a series of research activities it is required to understand and be familiar with the character of the research itself in order to facilitate the research process. As we all know that qualitative research seeks to explain actual events by paying attention to natural understanding again in order to produce research that can be widely accepted. Some of the characteristics of this research include the basic problems, the researcher as a key work tool, can be explained well, emphasizes the process not the results obtained, data analysis from the general to the specific and can be interpreted properly (Fadli, 2021).

In qualitative research itself, there are several approaches used to solve problems in research. Here are two of them, namely:

1. ethnographic

The ethnographic research approach focuses research on social areas such as language and culture. Creswell states that *ethnographic designs are a qualitative research procedure for describing, analyzing and interpreting a cultural-sharing group's shared patterns of behavior, beliefs and language that develop over time* (Creswell, 2008). The characteristic of the ethnographic approach is that it directly involves the researcher in the process. For an ethnographer researcher, what is found in research cannot be separated from the location specifically studied and which environment is used as the research background. In

simple terms, it can be concluded that the ethnographic approach cannot simply ignore the circumstances in which the actions or statements of the object of research are themselves (Marvasti, 2004).

Traditionally with regard to post-structuralists, an ethnographer at the beginning of research occupies a position as the center of research moving to be marginalized in research (*decentering the center*). This means that researchers who have written down the results of their research are expected to be able to present research conclusions without dictating the actual situation in the ethnographic work. As for the reader, he is required to be able to re-narrate the text by having a dialogue with what he has learned and finding the truth of research results by carrying out reflection on an ethnographic work.

If in relation to the ethnographic research approach to post-modernism, then in this case the ethnographic approach does not only target an object. In an effort to provide a picture of the actual situation, it can be interpreted as a futile job because this description is considered not in line with the subjectivity of the researcher. This can be seen from the pattern of writing proposals, collecting data, filtering data to proceed to analysis. Therefore, the ethnographic approach to post-modernism emphasizes rhetoric rather than objections as a critique of the object of research. Whereas with regard to the presentation of research results using an ethnographic approach, it will be seen that there is no connection with the research results of an object alone, but more than that leads to the presentation and results of analysis that are appropriate in word processing (Ahimsa-Putra, 2015).

The ethnographic research approach is divided into two commonly used forms, namely (Creswell, 2008):

- a. Realist ethnography; is a research approach often used by cultural anthropologists. Ethnography of this form reflects a certain attitude that the researcher acquires towards the individual being studied. This form of ethnography also looks at an object by looking at the situation, the habits of third party views and objective reporting of information obtained at the research location. In addition, research reports with an ethnographic approach are neatly arranged, not mixed with other research biases, politics and personal points of view. Besides that, it also produces a new point of view for observers who are directly involved in it without changing any of the existing conclusions.
- b. critical ethnography; is a form of approach in which the author seeks to fight for the existence of minority groups or those who are considered minorities and marginalized from an existing community group. In it, there are related factors such as investigation of social problems regarding power, always being careful when entering and leaving research locations, striving for correct and conscious understanding, positioning oneself correctly, impartially and reports on the results of this ethnographic approach can be placed in various levels of knowledge (Angela Cora Garcia, 2009).

2. Historical

The historical research approach focuses research in the field of social sciences to provide assistance in understanding the identity and perspective of a person who refers to narrative texts and can be heard or spoken. In addition, the historical research approach is also used as a way to critically investigate a story in the past and produce explanations and interpretations that are in accordance with actual events. In general, this historical approach becomes a research tool known as a heuristic, criticism of a source, one's view of an event and the history that was carried out by previous people.

Sukardi stated that the historical research approach is definitely related to the collection and evaluation of data which is carried out in a coherent manner, starting with re-testing previous hypotheses regarding their causes, effects and current developments in order to support the acquisition of information in order to be able to predict future events (Sukardi, 2003).

In line with Sukardi's opinion above, Narbuko and Achmadi, stated that the historical research approach is aimed at repeating past events in a coherent and open manner, through collecting, evaluating and verifying data until it is arranged sequentially. All of these historical findings are then summarized into historical facts so that later they can be used as projections that are interrelated (Achmadi, 2015).

The use of this approach in research, especially in qualitative research, is of course driven by several scientific reasons, such as:

- 1) Data acquisition is a very basic effort and is caused by reality, not the result of anyone's engineering.
- 2) Reviews of research results and discussion are carried out in depth. Therefore, the involvement of researchers in it is a factor that is highlighted sharply.
- 3) There is more than one view and are more open to the information obtained from participants. This shows the democratic side of a research that uses a historical approach.
- 4) Be realistic. This indicates that a fact cannot be changed as a whole because it has been conditioned by qualitative methods (Sugiarti, 2020).

Apart from that, there are also other benefits of this qualitative research, namely that it can reduce the symptoms of research that are not measurable. This is caused by qualitative research which places the research object in its true position. The object itself also cannot be reduced to specific numbers in qualitative research. Therefore, the main role of qualitative research lies with the researchers themselves so that the results of the research carried out are getting better and can answer the challenges of the times. Moreover, if qualitative research is associated with the field of education which of course leads to providing an in-depth understanding of the processes, procedures, forms, types, steps, life arrangements, approaches, methods, strategies, assessments and evaluations in them (Choiri, 2019).

IV. CONCLUSION

As a form of research, qualitative research must have qualities related to the activities, circumstances and research materials in it. This means that qualitative research emphasizes a thorough explanation, can be explained in more detail and is able to provide an explanation of a person's attitude or behavior.

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