

Chapter III

Research Method

3.1 Research Design

This study applied a descriptive qualitative design as suggested by Atkinson et al. (2010), in identifying the use of swear words in Australia. This descriptive research addressed the phenomenon related to swear words that were used in daily communication in Australian English. In this study, the swear words were identified, analyzed, and described qualitatively. It provided complex details about particular phenomena that were difficult to express using quantitative methods. The purpose was to determine the linguistic forms, functions, and references that described Australian swear words. Descriptive qualitative research was a method that could be measured realistically and accurately (Atkinson et al., 2010). Qualitative descriptive research displayed data as it was without processing manipulation or other treatments.

3.2 Subjects and Object of Research

The primary objective of this study was to analyze the swear words used by the participants in their daily speech. The object of this study was Australian English swear words. Swear word use in daily communication was identified, analyzed, and described to determine the linguistic forms, functions, and references.

The subjects in this research were native Australian English speakers. One participant was chosen as the primary informant, while the other two were designated as secondary informants 1 and 2. These participants were selected based on specific criteria. The three selected informants provided richer data and a clearer view of the phenomenon

being investigated. As supported by Hernández-Campoy (2014), working with several informants was more beneficial for the researcher. The criteria for selecting the ideal informants were as follows:

- a. Native Australian Residents: All participants were native-born residents of Australia.
- b. Australian English Accent: They spoke with a native Australian English accent.
- c. Age Range: The participants' ages ranged from 20 to 65 years.
- d. Availability: They had sufficient time to participate in interviews.
- e. Willingness: They were willing to serve as informants.
- f. Cultural Understanding: They had a strong understanding of Australian culture.
- g. Language Proficiency: They were fluent in Australian English.
- h. Limited International Travel: They had not lived outside of Australia for extended periods (Samarin, 1981).

3.3 Research Setting

Interviews were a crucial research method for gathering data that might have been inaccessible through other means (Merriam & Tisdell, 2016). Prior to conducting the interviews, the researcher delved into personal experiences and opinions. Researchers could acquire specific information by posing direct questions, as this study investigated the use of Australian swear words. The researcher paid close attention to unsolicited statements and recorded relevant information that aligned with the study's objectives.

To gain more data, the researcher used document analysis. Document analysis was a qualitative research method that involved the systematic examination of documents to extract meaningful data relevant to a research question. This method enabled

researchers to analyze textual, visual, or audio materials, such as policies, reports, or personal diaries, to uncover patterns, themes, and insights. It was particularly useful in triangulating data with other sources and understanding historical or contextual aspects of a phenomenon. While document analysis was cost-effective and non-intrusive, its reliability depended on the quality and authenticity of the documents used (Bowen, 2009).

This research employed document analysis and interviews as data collection methods. Document analysis was conducted to identify swear words, which were then included in a questionnaire to obtain confirmation from informants. Subsequently, in-depth interviews were conducted with primary informants. Additional information from primary informants was verified by secondary informants. However, if the acquired data proved sufficient, the data collection process concluded with the secondary informant.

3.4 Method of Data Collection

Interviews were a crucial research method for gathering data that might have been inaccessible through other means (Merriam & Tisdell, 2016). Prior to conducting the interviews, the researcher delved into personal experiences and opinions. Researchers could acquire specific information by posing direct questions, as this study investigated the use of Australian swear words. The researcher paid close attention to unsolicited statements and recorded relevant information that aligned with the study's objectives.

3.5 Sampling Technique

Convenience sampling was a non-probability sampling method in which participants were selected based on their accessibility and availability to the researcher.

It had been widely used in exploratory research due to its cost-effectiveness and ease of implementation. However, this technique was prone to selection bias and limited the generalizability of findings because the sample might not have adequately represented the target population (Etikan, Musa, & Alkassim, 2016). Despite its limitations, convenience sampling was useful in scenarios where time and resources were constrained.

3.6 Instruments

In collecting the data, this study used five instruments. One instrument was categorized as the main instrument, and the others were categorized as additional instruments. The instruments included the researcher, interview guide, and observation sheet. The data were obtained through conducting both observation and interview sessions.

3.6.1 The Researcher

The researcher was the main instrument of the study because the researcher played a crucial role and was the key to the qualitative research. The researcher participated in the research process by collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. In this qualitative research, the role of the researcher was to access the thoughts and feelings of study participants (Sutton & Austin, 2015). The researcher had the opportunity to build the trust of research subjects by having short and interesting conversations, which enabled the participants to feel more relaxed and convey the information in detail and accurately. During the process of interviews and observations, the researcher recorded the research data, and after that, she collected and interpreted the data.

3.6.2 Note taking

Note-taking was a crucial instrument in the document analysis method, serving as a structured way to record, organize, and interpret information extracted from documents. It involved systematically writing down key points, themes, patterns, and observations that were relevant to the research question. This process helped researchers capture essential details and insights during the analysis.

3.6.3 Questionnaire

A questionnaire **was** a structured instrument used in research to gather data from respondents. The swear word data that **had been obtained** **was** confirmed by the informant through a questionnaire. The questionnaire **contained** several swear words that **were confirmed** by checking the "yes" or "no" column for each swear word to verify whether the data **was** really a swear word or not.

3.6.4 Interview Guide

An interview guide **was** a very important instrument for researchers because it **made** it easier for them to collect data. The interview guide **consisted** of several questions related to the purpose of the research posed to the informant. The list of questions that **were asked** included the topic of this research, which **was** the use of swear words in Australia. The researcher **could ask** additional information during the interview process regarding this research.

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

The obtained data **were analyzed** using an interactive model of analysis as suggested by Miles and Huberman (1994). In this model, the data analysis **was carried out** during the data collection process and **continued** until it **was complete** (Asipi et al., 2022).

This data analysis **consisted** of data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing or data verification, as can be seen in the following design.

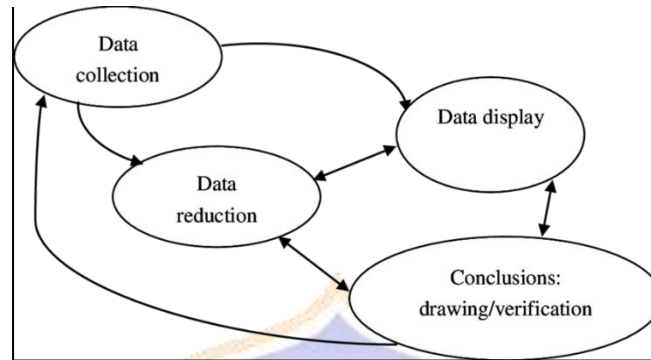


Figure 1. Miles and Huberman Model of Data Analysis (1994)

Miles and Huberman Interactively Data Analysis Model

The explanation of Miles and Huberman interactive data analysis model can describe as follows:

a. Data Collection

Data collection involved the systematic gathering of information through field activities. In this study, data were collected through interviews and analysis of various sources related to swear words used by Australians. This process ensured that comprehensive and relevant information was acquired for the study.

b. Data Reduction

The data were selected, transformed, and simplified to make them more focused and accurate. In this case, the researcher selected the data that were relevant to the objectives of the study.

c. Data Display

Based on the results of data reduction, the selected data were grouped according to the objectives of the study, which included procedures, lexicons, and cultural meanings, using tables and descriptions. The researcher made it easier for the reader to understand the results of the study.

(Table 1. Data Display Table)

No	Swear words	Types of Form	Function	Reference

Explanation of table:

(1st column) : Sequence number of the identified swear words.

(2nd column) : Type of swear word found in Australian English, based on interviews and existing documents.

(3rd column) : Form of the swear word (e.g., word, phrase, clause).

(4th column) : Function of the swear word (e.g., expressing emotion, drawing attention, social identity, aggression, regression)

(5th column) : References related to the swear word (e.g., religion, sex, excrement, mental illness, animal names, personal background).

d. Conclusion drawing or data verification.

In this section, the researcher drew a conclusion based on the data results that had been analyzed. The researcher displayed the number of swear words used by Australians. This conclusion was made based on the results of the observation and interview guide regarding the swear words used by Australians.

3.8 Trustworthiness

Triangulation was highly important for the research, as it involved employing multiple methods or sources to gain a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the research topic. As explained by Denzin (1978) and Patton (1999), triangulation encompassed four primary types: method triangulation, investigator triangulation, theory triangulation, and data source triangulation. Each of these techniques offered unique advantages in validating and strengthening research outcomes. In this research, data source triangulation was used.

a. Data Source Triangulation

To ensure the accuracy and reliability of our research findings, the researcher employed data source triangulation. This involves collecting data from multiple sources, such as interviews with individuals, group discussions, or community observations. It can gain a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the research topic. Data source triangulation helped us identify patterns, inconsistencies, and potential biases in the data, ultimately strengthening the credibility of our conclusions.

b. Method Triangulation

To collect data, we conducted interviews with participants. The collected data analyzed using techniques such as data reduction, display, and verification. By comparing the findings from different participants, we can ensure the accuracy and reliability of our results. Finally, the researcher integrated the data from various sources to develop a comprehensive understanding of the research topic.

3.9 Research Schedule

The research schedule was an important part of the research planning. This schedule helped to organize each stage and the research needs clearly. The research started with preparing a proposal, including the preparations leading up to the deadline for the final submission. The research procedure table can be seen as follows.

