CHAPTER III
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research Paradigm

This study uses the constructivism paradigm, where it is believed that humans construct knowledge. Knowledge cannot simply be acquired by being passed down from one person to another, but the receiver must first process and interpret it themselves.

On constructivism, Suparno (2010) believed that learners themselves build knowledge, socially or personally. Knowledge cannot be transferred from one person to another without the learner actively reasoning and continuously constructing their understanding of a concept to a more detailed, complete, and scientifically accurate form. Teachers only help provide the facilities and situations so that the learner's construction process runs smoothly.

3.2. Type and Nature of Research

This research is qualitative. Qualitative research is an approach that aims to understand the meaning of individuals or groups concerning social and human problems (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The qualitative research process includes research guidelines (questions and procedures,) data collection, data analysis, and interpretation of the meaning of the data. This research is descriptive, namely presenting the findings in a narrative form. The purpose of qualitative research that is descriptive is to provide a complete and detailed picture of a phenomenon (Denzin & Lincoln, 2018).

3.3. Research Methodology

According to Husserl, qualitative research has a phenomenological aspect, but the phenomenological approach cannot be applied to all qualitative research (Padilla-Diaz, 2015). Initially, this theory was used in social science. There are several definitions of phenomenology: the subjective or phenomenological experience and a study of consciousness from a person's perspective. Thus, phenomenology is a study that seeks to analyse descriptively and introspectively

21

all human forms of consciousness and experiences in terms of sensory, conceptual, moral, aesthetic, and religious aspects (Mujib, 2015).

3.4. Data Collection Technique

There are six sources of evidence in collecting data; documents, archival records, interviews, direct observation, exhibition observations, and physical devices. Interviews are conducted face-to-face with participants in person, via telephone, video chat, chat, and electronic mail. The interview technique used is planned-unstructured interviews, where a solid interview plan or schedule is made, but a standard format and sequence are not used.

Interview informants must fulfil these criterias (Spradley, 2016); informants must have been involved with an activity for an extended period with the research subject and are usually characterised by quickly providing information. The informants are still fully engaged and active in the environment and activities about the research subject. Lastly, informants have enough time and opportunity to be asked for information, and informants tend to not prepare in advance and are relatively sincere in providing information.

3.5. Key Informants

Key informants in this study are determined using the purposive sampling technique, in which the selection is deliberately based on predetermined criteria and determined based on research objectives. Considering the objectives and the presence of the honeymoon phase, the criteria for informants in this study include; having been married for at least two years and being a Caucasian-Asian married couple. With all that in mind, the key informants of this research are;

22

Table 3. 1 Key Informants

Rachel	Robert
Rachel is Indonesian, Robert is German. They have been married for over eight years, are currently living in Luxembourg, and have two children	
A	Thomas
Subject A is Indonesian, and Thomas is German-Austrian. They have been married for a little more than two years, live in Singapore, and have a child.	
Anatasia	Samuel
Anatasia is Indonesian, Samuel is British. They live in New Zealand and have been married for more than two years. They have a two-year-old boy	

(Source: Data processed by researcher, 2022)

3.6. Data Validation

A credibility test is required; the triangulation method is used for qualitative research. Triangulation is a technique used in collecting data to obtain more accurate and credible findings and interpretation of data. In this research, the triangulation method consists of information from informants, observation through interviews and online research, and documentation from the interviews and reputable online sources.

3.7. Data Analysis Technique

Data analysis in qualitative research systematically arranges interview transcripts and field notes so that others can interpret the findings. The collected data is simplified in a form that is easier to understand. The research data are analysed using the phenomenological method, which tries to present and understand the meaning behind the data obtained in specific themes. According to Moustakas, the data analysis and interpretation for phenomenology are made by these steps:

1. Start with a description of the informants' experience of the phenomenon.
2. Look for statements (interviews) about how individuals experience the topic (phenomenon), make a list of these statements, treat each statement

23

equally as the same value, and develop a list of statements that are non-repetitive or do not overlap.

3. The statements are then grouped into units and describe the experience, such as what happened and verbatim examples.

4. The researcher then reflects on the description and uses imaginative variation or structural description, looking for all possible meanings and different perspectives, enriching and understanding the framework of the phenomenon, and making descriptions of how the phenomenon is experienced.

5. The researcher then creates an overall description of the meaning and essence of the experience.

6. The individual's textural-structural descriptions then synthesise the textural-structural description of the meaning and essence of experience, integrating all individual textural-structural descriptions into a universal description of the experience, representing the group as a whole.