CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter explains about the research design, data sources, instrument, data collection method, and data analysis.

A. Research design

This is a qualitative research aimed to describe the use of hedges and boosters in the research report background of Indonesian EFL learners. It is a corpus-based study that is using modern technology to identify and classify hedges and boosters more accurately. Manual analysis is also employed in needed cases to double check the hedges and boosters that are generated from the AntConc application. The corpus is used by the researcher to determine the words or phrases of hedges and boosters that are used in the research report background of Indonesian EFL learners, undergraduate, post graduate, and doctoral research reports. Beside that one, the researcher deals with the meaning or function of hedges and boosters that are used in the research report background of Indonesian EFL learners.

B. Data sources

The researcher conducted the study by analyzing the background sections of the theses of Indonesian undergraduate, post-graduate, and doctoral EFL learners in Semarang State University (UNNES) repository. The data that are taken by the researcher are last three years of graduation

(2018, 2019, 2020). In this case, the researcher takes this university because Semarang State University provides the undergraduate, post-graduate, and doctoral program. Moreover, Semarang State University has good quality that is proved by many good alumni. It is based on the researcher's experience that the alumni have capable skill that is related with the subject that the alumni concern at the university before.

C. Instruments

The instruments that the researcher uses in this study are the coding scheme of hedges and intensifiers, and Antconc. It is because the researcher can not only use Antconc as the one to analyze the hedges and boosters that are found in research report background of studies in university. Coding-scheme is able to help the researcher to determine what the Antconc shows the result of analysis automatically.

D. Data Collection

In this case, the researcher collects the data as many as possible till the researcher find the same data as the previous ones that the researcher found before, but the researcher uses 15 data are from undergraduate research reports, 15 data are from post-graduate research reports, and 14 are from doctoral research reports. It is because the researcher uses the backgrounds as the data to be studied more. The backgrounds of research reports have

many opinions that the writers' thesis stated, so the writers use hedges and boosters points in stating the writers' opinions.

This study's data collection is collected through the online way. Then, the data were identified on the backgrounds of each part of the Indonesian EFL learners, undergraduate, post-graduate, and doctoral thesis in Semarang University. In this case, the researcher chooses the background because the writers always used their signatures in writing the background of knowledge. It is because the research report backgrounds have the difference of content for each writer. It means that the different studies in each research will bring the different nature for each background of study.

The researcher collects the data from students' theses in the year of 2018 until 2020 from http://lib.unnes.ac.id/view/divisions/. Then, the researcher focuses on the backgrounds of Indonesian EFL learners, undergraduate, post-graduate, and doctoral thesis. These backgrounds are read by the researcher to be analyzed the hedges and boasters that the writers used. The hedges and boasters that the researcher finds are about the words or phrases and meaning or function from the hedges and boasters. The hedges and boasters are based on the theories of Ken Hyland and Janet Holmes.

E.   **Data Analysis**

In this study, the researcher uses the coding schemes of hedges and intensifiers that are based on Eli Hinkel in 2005. There are 6 kinds of

hedges, they are epistemic hedges, lexical hedges, possibility hedges, downtoners, assertive pronouns, and adverbs of frequency. Meanwhile, intensifiers has 3 kinds, they are universal and negative pronouns, amplifiers, and emphatics. In this data analysis, the researcher has steps to finish the analysis. The researcher will input the data into AntConc application and determine the hedges and boosters in the texts. The identified hedges and boosters are then further manually analyzed to ensure that the words and phrases are used as hedges and boosters. Then the hedges and boosters are categorized into their forms and functions, by continuously comparing and contrasting the data with the theory. Finally, the conclusion are drawn based on the categorization.

After the data was collected, the researcher inputs the data into AntConc application. It is not only AntConc that the researcher uses to analyze the data, but also the researcher will check again after the researcher finds the data from that application. It is done because the researcher wants to get the valid data. It is usually found in some contexts that the application can not detect based on the meaning of the statements. The application only detect from the forms.

After the researcher gets the data from the AntConc application and rechecks the data. The researcher takes the conclusion about the data that the researcher already found in the previous step. It means that the researcher will make groups based on the forms and meanings of each hedge and booster that the researcher found before.