CHAPTER III

RESEARCH OBJECT AND METHOD

This chapter deals with the research object and research method, including the techniques and procedures of collecting and analysing the data as well.

3.1 Research Object

The object of this research is homonyms riddles taken from a book entitled *Eight Ate: A Feast of Homonyms Riddles* (1982) by Marvin Terban. The writer chooses the book as the data source since it contains the selected data indicating the homonyms that are used in riddles.

3.2 Research Method

In this research, the research method used is descriptive method. According to Ariola:

> *"The purpose of the descriptive method is to describe "what is". It deals with the prevailing condition of objects, people, and events"* (2006: 47).

Thus, the writer concludes that the descriptive method is conducted by analysing and describing the data based on the presented theory. In this research, the writer classifies the data based on the syntactic categories of homophones in the data. Then, the writer analyses the data based on its lexical relations and associative meanings.

3.2.1 Data Collection

The process of collecting data goes along with some procedures as follows:

1. Choosing data source

Firstly, the writer chooses the data source. In this research, the book entitled *Eight Ate: A Feast of Homonyms Riddles* by Marvin Terban is chosen as the data source because this book contains homonyms as a part of riddles. The homonyms that are contained in the data source are all homonyms with the same pronunciation but with different spelling.

2. Selecting the data

Secondly, the writer selects the data from the data source. There are thirty selected data are chosen by the writer. The selected data are based on the representative data to classify and analyse. In addition, the selected data are all homophones.

3. Classifying the data

Thirdly, the writer classifies the data based on its syntactic category. Eight classifications which have already found are homophones formed by noun-noun, adjective-noun, verb-noun, pronoun-verb, pronoun-verb-adverb, verb-adverb-noun, verb-adverb, and article-noun.

4. Analyzing the data

Finally, the selected data are selected to be analysed to find the lexical relations and to find associative meanings involved in the homophones within the data, there are twenty data selected to be analysed.

3.2.2 Data Analysis

After the data has been collected, there are several procedures which are implemented to analyse the data. First, the writer examines the homophones to provide the same pronunciation produced using *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* by A S Hornby (2000), and provide the syntactic categories based on the dictionary. In this process, the writer takes the homophones contained in the data. Second, the writer determines the lexical relations of the data. The writer analyses the lexical relations according to question unit with question unit, question unit with answer unit, and answer unit with answer unit. In this process, the writer also provides the semantic features to share the basic meaning to the reader. Eventually, the writer analyzes associative meanings involved in the homophones. In the way the writer analyses the lexical relations and associative meanings, the writers examines the units that have relation in the data with semantics feature to share the basic meaning. This process is conducted to describe the lexical relations found in the data and to show the associative meanings of the homophones within the data.

There is an example of data analysis of the homophones:

What did the teacher say to Orville when his letters slanted too much to the left?

*"**Write right**, **Wright**!"*

$write_{verb}$ $right_{adverb}$ $wright_{noun}$

In this data, the homophones found are ‘write’, ‘right’ and ‘Wright’, they share the same pronunciation, which is /raɪt/. First, we have to know what ‘write’, ‘right’ and ‘Wright’ are; ‘write’ indicates to make letters or numbers on a surface, especially using a pen or a pencil; ‘right’ indicates on or to the right side; Wright indicates Family name of brothers Orville (1871–1948) and Wilbur (1867–1912), US aviation pioneers. In 1903, the Wright brothers were the first to make brief sustained and controlled powered flights in an airplane, which was designed and built by them. They were also the first to make and fly a practical powered airplane 1905 and a passenger-carrying airplane 1908. These homophones are formed as a sentence, which the structure is ‘write’ as a transitive verb, ‘right’ as an adverb and ‘Wright’ as a complement, and makes an imperative sentence; since the purpose of the homophones substitutes the information that is contained in the question unit. The question unit asks ‘what did the teacher say’ an expression “to Orville when his letters slanted too much to the left?” then to shorten the expression and produce an imperative sentence, the expression becomes “Write right, Wright!”

The lexical relation found in this data is antonymy, to share the basic meaning, semantic features are included:

a. left (‘-animate’ ‘+state’) / right (‘-animate’ ‘+state’)

‘Right’, which appears on the answer unit, indicates on or to the right side, not about the properly on something, while ‘left’ indicates the left side or direction. From the conceptual meanings of ‘right’ and ‘left’, they show that they have contrasted on the direction. So it can be determined that they are antonyms, non-binary antonym because there is a middle ground between ‘right’ and ‘left’, which is centre.

The associative meaning found in this data is social and affective meaning; in phatic communication, when somebody makes a wrong action, there are many expressions to tell that are wrong. In this case, Orville writes letter slanted too much to the left, so that the teacher tells him to ‘write right’. The expression ‘write right’ is going to be different for each person who uses the word. In this case, the author uses the expression to tell the reader that Orville have to write the letter not slanted too much to the left, so he uses right. The other option of ‘right’ usage in writing is to write exactly, but the possibilities have a correlation, because when somebody write slanted too much to the left then the teacher reprimands that means that the writing is wrong, and to fix the problem is writing exactly to right. It is important to remember that each individual will have a different affective meaning for a word. As such, only the person using a word will be aware of the particular affective meaning that they hold with the word.