

CHAPTER III: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section discusses the methods used by the researcher in conducting the study. The researcher focused on the research design, sampling, data collection procedure, data analysis procedure and validity and reliability of the study.

3.2 Research Design

This study uses a qualitative research design that has its own distinctive data form that is different from quantitative research (Creswell, 2009). According to Othman (2012), Creswell (2008), and Mason (2002), qualitative studies emphasize more on the exploration and adaptation of processes and meanings, holistic in nature, evolving design, using purposive sampling, data collection in real background, researcher as instrument, electronic data collection method, inductive research strategies, and reporting of research results in the form of long narratives. Additionally, according to Strauss and Corbin (1998), qualitative studies produce findings that cannot be obtained from quantitative methods such as human life, life experiences, human understanding, emotions and feelings or related to organizational functions, behaviors, cultural phenomena, and international relations.

Therefore, the researcher has chosen the qualitative study to identify Islamic terminologies found in Volume 1 and 2 and translate the meaning of the Islamic terminologies based on Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur'ān, and then translate the meaning obtained according to the structure of Malaysian Sign Language. Qualitative research is viewed as appropriate because it emphasizes more on the exploration and adaptation

of processes and meanings while the researcher conducts the translation study. The researcher also used purposeful sampling, that is Malaysian Sign Language Book Volume 1 and 2 and Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur'ān . Among other reasons this study uses a qualitative approach are: (i) the title is in the form of adaptation, (ii) the study requires a detailed view, and (iii) emphasizing the researcher as the main instrument that is capable of telling a story from the participants' own point of view or emic perspective (Patton, 2009; Marohaini, 2008; Merriam, 2001; Creswell, 1998).

3.3 Research Method

3.3.1 Content Analysis

Content Analysis is a research method that has been introduced since 1910 by Max Weber in 1911 (Krippendorff, 1981) to be used in newspaper research. Content analysis is a widely used method in the research field that covers a wide range of fields, and its application is so widely used (Krippendorff, 2013). Document analysis is a breakdown of research data collection method from content analysis that is an objective description of a communication message that is printed, broadcasted, or illustrated. In other words, the message part can be heard, obtained, and seen by referring to the text content on words, meanings, pictures, symbols, ideas, themes, or whatever message communicated (Kamarul Azmi Jasmi, 2012; Babbie, 2010, Sabitha Marican, 2009; Fraenkel and Wallen, 1993).

In this study, the researcher deliberately adopted the books of Malaysian Sign Language Volume 1 and 2 to identify terminologies associated with Islam, as these books are the early prints from the Malaysia Federation of Deaf as a reference for the deaf learn the basic words and signs. In the meantime, the books of Malaysian Sign Language Volume 1 and 2 do not carry the meaning for the listed terminologies.

Hence, the researcher adopted both volumes as the main reference to extract the Islamic terminologies.

Then, to translate the Islamic terminologies acquired from the books of Malaysian Sign Language Volume 1 and 2, the book of Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur'ān was chosen as the main reference due to its interesting method and in-depth discussion (Zarkasyī, n.d). Apart from that, the researcher had also adopted Dictionary of al-Qur'ān (*Kamus al-Qur'ān*) by Dato' Dr. Zulkifli Haji Mohd Yusoff, Al-Sirāj fī Bayān Gharib al-Qur'ān by Dr. Muhammad bin 'Abdul 'Aziz al-Khudayrī, and Encyclopaedia of the Meanings of Al-Qur'ān - Syārah Alfāzhul Qur'ān by Al-Ustadz M Dhuha Abdul Jabbar and Al-Ustadz KH. N. Burhanudinas the secondary data in the process of data triangulation process to support and refine the meaning of terminologies in the discussion.

3.4 Sampling

This study uses a specific sample (purposive sampling) that has been determined, that is Malaysian Sign Language Book Volume 1 (2011) and Volume 2 (2014) published by Malaysia Federation of the Deaf to meet the requirement of the first objective of this study, which is to identify Islamic terminologies found in both of the books.

Then, to meet the requirement of the second objective, the researcher used a specific sample (purposive sampling) that has also been determined, that is the 4th edition of Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur'ān (2009) by Ar-Rāghib al-Aṣfahānī and *tahqiq* by Safwān Adnan, and published by Darul Qalam, Damascus and Darul Syāmiah, Beirut.

The following is a table describing the sampling of this study;

Table 3.1: Main Sampling Research

Objective	Book Name	Author Name
Objective 1: To identify Islamic terminologies contained in the books of Malaysian Sign Language Volume 1 and 2	Malaysian Sign Language Book Volume 1 (2011)	Malaysia Federation of the Deaf
	Malaysian Sign Language Book Volume 2 (2014)	Malaysia Federation of the Deaf
Objective 2: To translate the meaning of Islamic terminologies according to the book of Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur’ān	Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur’ān	Ar-Rāghib al-Aṣfahānī

3.5 Research Instrument

The content analysis instrument of the first objective in this study focuses on content analysis study on Malaysian Sign Language Book Volume 1 (2011) and Volume 2 (2014) and Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur’ān as well as several other secondary books to achieve the second objective of this study. For some qualitative researchers such as Lincoln and Guba (Thompson, 2002) and Thompson (2002), they stated that studies using such methods make the human self, that is the researcher himself as the main instrument. Through the study using qualitative document analysis technique, the researcher is a coder who performs coding activities for the first and second objectives of the study. Thompson (2002) stated that he himself as a researcher is a key instrument in collecting data. However, the process of coding reliability in this study was also judged using validity and reliability that will be explained in the particular section.

3.6 Research Procedures

3.6.1 Selection of Malaysian Sign Language Book Volume 1 and 2

Malaysian Sign Language Book Volume 1 and 2 were selected as the main documents of this study for the first objective. Both of these books were selected to identify

Islamic terminologies. These two books were chosen because they are the initial and main reference for deaf people to learn Malaysian Sign Language (Malaysia Federation of the Deaf, 2000). Additionally, these two signal books have no descriptions for existing Islamic terminologies. In fact, there are only illustrations of pictures, hand movement steps, and example of sentences only (Malaysian Sign Language Book, 2011; Malaysian Sign Language Book Volume 2, 2014).

3.6.2 Selection of Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur'ān Book

The book Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur'ān was chosen as the main document of this study for the second objective. This book was selected to study the translation of Islamic terminologies that have been identified in the first objective. The Book of Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur'ān was selected for the author, Ar-Rāghib al-Aṣfahānī, adopted an interesting manhaj (method) and presented in-depth discussion (Zarkasyī, n.d). Firstly, he organised the meaning of the terminologies based on their intrinsic meanings, followed by the meanings of the terminologies' derivative words, then discussing their implicit meanings and associating between those two (al-Aṣfahānī, 1412). He also gave examples of the terminologies through al-Qur'ān verses, ḥadīth and Arabic poetries while provided explanations along the way. In the context of al-Qur'ān, he defined the intended meanings as what was recited. He also interpreted them through al-Qur'ān, ḥadīth, words of the companions as well as tabi'in. Furthermore, he also provided discussion through views from ulama' guided by *sharī'ah* (al-Aṣfahānī, 1412).

Additionally, there are many studies such as the studies of (Ghazi and Muhammad, 2021; Nur Yasin, 2019; Farid and Roni, 2019; Mohammad Reza & Nemat, 2019; Syaripudin, 2019, Ma'ruf, 2019; Desti, 2018; Muhammad Firdaus et al.,

2018; Najmiah & Mohd Yakub, 2017; Dede Rosyada, 2017; Fatahi, 2017; Syukraini, 2017; Syamsul, 2017; Hamdani, 2016; Khairul, 2016; Soufyan, 2016; Sahlawati, 2015) who used this book to get a description of the terms for their studies as described in the second chapter in the previous section of this study.

In addition, the findings are also triangulated with three other books as secondary data, namely, Dictionary of al-Qur'ān (*Kamus al-Qur'ān*) compiled by Dato' Dr. Zulkifli Haji Mohd Yusoff, the book *Al-Sirāj fī Bayān Gharīb al-Qur'ān* by Dr. Muhammad bin 'Abdul 'Aziz al-Khuḍayrī, and *Encyclopaedia of the Meanings of Al-Qur'ān - Syārah Alfāzhul Qur'ān* by Al-Ustadz M Dhuha Abdul Jabbar and Al-Ustadz KH. N. Burhanudin. The selection of these secondary data is due to having the same method of arrangement by bringing an explanation of the meaning that corresponds to the words. In fact, it also contains the views of interpreters, in addition to stating sūrahs and verses in the Qur'ān to help readers. The purpose of these secondary data to be triangulated is to support the primary findings which will be elaborated in the validity and reliability section.

3.7 Data Collection and Analysis

Data collection involves a series of open coding, axial coding, and selective coding. According to Strauss and Corbin (1998), this step is a process of integrating and refining theory. They stated: "It is the process of integrating and refining the theory through such techniques as writing out the story line that interconnects the categories and sorting through personal memos about theoretical ideas." (Strauss and Corbin (1998) in Cresswell 2005: 398).

3.7.1 Content Analysis Data Collection and Analysis

For the first objective, which is data collection using content analysis, the coder first performs the following steps:

- i. Reading based on Malaysian Sign Language Volume 1 and 2 (*open coding*)

The researcher read the entire Malaysian Sign Language Volume 1 and 2. There are 1004 terms in the Malaysian Sign Language Volume 1 which includes 30 chapters including those related to religion. While the Malaysian Sign Language Volume 2 has 1136 terms covering 42 chapters including those related to religion. The researcher has coded all the terms found in the sign language book volume 1 and 2 as “open coding”.

- ii. Reading, analyzing, and taking categories (*axial coding I*).

Then, the researcher read, analyzed, and took categories by selecting terminologies related to Islam in general as described in the definition of terms in Chapter 1. As a result of these findings, the researcher has coded as “axial coding I”.

- iii. Reading and customizing terms in accordance with the Arabic terms (*axial coding II*).

Having obtained all the terminologies related to Islam, the researcher identified the terminologies for the terms in Arabic by referring to several Arabic dictionaries before studying their meanings in Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur’ān. The researcher referred to Oxford Dictionary (BM-BA) (BA-BM) (2019) to find Arabic terms for Islamic terminologies that have been identified. The Arabic terms that have been identified will be coded with "axial coding II". This dictionary was selected because it is the latest edition bilingual dictionary Malay-Arabic with the addition of about 25,000 new words. Apart from being suitable for all users, this dictionary also provides some

examples of sentences for specific words to explain the use of a word in the correct context of sentence (Abd Rauf & Wan Noraianwati, 2019).

- iv. Coding for the second time after a certain period, recording categories, combining sub-categories, and determining the relevance of categories (*selective coding*).

After identifying the Arabic term for each of the Islamic terminology, the researcher will review whether the terms obtained are found in the Qur'ān or not by searching for the Arabic terms in the Tanzil.net website. They are reviewed through this website to make sure that the Arabic terms obtained are found in the Qur'ān because Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur'ān only explains terminologies that are in the Qur'ān. The Arabic terms obtained will be coded as "selective coding".

Next, to achieve the second objective which is to translate the meaning of Islamic terminologies that have been obtained based on Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur'ān, data collection using content analysis was performed. The researcher also analyzed the data starting from open coding to get as many themes and categories as possible to be associated with the study phenomenon, followed by axial coding and selective coding. The following are the researcher's steps in data collection and analysis to achieve the second objective:

- i. Reading the description of Islamic terminologies that have been obtained in the first objective in Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur'ān as the primary source (open coding I).
- ii. Reading the secondary source, namely Dictionary of al-Qur'ān (*Kamus al-Qur'ān*) by Dato' Dr. Zulkifli Haji Mohd Yusoff, *Al-Sirāj fī Bayān Gharīb al-Qur'ān* by Dr. Muhammad bin 'Abdul 'Aziz al-Khuḍayrī, and Encyclopaedia of the Meanings of Al-Qur'ān - *Syārah Alfāzhul Qur'ān* by

Al-Ustadz M Dhuha Abdul Jabbar and Al-Ustadz KH. N. Burhanudin, and also guided by the translated text of Mufradāt Alfāz al-Qur’ān (open-coding II).

- iii. Reading, analyzing, and constructing and designing main categories (axial coding I).
- iv. Designing sub-categories (axial coding II).
- v. Combining main categories, sub-categories, descriptions as well as dalil (selective coding).

To achieve the third objective which is to translate the meaning of Islamic terminologies to the structure of Malaysian Sign Language, the researcher as an instrument in this study has adapted several methods and theories so that the findings answer the research questions and in line with the objectives of the study. The researcher has used a linguistic approach by touching the syntactic part of Malaysian Sign Language as found in the study of Bell et al. (2015) and Ho Koon Wei (2009). Syntax in Malaysian Sign Language is a study on sentence structure in Malaysian Sign Language (Ho Koon Wei (2009). There are several forms of syntax in Malaysian Sign Language based on the observations on the practice of deaf people in Malaysia. For example:

Table 3.2: Several Forms of Syntax in Malaysian Sign Language

No.	Syntax form	Abbreviation
1	VERB	V
2	VERB + OBJECT	VO
3	OBJECT + VERB	OV
4	SUBJECT + VERB	SV
5	SUBJECT + VERB + OBJECT	SVO
6	SUBJECT + OBJECT + VERB	SOV
7	OBJECT + SUBJECT + VERB	OSV

At the same time, intersemiotic approach (Jakobson, 1960) and relevance theory (Dan Sperber & Deidre Wilson, 1986) were also adapted. The intersemiotic translation approach was developed by Jakobson (1960), and this approach emphasizes translation into non-verbal language, that is sign language (Hasuria Che Omar, 2013). The theory used in this study is the relevance theory introduced by Sperber and Wilson (Gutt, 1991). This theoretical approach requires the speaker to produce a clear and tangible stimulus so that the target can understand the real meaning to be conveyed by the speaker without regard to the grammar of the source language. This theory also emphasizes to prioritize the grammar of the target language (sign language). For the final findings of this study, the researcher has obtained expert validation from two experts to confirm the findings obtained. The selection of experts in this study was based on the justification that they have the following qualities: (i) Deaf person, (ii) have a credential to teach religion, (iii) personality, have a good personality and can be role models to other deaf communities, (iv) good level of education, have a level of education of *Sijil Pendidikan Malaysia* (Malaysian Certificate of Education) onwards, (v) proficient in the use of sign language, know the intricacies of the structure of Malaysian sign language well so that they can evaluate the translation performed.

3.8 Validity and Reliability

Validity and reliability of data in qualitative research involves well-organized and ethical research procedures (valid and reliable knowledge in an ethical manner) (Merriam, 2009). In general, according to Cohen et al. (2002), validity in the context of qualitative research involves honesty aspect (trustworthiness), and depth and detail of the data obtained. In brief, validity in a qualitative study is defined as the extent to which a described image accurately represents the phenomenon under study (Othman,

2012; Miles & Huberman, 1994; Hammersley, 1995). In this study, the researcher has used researcher's validity and reliability which involved data triangulation, peer review, and researcher's bias.

Triangulation refers to the use of various data sources, researchers, data collection methods as well as analysis (Merriam, 2001 & Othman Lebar, 2012). This diversity of data is capable to make the process of verifying the findings better and more reliable. In addition, these data can increase the validity and reliability of the findings because each data obtained from one data will be reinforced by different data. In this study, the validity and reliability of the data are obtained through triangulation technique between methods in which the researcher compares the findings based on content analysis data through three other books that are used as secondary data, namely, Dictionary of al-Qur'ān (*Kamus al-Qur'ān*) by Dato' Dr. Zulkifli Haji Mohd Yusoff, Al-Sirāj fī Bayān Gharib al-Qur'ān by Dr. Muhammad bin 'Abdul 'Aziz al-Khuḍayrī, and Encyclopaedia of the Meanings of Al-Qur'ān - Syārah Alfāzhul Qur'ān by Al-Ustadz M Dhuha Abdul Jabbar and Al-Ustadz KH. N. Burhanudin. The selection of this secondary data is due to having the same method of translation by providing an explanation of the meaning that corresponds to the words.

Moreover, peer review is a review of data for evaluation purposes either by colleagues and people familiar with the study or the phenomenon being studied (Merriam, 2001; Othman Lebar, 2012). This process also provides a thoughtful idea of the categories formed and then the findings of the study. In this study, peer review was performed in two ways, namely discussion with supervisors and informal discussion with colleagues at Master's and PhD levels, which were done during the beginning of the theme setting. Views from supervisors and colleagues also serve as a guide to re-examine the accuracy of the theme that has been identified.

In this study as well, the researcher did the best to avoid making own assumptions by making justifications on the things recorded to avoid any biased assessment termed as researcher's bias (Merriam, 2001; Othman Lebar, 2012). For this purpose, the researcher gave an in-depth description of the study findings and the natural context of the data obtained in discussing the findings of the study. The researcher also conducted data collection systematically, using a variety of data sources and performing triangulation to minimize bias towards this study (Patton, 2001).

3.9 Conclusion

This chapter describes the research design, research sample, research instrument, data collection procedure, validity data analysis procedure, and reliability data analysis procedure.