

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study explores the challenges faced by Indonesian international master's and doctoral students in writing and publishing journal articles, as well as the strategies they use, within the context of a public university in Taiwan. A qualitative phenomenological approach was employed to gain deep insights into their lived experiences. According to Willig (2013), qualitative research focuses on how individuals perceive and interpret events, while Griffin (1985) highlights its ability to reveal the complexities of social processes.

Drawing on Moustakas' (1994) phenomenological framework, the study seeks to understand students' experiences by setting aside biases and focusing on their subjective realities. This approach allows the researcher to examine how students navigate the process of academic writing and publishing, the specific challenges they encounter, and the strategies they develop. By capturing their perspectives, the study aims to generate valuable insights that can inform the creation of effective academic support systems for international postgraduate students.

#### **3.2 Research Participants**

The researcher employed purposive sampling to select participants based on specific criteria relevant to the study's goals (Notoatmodjo, 2010). Three Indonesian students from National Dong Hwa University (NDHU), Taiwan, were

chosen, aligning with Creswell's (2007) recommendation of 3–10 participants for qualitative research. The selection criteria included: being Indonesian international students, currently pursuing a master's or doctoral degree, having published a journal article, and being willing to participate. These participants were expected to reflect on the challenges they faced and strategies they used in writing and publishing a journal article.

### 3.3 Data Collection

To collect data, the researcher used semi-structured interviews, a common method in qualitative research that allows flexibility and in-depth exploration (Moleong, 2014; Dawson, 2002). This approach enabled participants to respond freely while guiding the conversation with prepared questions. Interviews were conducted online via Zoom, lasting 30 to 60 minutes. Prior to the interview, participants were contacted to confirm their eligibility and were given an informed consent form. They were also given the option to use either Indonesian or English. All interviews were recorded, using an interview protocol to ensure consistency.

### 3.4 Research Instrument

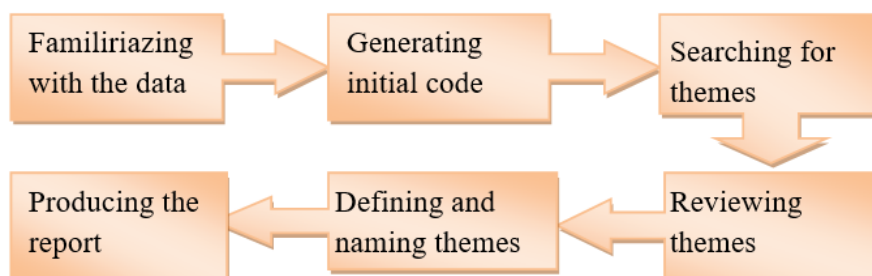
**Table 4. Specification of Interview Protocol**

No.	Research Question	Question Item
1.	What are the Indonesian international students' challenges experienced in writing and publishing a journal article?	<b>Questions no 4, 6, 7 and 8</b> (Challenges)
2.	How do Indonesian international students' deal with the challenges	<b>Questions no 9, 10 and 11</b> (Strategies)

	in writing and publishing a journal article?	
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### 3.5 Data Analysis

In research, data analysis is necessary. In this process, all the data that the researcher has collected were conducted to obtain the research result. According to Corbin and Strauss (2008), data analysis is a process of examining and interpreting data to elicit meaning, gain understanding, and develop empirical knowledge. The researcher used interview as a data collection of the research. In examining and interpreting data, the researcher used thematic analysis. According to Braun and Clarke (2006), thematic analysis is a method for identifying, analyzing, and reporting themes within data. The following is the outline of the steps:



**Figure 1. the phases of Braun and Clarke's thematic analysis (2006)**

The researcher conducted the research about Indonesian international students' experience in writing a journal article, using thematic analysis by Braun and Clarke (2006). As a starting point, in the familiarizing with the themes phase, the researcher listened to the recorded interviews that have been conducted. Furthermore, at the generating stage, the researcher started transcribing the interview as well as highlighting important points that often appear in transcription.

In the searching for theme phase, the researcher was grouping the points that have been highlighted. These themes were then defined and named. These themes became the subject matter and the answers that be the conclusions of the research. At this stage, it was necessary to discuss with the supervisor for a more concrete and accurate definition. The last stage, namely producing the report, was the phase where the researcher started conducting the results of data analysis and describe the themes that are the result of this research. The discussion of these results was described in more detail in the finding and discussion.

### **3.6 Trustworthiness and Ethical Consideration**

According to Whitbeck (1995), trustworthiness involves behaving in ways that are clearly acceptable, unacceptable, or expected. It focuses on how someone responds responsibly, as opposed to acting carelessly or without concern. Trustworthiness in qualitative research ensures that the data and research process are handled transparently, accurately, and collaboratively.

In conducting this research, ethical consideration is necessary. Silverman (2009) explained that due to the importance of maintaining ethics while conducting research, the university will protect the dignity and safety of the participants. In making interview records, the researcher communicated and got approval from the participants. As for the process of conducting data and transcribing interviews in this research, the participant's identity was abolished and the pseudonym was applied.