

CHAPTER-3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

In any research work planning is necessary. Research needs to be well planned keeping in mind the objectives, methods and tools of data collection, samples, procedure etc. “Planning of the work estimates the resources, manpower and time required to accomplish the task. Review of the literature and other pertinent information give ideas for improving the procedure. These ideas should be incorporated into the revised research plan (Sing: 1992:385). This third chapter deals with research design of the study, especially planning and procedure. Research methods and data collection tools and samples used for the study have been discussed in this chapter. Moreover detailed procedure of how the study was carried out has been given.

The invaluable input of language teachers and experts has helped to provide the direction and focus on this study. This has also been helpful in getting first-hand information. The initial discussion with experts and the preliminary study were instrumental in determining the research issue, developing research tools and defining the sample size, etc. The methodology also includes preliminary information on the designing, formation, fine tuning, finalizing and eventual administration of tools used for the study.

3.2 Research Design

This is a survey type of study. The researcher has collected data through a survey. We all know that English today occupies a prominent place in the world. And in a multilingual country like India people face lots of difficulties in learning English. Learners of the language in both English and Gujarati medium schools face several difficulties. The study is an attempt to make an objective study of these difficulties. The choice of the research methodology was made keeping in mind relevant objectives and to get as realistic a picture as possible. This is a survey kind of research. It is an exploratory research.

3.3 Population of the Study

Three secondary schools of Ahwa town constituted the population of the study.

3.4 Sample of the Study

Twenty five students of std. IX of three schools of Ahwa town were selected by purposive sampling.

3.5 Methods used for the Study

In the present study the researcher used the survey method to collect data from the students of standard 9 of three different schools. Data , thus collected ‘was analysed through frequency technique.

3.5.1 Survey Method

The investigator used the survey method in the present study. It is considered as a method of systematic data collection. “The questionnaire and individual interviews are the most common instruments for data collection in survey upon the willingness and the cooperativeness of the samples selected for the study. In case they are not willing and do not cooperate with the survey researcher, he should drop the plan in favor of some other technique”. (Sing: 1982 P361)

The aim of the survey is to obtain data from selected size of the sample of the population under study. Researcher takes enough care to ensure that the sample population is truly representative of the universe. The success of survey research depends upon the willingness and the cooperativeness of the sample selected for the study. The data obtained through a questionnaire, interviews or observations have to be reduced to a form suitable for analysis and interpretation

The investigator has carried out a survey and collected the data from the students, teachers and parents. All the students were of one town.

3.5.2 Frequency Analysis Technique

The researcher has used one tool in the present research work that is a questionnaire for students of class IX. To analyze the data obtained thus the researcher used frequency analysis technique.

3.6 Major Tools used for the Study

A great variety of research tool has been developed to aid in the acquisition of data. These tools are of many kinds and employ distinctive ways of describing and qualifying the data. Each tool is particularly appropriate for certain sources of data, yielding information of the kind and in the form that would be most effectively used like the tools in the carpenter's chest, each is appropriate in a given situation. For the present study following tools were used.

3.6.1 Questionnaire

The most common types of instruments used in a survey research are the questionnaire, opinionnaire, interview and observation. Data collection through questionnaire is quite popular, particularly in case of big enquiries. It is being adopted by private individuals, research workers, private and public organizations and even by governments.

A questionnaire consists of a number of questions printed or typed in a definite order on a form or a set of forms. A questionnaire is sent (usually by post) to the persons concerned with a request to answer the questions and return the questionnaire. The respondents are expected to read and understand the questions and write down the reply in the space meant for the purpose in the questionnaire itself. The respondents had to answer the questions on their own.

Quite often the questionnaire is considered the heart of a survey type of study. Hence it should be very carefully constructed. If it is not properly set up, then the survey is bound to fail. This fact requires the researcher to study the main aspects of a questionnaire viz., the general form, question sequence and question formulation and wording.

For the successful completion of this study, questionnaires were designed for the students. The investigator administered the tool for the students of VIII and IX, and teachers and parents in Ahwa Town.

Phase-1 The researcher had prepared a questionnaire. In this questionnaire he had prepared different types of question for getting information related to a critical study of the English language status.

Phase-2 Then the researcher had showed the questionnaire to the guide. The suggestion given by they were incorporated. The questionnaire were modified and finalized.

3.6.2 Interview

Another tool used for data collection was interview. An interview is a conversation between two people where questions are asked by the interviewer to obtain information from the interviewee.

In the present study the researcher interviewed the principals of the three schools which were covered under study. Ten questions were prepared related to the objectives of the study (Appendix-2). The answers received thus are interpreted in the forth chapter.

3.6.3 Observation

Actual classroom observation was carried out by the researcher. The focus of the observation was on

- the methods used during teaching,
- materials used during classroom teaching,
- nature of interaction,
- use of mother tongue,
- joyful participation,
- Teacher's concern for students and passion for the subjects.

3.7 Research Procedure

Having decided the topic of the study, the researcher set the objectives followed by research questions. Keeping in mind the objectives and the research questions, a questionnaire having 20 questions was constructed by the researcher. 25 students of standard 9 were given these questionnaires to fill in each school; thereby

seventy five questionnaires were distributed in three schools of Ahwa City. Thus collecting data from 75 students of three different schools, the same was analysed using frequency analysis technique. Thus, having completed interpretation of the data, findings were given followed by the implications of the study.

3.8 Conclusion

In this chapter, the researcher has discussed the technical details of the research carried out by him. These details include the research design, methods, tools, and the overall procedure followed to collect data. The next chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of the data collected.