# 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

## 3.1. Research Approach

To do the research, the writer would like to make use of the qualitative approach, which Bogdan and Taylor (1975) define as:

> "A research procedure which results descriptive data in the form of written utterances or colloquial language from people and examinable behaviour."

This approach is considered appropriate to be applied in analyzing a movie script since the data are in the form of written utterances spoken by the characters in *American Beauty.*

## 3.2. Source of Data

The source of data for the research will be the utterances and the subtitles contained in the VCD entitled *American Beauty*. There are totally seventy-six scenes in the film, which have three parts - the beginning, the conflicts, and the ending. The writer takes only twelve scenes among the three parts. The writer takes the data from five scenes of the beginning, seven scenes of the conflicts, and five scenes of the ending. The twelve scenes are those having more utterances than the others.

## 3.3. Instrument

The instruments needed to conduct the research are the writer herself as the researcher, supported by a set of VCD player and a television, a VCD entitled *American Beauty.*

## 3.4. Data Collection

The data are all utterances spoken by the characters and all subtitles from twelve scenes belonged to the three parts, having more utterances than the others. First of all the writer takes the original script of *American Beauty* from the

internet. The writer does so since she thinks that the utterances will be more accurate than if she just transcribes them from the film. She may miss some utterances while transcribing them if she does the process by herself. Secondly, the writer compares the original scripts of the utterances to check whether the original matches with the spoken ones. She will make necessary adjustment for the differences. Thirdly, she copies the whole subtitles contained in the motion picture. Finally, she puts the English utterances juxtaposed with the Indonesian subtitles so that she is able to analyse them one by one.

### 3.5. Data Analysis

Before analyzing the data, the writer puts the utterances subtitles she has collected, from the parts she has mentioned in her Scope and Limitation, into tables. The tables will be as follows.

| Speakers | Utterances | Subtitles | Acceptability | | | Suggested solution |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | + | - | | |
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**Table 1**

Note:

a. **Speakers** show the name of person who utters the conversation in each scene.

b. **Utterances** contain the transcript of the utterances spoken in the film. The writer gives number for each utterance to indicate its order spoken by the characters. The numbering will be like **U.1.1.** with explanations as follows:

    **U.** is the abbreviation for *utterance.*

    **1.** and so on, as the first digit, indicates *the order of scenes.*

    **1.** and so on, as the second digit, indicates *the order of utterance spoken during the scene.*

c. **Subtitles** list the copies of the subtitles from the screen. Numbers of subtitles indicate the order of subtitles appearing on the screen. The numbering will be like **S.1.1.** with explanation as follows:

**S** is the abbreviation for *subtitle.*

1. and so on, as the first digit, indicates *the order of scenes.*

1. and so on, as the second digit, indicates *the order of subtitle appearing during the scenes.*

d. **Acceptability** is filled with a tick (√ ) in the appropriate column, that is whether it is under the (+), (-1), or (-2) column. Number **1** or **2** indicates the reasons of the unacceptability. The criteria are based on Newmark's theory of acceptability, which are:

(+) being OK

(-1) having misleading mistakes

(-2) having nuanced mistakes

e. **Suggestion** contains the writer's solution for the previous subtitles in which she finds having problems. In coping with the problem she finds, the writer will base her suggestions on the theories of translation she has mentioned in her Review of Related Literature.

### 3.6. Mistake Calculation

The quality of the previous subtitles made by the former translator can be judged by the numbers of either the acceptable subtitles, subtitles having misleading mistakes, or subtitle having nuanced mistakes as mentioned in **Table 1**.

| Kinds of mistakes | Numbers of Subtitles | |
|---|---|---|
| No mistakes / (+) acceptability | 227 | Calculation 1 (=C1) |
| Having Misleading Mistakes (-1) acceptability | 76 | Calculation 2 (=C2) |
| Having Nuanced Mistakes (-2) acceptability | 53 | Calculation 3 (=C3) |
| **Total numbers of all subtitles** | 358 | |

The results obtained from the calculation of (C2) and (C3) will give the writer the answer for her second research question, that is what kinds of mistakes appear in the subtitles that do not convey the meaning of the original utterances, as well as which one mostly occurs in the subtitles. The percentage resulted from the calculation of the (+) acceptability (C1) will answer the writer's third statement of problems, that is what the quality of the subtitles is.