



The Techniques of Qualitative Data Collection in Mapping Indonesian Litterateurs in East Java: An Initial Design

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Abstract

This article is a synthesis of research related to litterateurs mapping in East Java. Therefore, this research aimed to explore the data collection techniques of the litterateurs in East Java. This research adopted a qualitative method since the researcher explained the data empirically. The researcher used four techniques in collecting the data, such as (1) using a direct interview with the litterateurs; (2) using database Sijati (East Java literature and litterateurs Information System); (3) using a database from the internet; and (4) using the snowball technique. The result of the research exposed that those four techniques have weaknesses such as direct interview was ineffectiveness during the pandemic, Sijati was not optimal to use for old age litterateurs, database from internet tended to be general, and snowball technique was subjective.

Keywords: *Indonesian Literature; East Java Literature; Data Collection Techniques; Mapping*

Introduction

Modern Indonesian literature which is suspected emerged in the 1920s (Teeuw, 1996), has been experiencing rapid development nowadays. It could be said that the number of Indonesian literature and litterateurs in the 1920s was limited and dominated by urban litterateurs, but nowadays many kinds of literature and litterateurs from many areas in the country exist. Moreover, new various themes are employed. In the old era, it has been known that they tend to use monotone themes, but it does not happen in the modern era while they encourage themselves in using various themes for their works. It is simply caused by the dynamic development of literature both within the country and overseas.

At this moment Indonesian literature has a rapid development. Indonesian literature is like mushrooms in the rainy season. There are three factors to trigger the literature development in Indonesia, namely (1) awareness of writing literature among young generations is currently increasing. It can be seen by the numbers of literature that are massively written by young generations; (2) the indie publishers emerge to facilitate the process of publishing literary works; and (3) appreciation toward literature –like competition/equal to that—is increasing, such as from government institutions, non-government

institutions, profit and/or non-profit institutions; (4) Literature studies/critiques in interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary are massively emerged (Ahmadi, 2021; 2019a) which lively increase discussions related to literary works. Those four aspects mentioned above highly impact the literature development in Indonesia.

Indonesian literature attracts the attention of international researchers, such as Foulcher (1986), Teuuw (1984, 1991), and Aveling (1972, 1974, 1979, 2001). Teuuw and Aveling have a high interest in the study of literature in Indonesia. Their names often appear in literature discussions in Indonesia. Furthermore, in the context of a university, books which are written by Teuuw and Aveling become mandatory references to read for students that major in Indonesian Language and Literature. Moreover, in this case, we should not ignore the contributions of native Indonesian literature participants, such as Jassin (1967, 1972, 1985a, 1985b, 1986, 1993), Jassin & Eneste (1983) and Eneste (1982, 1986, 1988, 2009) who contribute their attention to the study of literature in Indonesia. Both names are well-known experts in many literature books in Indonesia. Jassin and Eneste have the ability and diligence in documentation, writing, and criticizing Indonesian literature. We might know that currently there are many literary works and litterateurs in Indonesia, but the critical study cannot balance the emergence of literary works.

In fact, we cannot ignore that researches and discussions related to literary works significantly increase, but in the context of scientific criticism (scientific publication category), it is surely more balanced. Therefore, literature and critical literature have to work simultaneously. If many litterateurs create unstoppable enormous numbers of literary works without supported by equal critical literature, it will cause disequilibrium in literature. It means that there will be many pieces of literature without critiques. In this case, the literature field will be blunt without any discussion about it. Related to the rapid development of literature in Indonesia, it indicates a good atmosphere of literature in Indonesia. However, the development of literature, in this case, needs a mapping to make literature and litterateurs' data to be well recorded and documented. Regarding the mapping study, some researchers previously conducted similar researches, for example as follows.

First, Ahmadi (2019b) mapped the study of Indonesian literature using *Sinta* database (Science and Technology Index). *Sinta* database is a data source in Indonesia which is related to researchers, article journals, books, intellectual property rights, and community services. Ahmadi focused on the context of literature research data that were taken from *Sinta 2* (the 2nd rank journal in Indonesia). The result of his research showed that literature researches in Indonesia are dominated by many kinds of prose (novel) researches.

Second, Philips (2011) was encouraged to research British literature through a mapping perspective. In this context, as a literature researcher, Philips linked literature mappings in a way of history. He mapped the British literature from 1951 to 2007. The result of his research exposed that British literature in the 19th century is dominated by literary pilgrimage which is nowadays known as literary tourism.

Third, Bida (2019) conducted a house mapping in literature. She tried to expose a house in literature (in this case it is called contemporary narrative) through multi-perspective study. It is said that mapping in literature is interesting since it can provide references related to forms, quantities, categories, or uniqueness that are contained in literature in a country. Furthermore, it can be a literary mapping on an international scale. The studies related to Indonesian language and literature mappings, both in theoretical and practical approaches, have been conducted by the following researchers.

First, Jufrizal (2018) discussed theoretically the mapping of language and literature in Indonesia. He offered mapping with more optimal models which are documentation and revitalization because so far, the mapping study models seem to be only transportation and registration. The next step of the mapping is sometimes still not optimal. He claimed that (1) there is no definite mapping regarding the

number, form, and direction of the studies accomplished; (2) equal distribution of the quantity and quality of language and literary research; and (3) there are paradigm differences in the research. The three aspects mentioned above are indeed the main problems related to language and literature mapping besides the research factor on language and literature mapping that is funded.

Second, Manuaba, Kumala, & Setiyowati (2015) conducted a mapping of Indonesia literature in East Java using a descriptive study. The result of their research exposed that Indonesian literature in East Java is dominated by the genre of prose with categories of short stories and poems. The uniqueness of Indonesian literature in East Java is the strong element of East Javanese local wisdom that appears either implicitly or explicitly. Indonesian literature in East Java has a strong base of litterateurs, such as in Lamongan, Banyuwangi, Ngawai, Surabaya, Gresik, Sidoarjo, and Sumenep. The studies conducted by Manuaba, Kumala, & Setiyowati were based on the spread and documented data in documentation centres located in East Java.

Third, Sungkowati (2010) mapped the literary community in East Java. The study conducted was a descriptive study in extracting data. Sungkowati pointed out that there are three segments in relation to the literary community in East Java, such as the campus literary community, the non-campus literary community, and the *pesantren* (Islamic boarding school) community. The literary community has a cooperation with other communities in the context of interprovincial or interisland. Thus, the communities have a strong relationship in cooperation between literary communities.

Four, Ahmadi (2020) mapped Sidoarjo litterateurs—in this case, Sidoarjo is located in East Java—in the context of digital. He explored and mapped Sidoarjo literature based on literary data written by litterateurs/authors from Sidoarjo—through and/or contained in digital media. Ahmadi's writing showed that Indonesian literature in Sidoarjo region exists and is currently experiencing development. This can be seen from the emergence of young litterateurs, literary community activities, literary discussion activities, literary writing, and also competitions related to the literary field that are intensely held at Sidoarjo Arts Council.

In addition to the mappings carried out by the researchers mentioned above, there are also literary mappings that are conducted in informal discussions. Discussions about the mapping of litterateurs who are not documented are finally lost if they are not scientifically documented. Therefore, it is very unfortunate if the mappings of literature and litterateurs are not published scientifically, whether those are made into articles, research, or books.

Indonesian literature research is very important because (1) the results of research on mapping Indonesian literature can be used as references on Indonesian literature; (2) the results of mapping research on Indonesian literature can be used as comparisons with previous researches related to literary mapping; (3) the results of research on Indonesian literature mapping can be used to review the current condition of Indonesian literature; (4) the results of this research can be used as a barometer of research conditions regarding the mapping of Indonesian litterateurs; and (5) the results of this research can be used by policymakers, such as the Language Centre and Language Development and Cultivation Centre in the context of documenting and revitalizing Indonesian literature in the past, present and future times. In addition, research on mapping Indonesian literature is an effort to record, document, and revitalize the repertoire of literature and litterateurs so that they can be orderly recorded. Hence, the database on Indonesian litterateurs is not fragmentary.

Based on that phenomenon, this research aimed to explore data collection of litterateurs in East Java using four techniques, such as (1) using a direct interview with litterateurs; (2) using database *Sijati* (East Java literature and litterateurs Information System); (3) using a database from the internet; and (4) using the snowball technique. In addition, the researcher also explored the weaknesses of the four techniques. If those are linked to the research track record, those researchers have been conducting

research related to literary contexts (for instance Ahmadi, 2021a, 2020a, 2020a, 2019a, 2019b, 2019c, 2019d). This research is very useful for researchers who are motivated to explore data of litterateurs efficiently. Apart from that, this research is also useful for comparative studies on mapping techniques.

Literature Review

Concept of Qualitative Data Collection Technique

Qualitative data collection techniques are essentially related to requests for permission to conduct research, data collection through interviews, questionnaires, recording, and also research ethics (Creswell & Creswell, 2020; Creswell & Plano, 2018; Creswell, & Creswell, 2021). Data collection techniques in qualitative research are empirical and reflective. The researcher collected data according to the research context. Therefore, qualitative researchers tend to conduct inductive researches. Hence, data collection techniques and data analysis techniques are carried out simultaneously and the analysis process is conducted at the same time. Research results can change at any time in accordance with the development of data and analysis carried out by researchers.

In the perspective of Huberman & Miles (2009), data collection techniques that use simultaneous and successive concepts are called research flows. In qualitative studies, the data are temporary because they will change according to the stages of research, data found, and analysis. Referring to practitioners who write qualitative researches, such as Tracy (2021), Marshall, Rossman & Blanco (2021), and Denzin & Lincoln (2018), Denzin & Lincoln (2013) qualitative data collection tends to rely on interviews, texts, and visual. However, in this context, researchers can also use other data collection and are adjusted to the interests of researchers in digging up the required data. Data collection technique that requires conducting a direct interview with participants must use interview because it is more relevant. In this regard, this research formulates four research data collection techniques related to the mapping of East Java litterateurs.

Research Methods

This research focused on a qualitative study. Therefore, the data presentation carried out by the researcher was presented in narrative-descriptive (Creswell, 2007; Creswell & Creswell, 2020). Researchers in qualitative studies rely more on the ability to interpret the data obtained, either through questionnaires, documentation, interviews, or texts, (Ahmadi, 2019a, Saldaña, 2011, Silverman, 2021). The researcher in this study created a mapping design for Indonesian litterateurs in East Java using two methods as follows.

First, the researcher designed and created a website that was used to collect data from Indonesian litterateurs in East Java. The website was adapted to the research instrument that had been made by the researcher. So that, the researcher was able to get real data from the website. However, on the other hand, the website was not able to capture data of litterateurs who did not fill in the database of East Java litterateurs. Moreover, the researcher conducted an interview study with practitioners or extracting data using the snowball model to avoid that issue.

Second, the researcher collected data directly to the field. The researcher explored data of the litterateurs' names found in various media, sources, or from the participants. Furthermore, the researcher went to the field to conduct interviews with the litterateurs. This is indeed very important to do this action since collecting data through the website is sometimes ineffective. So that, one of the methods was through screening down directly to the field.

To reduce the level of subjectivity, the researcher conducted inter-subjectivity by (1) discussing the results of the research on mapping East Java litterateurs with other researchers who have expertise in the field of literature (in this case lecturers or literary practitioners), the researcher conducted discussions with authors; (2) the researcher reviewed the theories and methodologies that have been carried out; and (3) the researcher triangulated data by conducting focus group discussions (FGD). The FGD activities are expected to provide constructive input for the research. In FGD, the researcher invited practitioners, literary experts, teachers, writers, litterateurs, and literary connoisseurs. These diverse elements are expected to make a positive contribution to this research.

Analysis and Discussion

The mapping of Indonesian litterateurs in East Java is divided into several cities, such as Surabaya, Sidoarjo, Gresik, Lamongan, Bojonegoro, Mojokerto, Jombang, Kediri, Nganjuk, Madiun, Ponorogo, Pacitan, Trenggalek, Tulungagung, Blitar, Magetan, Ngawi, Bojonegoro, Tuban, Pasuruan, Malang, Lumajang, Probolinggo, Jember, Bondowoso, Situbondo, and Banyuwangi. Those cities raise and contribute many litterateurs in the categories of short story writers, novelist, poet, or playwright.

Picture 1: Map of the litterateurs spread in East Java



Source: Zainuri (2018)

The mapping of East Javanese litterateurs takes a quite long time because East Java is a large area. Therefore, the strategy for extracting literary data is carried out through three segmentations, such as interviews with litterateurs, website creation, and extracting data from the internet.

Conducting Interviews with Litterateurs

Conducting interviews is the most widely used strategy to collect data in qualitative studies. As it is well known that interview is a direct interaction between the researcher and the participants/informants. Therefore, the data obtained is real data from the field. In addition, research that refers to qualitative uses more interviews because the data raised uses more narrative exposure. For this reason, in qualitative research the expertise of the researcher needs to have the ability in digging up data, interviewing participants, processing interview data, and analysing data. An expert researcher will be able to create the results of the interview to be more interesting and thorough.

In this research, the researcher did the litterateurs' data collection by using interviews when they agreed to conduct meetings and interviews. If the litterateurs agreed to meet and be interviewed, the researcher arranged a meeting and interview schedule. Interviews were flexibly carried out according to the requests of the litterateurs and the researcher. When the two parties agreed, a meeting and interview could be conducted. For example, in May 2021, the researcher contacted Budi Darma, an East Javanese litterateur who wrote three novels *Olenka*, *Rafilus*, and *Nyonya Talis*. He agreed to meet and be interviewed. The researcher also met him at his house in Ketintang, Surabaya.

After getting the agreement, the researcher came to the house of the litterateur (Budi Darma). In the meeting, the researcher used a semi-structured interview model so that data collection in the interview was informal, relaxed, and did not seem official. This was expected to make the litterateur feel comfortable as a participant in the research. By using semi-structured interviews, the language used by the researcher was informal so that it made the discussion related to the data collection to be more convenient. In order to make the litterateur felt comfortable during the interview process, the researcher did not dig up private personal data. According to this reason, the researcher initially made instruments related to interviews. The interview process took about one hour.

There were weaknesses in doing data collection through interviews with litterateur. The researcher had difficulty with the database of litterateurs in East Java. This made the researcher had to choose which litterateurs should be interviewed and which litterateurs should not. In addition, in the context of interviews, the researcher had to spare free time in terms of visiting them (litterateurs). In fact, litterateurs also experienced difficulties when conducting meetings. In addition, they also sometimes refused because they were worried that there would be problems (at the time this research was conducted, the covid-19 pandemic was still ongoing). This caused some litterateurs who were invited to be interviewed face-to-face, sometimes refused to do it. This happened because they chose to do social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Using Sijati Database (East Java Literatures and Litterateurs Information System)

The researcher did not only do data collection by conducting interviews because those had weaknesses such as time issues and too much effort. Moreover, capturing the litterateurs who had not been added to the list of litterateur data needed a more strategic way to accomplish. For this reason, the researcher compiled or created a database system related to litterateurs. The system was named *Sijati* (East Java Literature and Litterateurs Information System). The database is used to capture East Java litterateurs who are spread to various regions. The stages of preparing *Sijati* are presented as follows.

First, the researcher explored and compiled the data needed in compiling a database of East Java litterateurs. The database aimed to comprehensively capture East Java litterateurs because everyone (in this case litterateurs) could randomly register themselves in the database. Litterateurs got IDs through this database and they also used the database as a portfolio that could be used in researches or collaborations with other parties. That first stage was processed, discussed, and evaluated. Finally, the website creation was done.

Second, while *Sijati* database was ready, the researcher launched it to the public through social media, socialization, or official invitation letters. Thus, all audiences (especially litterateurs) can find information related to the *Sijati* database which is a website for litterateurs. People can freely access *Sijati* to find out the database of litterateurs in East Java. In consequence, this media will facilitate easy access for litterateurs and citizens. So far, people sometimes do not acknowledge and even do not appreciate the litterateurs in their area. This happened because there was no database related to them.

Picture 2: *Sijati* Website



There are some important points contained in *sijati.id* as follows. First, the litterateurs’ personal data which include the names, addresses, and genders. Those are general data that are open and accessible to the public. Second, data related to literary works that they have written and also awards that they have achieved. *Sijati* website is tentative. That means that in order to the progress of developing the website, the researcher receives input from various levels of society so that the website can be more optimal and can be used for the benefit of the community.

Sijati website is used to recruit East Java litterateurs both in the category of litterateurs who live in cities and suburbs. In this context, litterateurs who live in a city mean they live in Surabaya (as the capital of East Java). Through this study, the researcher hoped that the litterateurs who are spread in various regions can enter the database and can be documented and mapped. Thus, the data of litterateurs can be well documented.

Collecting Litterateurs’ Data from the Internet

Besides using the interview method and using the website to collect data from East Java litterateurs, the researchers also used the method of extracting litterateur’s data via the internet. Extracting litterateurs’ data through the internet is an easy and practical effort to get fast data. Collecting data for East Java litterateurs via the internet only takes a few minutes. Furthermore, the researcher did not find any difficulties to get the data because the researcher only needs to type keywords needed on the internet during the searching process, such as the names of East Java litterateurs, mapping of East Java litterateurs, or researches of East Java litterateurs. In this case, the researcher traced digital data related to the database of East Java litterateurs. The database is categorized in the following table.

Table 1: Reference of East Java Litterateurs’ Data

Website	Chosen Data
Government Page (Language Development and Cultivation Centre, Language Centre)	Litterateur’s name and literary work
Arts Council Page (East Java, region/city)	Litterateur’s name and literary work
Literature Community Page	Litterateur’s name and literary work
Literature Researchers Page	Litterateur’s name and literary work
Private Page (blog)	Litterateur’s name and literary work
Journal Page	Data of litterateur research and literary work
Website magazine/newspaper	Litterateur’s name and literary work

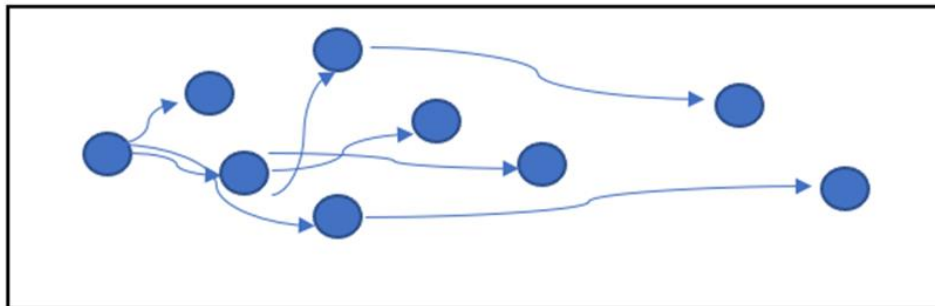
Researchers conducted data collection of litterateurs and their works through the database on the internet, starting from official government websites (Language Development and Cultivation Centre,

Language Centre, Arts Council) to public websites that are for-profit or non-profit. Data collection through digital traces eases the researcher to obtain the data about East Java litterateurs. However, the data obtained by the researcher from the website is still fragmentary. Therefore, the researcher needs to dig up deeper into the data of litterateurs. In addition, the data of litterateurs found on the internet is general. It means that the names of litterateurs are names recorded in the category of famous litterateurs. So that, litterateurs who are still in the beginner category sometimes are not found on profit or non-profit pages. The names of litterateurs who are already well-known certainly do appear in various media and indeed have many publications. This causes their names to appear in various media so that their names are detected on the internet. However, beginner litterateurs who are still new and do not have many works are not widely known and their names do not commonly appear on the internet.

Collecting litterateurs' Data using Snowball Technique

The researcher used the snowball technique to collect the data of East Java Litterateurs. The term snowball in this research refers to a research technique carried out to collect the data of litterateur names by asking people who have expertise in the field of literature (could be litterateurs). The researcher asked the informants about litterateurs that they know. Thus, the names of the litterateurs would be obtained continuously and rolled like a snowball. When the snowball continued to roll, the researcher would get much data from the informants. In this case, the researcher chose informants who were relevant to the literary context. The researcher adopted the views of Spradley (2016) regarding informants. In this context, the researcher chose informants who have comprehension in literature, are litterateurs, acknowledge literature experts, are not patronizing and are mostly involved in the literature field. To extract this data, the researchers met with the litterateurs who were considered as experienced and senior ones. The researcher looked deeper into the names of the litterateurs who were known by the informants.

Picture 3: Snowball Technique to collect the data of East Java litterateurs



The researcher found weaknesses in using the snowball technique as follows. First, the informants who were used as source informants tended to choose litterateurs who they knew and were closed to them. This was caused by the element of subjectivity belonged to the informants. The element of subjectivity was certainly unavoidable in this case. The researcher tried to minimize this issue by digging up as much as possible the data from informants related to the litterateurs' names. Furthermore, the researcher would select and sort out the relevant litterateurs' data. Second, the informants chosen or recommended by the initial informants sometimes did not match the instruments made by the researcher in collecting informants' data using snowball. Therefore, in this case, the researcher reviewed the informants' data obtained from the informants which were used as reference sources for the next informants.

Conclusions

Based on the explanation, this study explored data collection methods for mapping East Java litterateurs at an initial stage. The research was conducted by using two models which were field and non-

field and it offered four techniques. First, collecting the data of East Java litterateurs using interview techniques. Second, collecting the data of East Java litterateurs using *Sijati* database technique (the researcher compiled/created the database). Third, through the database on the internet related to East Javanese literature and litterateurs. Fourth, through the snowball technique.

The researcher found weaknesses of the four techniques in the data collection. First, the interview technique with litterateurs, it turned out that not all litterateurs agreed to be directly interviewed. This happened because they were currently still facing the COVID-19 pandemic so that some litterateurs are reluctant to be interviewed. Second, for extracting data using the *Sijati* database (East Java literature and litterateurs Information System), it turned out that some litterateurs had difficulty filling in. This was due to age problems and also sometimes they were reluctant to fill in (for personal reasons that were not stated). Third, collecting litterateurs' data from internet databases, it turned out that the data spread on the internet was still general so that the data obtained were still framework and general. For the snowball technique, the research found weaknesses related to the subjectivity of source informants in selecting other informants.

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