CHAPTER IV
METHODOLOGY OF THE INVESTIGATION
4.1 KIND OF INVESTIGATION

This investigation was descriptive-explanatory. It described the lack of a manual to develop the lab practices of Intensive Basic English I and II at UFG in an efficient and dynamic way.

This research was explanatory because the answer to the statement of the problem was identified, described, and classified to get a better comprehension of the actual situation of the lab sessions at UFG.

4.2 DESIGN OF THE INVESTIGATION

This research was not experimental. The object of study was analyzed without altering or controlling the variables. The situation observed was already existent and the researchers only pointed out the problematic situation and proposed a possible solution by the end of the investigation period.

The statement of the problem was analyzed through the use of an interview to the teachers who were teaching Intensive Basic English I and II at UFG, as well as a questionnaire to the students who were enrolled in that subject.

4.3 POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The population of this investigation was the students of Intensive Basic English I and II at UFG, as well as the teachers in charge of these courses. At the moment of the elaboration of this chapter there were four groups of Intensive Basic English I and eight groups of Intensive Basic English II. There were 594 students in total and five teachers who had been assigned to give these courses.

As sample for this investigation, 15% of the total number of students enrolled in Intensive Basic English I and II at UFG was been taken. That is, 89 students who
helped the researchers fill in the instrument designed to carry out this investigation. Regarding the teachers, the same population was been taken as sample, due to the small number of teachers who were object of this investigation.

4.4 TECHNIQUES AND INSTRUMENTS FOR DATA GATHERING

The technique used was the survey and two different instruments were used:

1) An interview to the teachers who were giving Intensive Basic English I and II at UFG, with the aim of identifying the difficulties the teachers faced when preparing and finding the information to use during the lab sessions, as well as when developing them. (see Annex III)

2) A questionnaire to the students who were enrolled in that subject (see Annex IV)

4.5 PROCEDURES

Once the Topic of the investigation had been established and the instruments for gathering information had been elaborated, the researchers proceeded as follows:

1) The interview to the teachers who were giving Intensive Basic English I and II at UFG. The researchers met with the teacher, one week before the last class of the semester 02 / 2007. Besides answering the questions stated in the interview, teachers also gave their comments and opinions regarding the topic.

2) The questionnaire to the students who were enrolled in that subject.
The researchers asked the teacher for permission to pass the questionnaire to 20 students in each group. Since the students' level of English is still basic, the researchers decided to elaborate the questionnaire in Spanish to make sure the answers obtained were accurate.