Writing for Research (EDU705)

Glossary

A special Thanks to “Minha”

- **Correlation**

Interdependence between factors within a system.

- **Deductive reasoning**

An approach to research where the researcher predicts a relationship between the independent and dependent variables, stating it as a hypothesis. The hypothesis is then tested to see if it is true or false. Comes under the logic of reasoning.

- **Dependent Variable**

The outcome variable. In experimental research, this variable is expected to depend on a predictor (or independent) variable.

- **Research Question**

A clear statement in the form of a question of the specific issue that a researcher wishes to analyze.

- **Sampling**

The process of selecting a subgroup of a population that will be used to represent the entire population.

- **Semi-Structured Interview**

A method of data collection in which the interviewer uses a pre-determined list of topics or questions to gather information from a respondent. The interviewer, however, may stray from the list to follow-up on things the respondent says during the interview.

Notes for Mids

- **Purpose of the Thesis**: it serves as a formal document where you present original research or scholarly work on a specific topic. It demonstrates your understanding, critical thinking, and ability to contribute new knowledge
- **Writing Style and Audience:**
  - Writing style refers to how you express ideas, use language, and structure sentences.
  - Consider your audience (readers) when choosing a style. Academic writing is typically formal, precise, and objective.
- **Order and Component of Thesis**
  - **Title page**: Includes title, author, institution, and date.
  - **Abstract**: Brief summary of the thesis.
  - **Table of Contents**: Lists chapters and sections.
  - **Introduction**: Sets context and outlines research question.
  - **Literature Review**: Surveys existing research.
  - **Methodology**: Describes research methods.
  - **Results**: Presents findings.
  - **Discussion**: Analyzes results.
  - **Conclusion**: Summarizes key points.
  - **References**: Lists cited sources.
  - **Appendices**: Additional material (e.g., data, charts).
  - **Acknowledgments**: Thanks to supporters.
  - **Statement of Originality**: Affirms original work.

- **Footnotes and Endnotes**: footnotes appear at the bottom of pages, while endnotes are at the end of chapters or the entire document. They provide additional information or references.
- **Abstract:** it summarizes your thesis briefly. It helps readers decide if they want to read the full document.
- **Key Linguistic Feature of an Abstract: Tense:** Abstracts often use the present tense to discuss general truths or current relevance
- **Questions Related to Abstract Writing**
  - "How long should the abstract be?"
  - "What should I include?"
  - "How do I make it engaging?"
- **Introduction Chapter in a Thesis:** it sets the stage for your research. It outlines the problem, research question, and significance.
- **Functions of the Introduction Chapter**
  - **Engagement**: It captures the reader's attention and sets the tone for the entire work.
  - **Context**: It provides background information related to the topic.
  - **Thesis Statement**: It clearly defines the research problem or question.
  - **Significance**: It explains why the study is relevant and valuable.
  - **Structure**: It outlines the organization of the thesis or research paper.
- **Introduction:** Establishing a Research Territory: In this section, you demonstrate knowledge of the topic and its relevance to the field. You explain where your study fits within existing literature and establish the context for your research.
- **Indicating a Gap/ Niche:** You highlight a gap or limitation in previous research. By identifying this gap, you emphasize the need for further investigation in your specific area.
- **Occupy the Niche/ Gap:** This step involves presenting new information or results that address the identified gap. You contribute to the field by filling the gap with your research findings.
- **Statement of the Problem and the Context:** The statement of the problem defines the research issue or question. The context provides background information related to the problem.

- **Aims of the Study:** The aims outline the specific goals or objectives of your research. They guide your investigation and provide direction.
- **Clarification of Key Constructs:** You define essential terms, concepts, or variables used in your study. This ensures clarity and understanding for the reader.
- **Organization of the Thesis:** You briefly describe how the thesis or research paper is structured. This helps readers navigate through your work.
- **Key Linguistic Features in Establishing Significance of the Study:** These include language cues that emphasize the importance of your research. For example, phrases like "critical gap" or "novel contribution" signal significance.
- **Key Linguistic Features in Indicating the Gap:** These features highlight limitations or areas lacking sufficient research. Contrastive phrases (e.g., "however," "despite") often signal this.
- **Key Linguistic Features in Occupying the Gap in the Introduction:** Here, you present specific results or findings that address the gap. Use clear language without interpretation or evaluation.
- **Active vs. Passive Voice Use**
  - Active voice emphasizes the doer of the action (e.g., "We conducted the study").
  - Passive voice focuses on the action itself (e.g., "The study was conducted").
- **Key Linguistic Features: Adjectives and Pronouns**
  - Adjectives add precision (e.g., "significant," "promising").
  - Pronouns (e.g., "we," "our") personalize the research.
- **Language Use in Making Comparisons:** Comparative language (e.g., "compared to," "in contrast") highlights differences. Use it to discuss existing research or your own findings
- **Introduction: Questions Answered:** The introduction should address the "what" and "why" of your research. It sets the stage for the reader to understand your study
- **Literature Review:** The literature review surveys existing research on your topic. It provides context, identifies gaps, and informs your study
- **Literature Review: Functions**

- Summarize existing knowledge.
- Identify trends, controversies, and gaps.
- Justify the need for your research.

- **Content and Structure: Organization Options**

When organizing the content and structure of a literature review, you have several options:

- **Chronological**: Arrange studies in the order they were published.
- **Thematic**: Group studies based on common themes or topics.
- **Methodological**: Organize by research methods used (e.g., qualitative, quantitative).

- **Body of the Literature Review:** The body of a literature review contains the main analysis and synthesis of existing research. It presents, evaluates, and interprets the findings from various sources
- **Body of the Literature Review: Structure:** The structure can follow a chronological, thematic, or methodological approach. It should logically flow from one section to another, addressing key themes or research questions
- **Organizing a Literature Review:** Organize your literature review based on the research objectives and the most effective way to convey information. Consider the context, purpose, and audience when structuring your review
- **Reporting Research:** Reporting research involves presenting your findings in a clear, objective manner. Use a structured format (e.g., introduction, methodology, results, discussion) to communicate effectively
- **Summarizing Key Elements of Literature Review:** Summarize the main findings, theories, and gaps in the existing literature. Highlight the contributions of your study and its relevance
- **Conclusion of the Literature Review:** The conclusion summarizes the key points from the literature review. It reinforces the research objectives and sets the stage for subsequent chapters
- **Introduction to the Literature Review:** The introduction outlines the purpose, scope, and significance of the literature review. It provides context for the reader and sets expectations

- **Paraphrasing and Coherence:** Paraphrasing ensures that you express existing research in your own words. Coherence ensures smooth transitions between ideas and sections
- **Synthesizing:** Cohesion in Literature Review: Synthesize information by connecting related studies and concepts. Maintain cohesion through clear linking phrases and logical flow
- **Language Focus: Tense and Citation:** Use the appropriate verb tense (usually present or past) when discussing research. Cite sources consistently using a specific citation style (e.g., APA, MLA).
- **Plagiarism:** Avoid plagiarism by properly attributing ideas, data, and text from other sources. Use citations and references to acknowledge original work
- **Reporting Literature: Approaches:** Choose an approach (e.g., descriptive, critical, evaluative) based on your research goals. Adapt your reporting style to suit the context and purpose
- **Choice of Verb and Tense:** Select verbs carefully to convey the strength of evidence (e.g., "suggests," "demonstrates"). Use consistent verb tenses within your literature review
- **Evaluating and Critiquing Published Research:** Evaluate the quality, methodology, and relevance of existing studies. Critique their limitations and implications
- **Stance towards Published Research:** Maintain an objective stance while discussing previous research. Avoid personal opinions or biases
- **Reviewing the Literature: Organizing:** Organize the literature review logically to guide readers through the research landscape. Highlight connections and patterns
- **Important Questions Answered:** Address key questions related to your research topic. Provide concise answers based on the literature
- **Methodology:** The methodology section describes the research design, data collection, and analysis methods. It ensures transparency and replicability
- **Methodology of a Thesis:** Functions: The methodology explains how you conducted your study. It justifies your research choices and ensures rigor
- **Methodology:** Content and Structure: Describe the research design, sampling, data collection, and analysis procedures. Include relevant details for other researchers to understand and replicate

- **Introduction in a Methodology Chapter:** The introduction to the methodology chapter sets the context for the research methods. It explains why specific approaches were chosen and their relevance
- **Methodology: Main Body:** outlines the research design, data collection methods, and analysis techniques used in a study.It explains how the research was conducted and justifies the choices made
- **Conclusion of a Methodology Chapter:** summarizes the key methodological decisions made in the chapter. It reinforces the rationale behind the chosen research approach
- **Triangulation:** involves using multiple data sources, methods, or investigators to address a research question. It enhances validity, credibility, and minimizes biases
- **Key Structural Points in Methodology Chapter**
  - **Aim of research**: Clearly define research goals.
  - **Data collection method**: Choose appropriate methods (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed).
  - **Data collection procedures**: Plan how to gather relevant data.
  - **Data analysis**: Explain how data will be processed.
  - **Ethical concerns**: Address ethical considerations.
- **Data Collection Procedures:** detail how data will be gathered. They include sampling, survey design, interviews, observations, etc
- **Instruments:** refer to tools or measures used for data collection (e.g., surveys, questionnaires). They ensure consistency and reliability
- **Data Collection:** involves systematically gathering information. It can be done through surveys, experiments, fieldwork, etc
- **Data Analysis:** processes collected data to draw meaningful conclusions. Statistical methods, coding, and interpretation are used
- **Data Reliability:** refers to the consistency and stability of measurements. Reliable data produces consistent results
- **Issues of Data validity:** concerns whether data accurately represents the intended concept. Address validity threats (e.g., measurement bias)
- **Ethical Concerns:** involve protecting participants' rights and privacy. Researchers must follow ethical guidelines

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- **Summarizing:** involves succinctly presenting key points. It ensures clarity and conciseness
- **Methodology:** Language Use: Use clear, precise language to describe methods. Be consistent and avoid ambiguity
- **Result, Content and Structure:** The result chapter presents findings objectively. It supports or refutes hypotheses and provides evidence
- **Quantitative Results:** Quantitative results are expressed numerically (e.g., percentages, means). Statistical tests analyze relationships and significance
- **Qualitative Research:** explores meanings, experiences, and context. It uses open-ended interviews, observations, or content analysis
- **Qualitative Responses**: provide rich, descriptive data. Themes and patterns emerge from open-ended questions
- **Key Linguist Features: Tenses:** Use appropriate verb tenses (past for methods, present for results). Maintain consistency throughout the chapter
- **Caution in Presenting Results:** Be objective and avoid overinterpreting findings. Acknowledge limitations and uncertainties
- **Key Linguist Features in Qualitative Research:** Use descriptive language, quotes, and vivid examples. Capture nuances and context
- **Presenting Results visually:** use tables, graphs, and figures to enhance clarity. Visual representations aid understanding

Follow the Applied Linguistics Mentor channel on WhatsApp for all the basic help:

https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaazKAVBfxoDMH4l9U0u

Maha Malik

https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaLvft01XquQQ7sIB12s

For Mids Files

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