Research Objectives and Research Questions

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Outline

- Introduction to Writing Chapter One
- Hypothesis
- Introduction to Data Collection

Objectives of the Topic

- To Understand how to write a research proposal.
- To Understand how to write the Introductory Chapter of Research Project.
- To understand Data, Its types and important concepts in Data collection.

Introduction to Writing Chapter One

By now you have created your topic, received your thesis supervisors, and you are in the process of either revising the topic with your supervisor or starting the research.

Before you start your research it is important to have a good plan on how you are going to conduct your research. This plan is presented in a document called "***A Research Proposal***".

What is a research proposal?

A research proposal is a document that outlines the plan for conducting a research study. It serves as a roadmap for the research process and its typically submitted to gain approval and support for the research project.

- Research proposals are used in both academic and professional fields. And a research proposal contains the summary of some of the most important part of the research.

Introduction to Writing Chapter One

The most important parts of a research proposal generally include the most important part of Chapter one of the research (Introduction), Chapter two (Literature Review), and Chapter three (Research methodology)

CONTAINS OF CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

The typical contain of chapter one includes the following, however, the contains may have little additions or subtractions depending on the format of thesis writing in a specific university, field and/or academic level of studies;

1.1 Introduction of the chapter

1.2 Background of the study

1.3 Statement of Research Problem (Problem of the Study)

1.4 Objectives of the study

1.5 Research Questions

1.6 Significance of the study

1.7 Scope and Limitations of the study

Introduction to Writing Chapter One

- **Background of the Study:** The background of the study is a critical section of a research proposal that provides context and justification for the research. The Background of the study should be design in such a way that it present information from General to specific.

Background of your research should focus more on your topic area rather than your research questions. The background should be design in the following process:

- **Contextual Information**: Begin your background by providing general background information on the broader topic or subject area of your research. This sets the stage for the reader and helps them understand the context in which your study will take place.

- **Historical Perspective**: If applicable, provide a historical overview of the topic. Highlight key developments or events that have led to the current state of affairs. This historical context can help justify the need for the study.

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- **Statement of the Problem**: Clearly and briefly articulate the specific problem or issue that your research aims to address. This statement should be concise and focused, providing a clear understanding of what you are investigating.

- **Justification for the Study**: Briefly explain why the chosen problem is significant and worthy of investigation. Briefly discuss the potential implications of solving the problem or advancing knowledge in the area. This will help the reader to begin to understand the relevance of your research.

- **Gap in Existing Literature**: Provide a brief review of relevant literature to highlight the current state of knowledge in the field. Identify any gaps, inconsistencies, or areas where further research is needed. This sets the stage for explaining how your study fills these gaps.

Note: The whole purpose of the background of the study is; for it to serves as the foundation for the entire research, helping readers understand the context, significance, and rationale behind the research. It provides a compelling case for why the proposed study is necessary and contributes to the understanding of the chosen subject.

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- **Statement of Research Problem (Problem of the Study):** This section clearly articulate the specific problem or issue that the research aims to address. This statement should be concise and focused, providing a clear understanding of what you are investigating. In stating the problem of the study, the researcher should focus on the following:

- **Size of the Problem**: The researcher have to be very careful in selecting a problem to tackle. Problems are usually macro in size, this means that they are often too large for satisfactory results to be obtained. The researcher should specify the problem and make sure that its feasible and manageable.

- **The Researcher's Capabilities and Limitations**: A researcher must recognize his own capabilities and limitations. It is very important for a researcher to discuss with his/her supervisor, in the process of specifying the research problem. Doing so will eliminate some of the difficulties in the process.

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- **Objectives of the Study**: This is the evidence of researcher's clear sense of purpose and direction. Writing clear and concise research objectives is crucial for a research proposal or study.

Research objectives define what you intend to achieve through your research. Here are some guidelines to help you articulate effective research objectives:

- **Be Direct and Specific**: Clearly state what you want to accomplish in your study. Avoid vague or broad statements. The objective should be focused and specific, leaving no room for ambiguity.

- **Align the Objective with the Problem Statement**: Ensure that your research objectives directly address the problem or issue outlined in the problem statement. This helps maintain coherence and relevance in your research.

- **Use Action Verbs**: Start your research objectives with action verbs that convey the intended action or outcome. Action verbs make your objectives more dynamic and measurable. Example: Identify, Evaluate, Examine, Compare, etc.

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- **Consider Feasibility**: Make sure your objectives are realistic and achievable within the scope of your study. Consider the resources, time, and constraints you have. Example of unrealistic objective: "Eliminate all Financial fraud." Instead the objective should be; "Examine the main causes of financial fraud within the industry and suggest strategies to mitigate them."

- **Hierarchy of Objectives**: If your study has multiple objectives, consider organizing them hierarchically. Start with the main objective and then break it down into specific, measurable objectives.

- **Avoid Jargon**: Write your objectives in clear and simple language. Avoid unnecessary technical jargon that might confuse your audience.

- **Review and Refine**: After drafting your research objectives, review them to ensure they align with the overall purpose of your study. Seek feedback from your supervisor and be open to refining your objectives for clarity and precision.

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- **Research Questions:** A research question is the conversion of research objective into questions that need to be addressed in the research. The research question must be specific, focuses on a particular aspect of the topic, and incorporates the key variables of the research. Example:

Research Objective; The objective of this research is to find the relationship between risk management and financial performance of Banks in Kurdistan.

Research Question: What is the relationship between risk management and the financial performance of Banks in Kurdistan?

Writing clear and well-formulated research questions is crucial for any research project, as they guide the research process and provide a framework for investigation. Below are guidelines to help you write effective research questions:

- **Focus on One Idea**: Each research question should address a single, specific aspect of your research topic. Avoid overly broad or complex questions.

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- **Use Clear and Concise Language**: Express your research questions in clear and straightforward language. Avoid unnecessary jargon or technical terms that might confuse your audience.

- **Avoid Yes/No Questions**: Formulate questions that require more than a simple "yes" or "no" answer. Instead, aim for questions that prompt detailed exploration and analysis.

- **Hierarchical Structure**: If your study involves multiple research questions, consider organizing them hierarchically. Start with the main question and then break them down into more specific sub-questions.

- **Balance Ambition and Feasibility**: Ensure that your research questions are ambitious enough to contribute meaningfully to your field but also realistic and feasible within the constraints of your study.

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- **Address the "How," "What," "Why," or "In What Way"**: Research questions often start with words like "how," "what," "why," or "in what way." These question starters encourage exploration and analysis.

- **Consider the Audience**: Keep your target audience in mind. Remember that your research is intended for a broader audience. Therefore, ensure that your questions are understandable to readers who may not have specialized knowledge in your field.

- **Consider the Research Design**: Keep in mind the type of research design and methodology you plan to use. The nature of your research questions should be compatible with your chosen approach, whether it's qualitative, quantitative, or a mix of both.

Note: Your research finding must address your research questions, where solutions were found or other wise. One of the key criteria of your research success is that conclusions should be drawn from research questions.

Introduction to Writing Chapter One

- **Significance of the Study**: This section in a research or in a research proposal explains why the research is important and how it contributes to the existing body of knowledge in a particular field. This section is critical because it provides a rationale for conducting the study and emphasizes its relevance.

The researcher should clearly write the significance of the study to the specific details of his/her research by considering the followings:

- **Start with a Clear Statement**: Begin by clearly stating why your study is significant. This can be a brief and straightforward statement that highlights the importance of the research problem you're addressing.

- **Connect to Real-World Issues**: Explain how your research relates to real-world issues or practical concerns. Demonstrate that your study has the potential to address problems, provide solutions, or contribute valuable insights in a meaningful way.

Introduction to Writing Chapter One

- **Highlight the Relevance**: Emphasize the relevance of your research to the current state of knowledge in your field. Explain how your study fills a gap, addresses a limitation, or extends existing understanding.

- **Address the Research Gap**: Clearly articulate the gap or deficiency in current literature or research that your study aims to fill. Explain how your research adds something new and different to the existing body of knowledge. This helps establish why your research is needed and what unique contribution it can make. It gives your research ***novelty***.

- **Show Potential Impact**: Discuss the potential impact of your study on the field, industry, or community. Consider both theoretical contributions and practical applications. Identify and discuss the stakeholders or groups that could benefit from your research. This might include academics, practitioners, policymakers, or specific communities.

- **Highlight Timeliness**: Discuss why your research is timely and relevant in the current context. This could involve addressing emerging trends, pressing challenges, or recent developments in your field.

Introduction to Writing Chapter One

❑**Scope and Limitations of the Study**: This section of a research defines the boundaries and parameters within which the research will be conducted. It outlines what the study will cover (scope) and what it will not cover (limitations).

This section is essential for managing expectations and providing transparency about the study's constraints. The researcher should address the followings when creating the scope and limitations of the research:

❖ ***For the Scope of the Study***:

- **Define the Geographical Scope**: Clearly state the geographic area or location covered by the study. Be specific about whether the research is limited to a particular region, country, State or site.

- **Specify the Time Frame**: Define the time period covered by the study. Specify the start and end dates or the duration over which data will be collected and analyzed.

- **Detail the Variables or Aspects Included**: Enumerate the key variables, concepts, or aspects that your study will investigate. This provides clarity about the specific elements you are examining.

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❖***For Limitations of the Study***

- **Acknowledge Potential Constraints**: Clearly state any limitations or constraints that may affect the study's findings. This could include resource limitations, time constraints, or constraints related to the research design.

- **Discuss Generalizability**: Acknowledge whether the findings of your study can be generalized to a broader population or if they are specific to the defined scope. Be transparent about the extent to which your results can be applied beyond your study sample.

- **Note Data Collection Challenges**: If there are challenges or limitations related to data collection, disclosure, or access, discuss them. This helps manage expectations regarding the completeness of your data.

- **Consider Ethical Limitations**: If there are ethical considerations that may limit certain aspects of the study, be transparent about them. This includes issues related to participant confidentiality, privacy, or sensitive topics.

Hypothesis

What is a Hypothesis?

A hypothesis is a tentative statement or proposition that suggests a possible explanation for a phenomenon or a relationship between variables.

In another word, a hypothesis is a statement of the problem solver's expectations about a relationship between variables within a problem. It is a proposition to the solution of the problem. A research problem cannot itself be tested, it must be tested through the hypothesis that it generates.

Hypothesis is a crucial component of the scientific method and is used to guide research and experimentation. Hypotheses are generally formulated based on existing knowledge or theories and are subject to testing and verification.

It's important to note that hypotheses are not absolute truths but rather statements that need to be tested and either supported or rejected through empirical research. The process of hypothesis testing involves collecting data, analyzing it, and drawing conclusions about the acceptability of the hypothesis based on the evidence.

Hypothesis

Types of Hypothesis

Generally there are two ways to specify the types of Hypothesis:

❖ **Null Versus Alternate Hypothesis**

➢ **Null Hypothesis (H0):** The null hypothesis suggests that there is ***no significant effect or relationship*** between the variables being studied. It is typically denoted as H0. Example:

H0: There is no significant relationship between risk management and financial performance of banks.

➢ **Alternative Hypothesis (H1) or (Ha):** The alternative hypothesis proposes a specific effect or relationship between variables. It is what the researcher aims to support or demonstrate through the study. It is denoted as H1 or Ha. Example

H1: There is a significant relationship between risk management and financial performance of banks.

After the hypotheses are tested, one of the hypothesis must be accepted and the other rejected.

Hypothesis

❖ **Directional Versus Non-directional Hypothesis**:

➢**Directional Hypothesis**: A directional hypothesis specifies the expected direction of the relationship or effect. It indicates not only that there is a difference but also the nature of that difference (e.g., positive, negative, greater than, less than). For this type of hypothesis all the research hypotheses will be in the same direction Example:

H1: Increasing financial inclusion will lead to a proportional increase business investment.

H2: Increasing finance courses in tertiary institution lead to a proportional increase in small and medium investment

➢In this type of hypothesis, after testing each hypothesis, the hypothesis will be either accepted or rejected

➢**Non-directional Hypothesis**: A non-directional hypothesis does not specify the expected direction of the effect. It simply suggests that there is a difference or a relationship without indicating whether it will be positive or negative. Example:

H1: There is a significant relationship between financial inclusion and business investment

H2: There is a significant relation between teaching finance courses in tertiary institutions, and small and medium investment.

In this case, each hypothesis will be either accepted or rejected.

Hypothesis

How is Hypothesis generated?

Hypotheses are Generated from the following:

❑ **Literature Review**:

- **Empirical Literature Review**: Researchers often start by reviewing existing literature and cases related to the topic of interest. This helps in identifying gaps in knowledge and formulating hypotheses to address those gaps.

- **Theoretical Literature Review**: Hypotheses are often generated based on established theories in a particular field. Theories provide a framework for understanding relationships between variables, and hypotheses derived from these theories are tested to validate or refine the theories.

❑**Experience**: Researchers' own experiences or insights gained through practical work in a field can lead to the formulation of hypotheses. This experiential knowledge is then subject to empirical testing. Sometimes, researchers rely on intuition or creativity to generate hypotheses. This may involve thinking outside the box or considering alternative explanations for observed phenomena.

Introduction to Data Collection

What is Data?

Data refers to unprocessed information that can be used to draw inferences. In another words, data refers to the raw facts and figures that are collected and analyzed to derive meaningful insights, support decision-making, and address research questions or hypotheses.

Data can be quantitative or qualitative and can be collected through various methods, including surveys, experiments, observations, interviews, and more.

Types of Data in Business Research

- **Quantitative Data**: Quantitative data are numerical in nature and represent measurable quantities. They are often associated with statistical analysis. Quantitative data can be subjected to statistical analysis, allowing researchers to identify patterns, relationships, and trends. Examples: Sales figures, revenue, profit, customer satisfaction scores, number of employees, etc.

Introduction to Data Collection

- **Qualitative Data**: Qualitative data are non-numerical and are concerned with qualities, characteristics, and descriptions. Qualitative data provide a deeper understanding of complex phenomena and are often used to explore attitudes, behaviors, and perceptions. Examples: Textual data from interviews, open-ended survey responses, observations, etc.

In Banking, Finance, and Accounting, most of the time qualitative data are collected through questionnaires and transformed into quantitative figures for analysis.

Important Factors Relating to Data in Business Research

- **Data Validity and Reliability**: The extent to which data accurately represents the concepts or variables it is intended to measure is known as ***validity***. and the consistency of measurements over time together with the trust worthiness of the data is known as ***reliability***. Valid and reliable data are crucial for drawing accurate conclusions and making sound business decisions.

- **Ethical Considerations**: Adhering to ethical principles in the collection, use, and dissemination of data is crucial. Ensuring ethical conduct in business research, including obtaining informed consent, protecting participant confidentiality, and avoiding data manipulation is a very important aspect of research

Any Question

Thank You

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