

Writing a Research Proposal and Researching Discourse

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Writing a Research Proposal (Wisker, 2001)

- ◆ What does a good research proposal look like?
 - ◆ Stages and elements of a research proposal
 - ◆ Submission

 - ◆ What do you want to research? How can you draw up a good proposal?:
 - ◆ A. what are you looking for?
 - ◆ B. what do you seek to investigate?
 - ◆ C. what will you consider the relationship between?
 - ◆ D. what will you contribute to?
 - ◆ E. what will you change?
 - ◆ F. what difference will your research make? Why does it 'matter'?
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The proposal

- ◆ **Indicative title**
- ◆ **Aim and focus of study**
- ◆ **Context for the research**
- ◆ **Theoretical perspectives and interpretations**
- ◆ **Research methodology and methods**
- ◆ **Research design**
- ◆ **Ethical considerations**
- ◆ **Outline plan of your study**
(Wisker, 2001)



Conts...

- ◆ **Indicative title: this should be "interesting and specific enough" e.g.:**
- ◆ **1. Politeness of Front Counter Staff of Malaysian Private Hospitals (Hei, David & Kia, 2013)**
- ◆ **2. Identity Construction on Facebook: Digital Empowerment in Anchored Relationship (Zhao, Grasmuck & Martin, 2008)**
- ◆ **3. Re-Inventing the Self: Construction of Identity in Malaysian Blogosphere (Yusof, 2009)**



Conts...

Aim and focus of study:

- ◆ **1. Underlying research area, the main and sub-questions**
- ◆ **2. What are you trying to find out or hope to find out ?**
- ◆ **3. What are you arguing?**

Context for the research

- ◆ **What Issues, problems, history, background, and other questions provide context**
- ◆ **The contribution to the academic work & knowledge in the area and or to the body of knowledge**




Conts...

Theoretical perspective and interpretation

- ◆ **Where have you taken your theory from-from what kinds of frame work**
- ◆ **Be careful to link the theory and how it directs or drives you unique piece of research**

Research Methodology and methods

- ◆ **What is research methodology or research approach (See. Heigham & Crocker, 2009, p. 14-17) underpinning your research?**
 - ◆ **What methods (interviews, questionnaire etc), vehicles are you going to use and why? How do they link and help inform and develop each other?**
 - ◆ **You should be able to clearly indicate how your chosen methods should enable you investigate your chosen question and subject area.**
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Conts...

Research Design

- ◆ How will you go about collecting information and carrying out literature searches?
- ◆ Provide an outline of the different activities you will undertake in your research
- ◆ Do a critical path analysis of this: (1) a literature search and (2) research activities

Ethical consideration

- ◆ Research on 'human as object' should adhere to ethical issues e.g. object anonymous, sets of interviews should pass 'research ethic committee etc.



Conts...

Outline plan of study

- ◆ **time line for your research activities**
- ◆ **main features of each chapter (heading and sub heading)**



Researching Discourse

Approaches to the analysis of discourse

- ◆ examine paragraph structure, the organization of the whole texts, typical patterns in conversational interactions, language and context, conjunction and reference items etc

Key Areas of Influence in Discourse Analysis

- ◆ Speech Act Theory
- ◆ Cross-Cultural Pragmatics
- ◆ Conversational Implicature
- ◆ Politeness and face
- ◆ Conversation Analysis
- ◆ Genre Analysis



Conts...

- ◆ **Critical Discourse Analysis**
- ◆ **Contrastive Rethoric
(Paltridge, & Wang, 2010).**



References

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- ◆ Wisker, G. (2001). *The Postgraduate Research Handbook: succeed with your MA, MPhil, EdD and PhD*. Basingstroke: Palgrave. (p.44-50)
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