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Faculty of Foreign Languages and Letters
English Division

Formulating the Research Problem- Part III

L3 Research Methodology

Groups: 3/4/5

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Selecting a Study Population

▶ What is a study population?

If the research is concerned with social or educational purposes, you will need a study population. This term refers to the people with whom the research is concerned and from whom the required information to find answers to the research questions will be obtained. The study population needs to be selected as specific as possible in relation to the research problem.

If the research is concerned with young learners, for example, the researcher needs to decide the specific age or the age interval they will work with.

Depending on the topic and the problem, the research needs to specify the level, the gender, the geographic area, the ethnic group ,etc. of the study population.

Selecting a Study Population

▶ Assignment 3

How can the researcher narrow down the study population for the following research question.

Research question : How can the students' mother tongue affect their pronunciation of English vowels?

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Assignment 4

- ▶ Select the appropriate study population for your research problem. Make it as specific as possible.

My initial research question:

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My research question after narrowing down the study population:

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Formulating Research Objectives

Objectives are statements of the goals the researcher wants to achieve in the study.

The formulation of objectives

- ▶ They should be worded in a clear, specific complete and unambiguous way.
- ▶ They should be formed in a declarative statement.
- ▶ They should start with action- oriented verbs: *to determine, to find out, to ascertain, to measure, to explore, to identify, to demonstrate, etc.*
- ▶ They should be numerically listed.

Through their wording, objectives determine the type of the research and the study design the researcher needs to adopt.

Example 1: *to find out the student's attitude towards distance learning in specific class* is an objective for a descriptive study.

Example 2: *To ascertain the effectiveness of distance learning on the academic achievement of learners* is an example of a research objective for a correlational study.

Formulating Research Objectives

Objectives are listed in two forms: **Main objectives and subobjectives.**

Main Objectives represent the overall statement of the research aim.

Subobjectives represent specific aspects of the topic that the researcher wants to investigate within the main framework of the study.

▶ Statement of the Objective

The study aims to determine the level of effectiveness of Social Media in learning management of MIT students in Triple S University (**main objective**)

Specifically , it aims to (**subobjectives**) :

1. determine the extent of use of Social Media among professor and students in the area of class management along with :
 - 1.1 frequency of use
 - 1.2 duration of use.
2. identify the effectiveness of Social Media in class management along with
 2. Professors
 - a . Information Dissemination
 - b . Activity management
 - c . Online Discussion
 - 2.2 Students
 - a . Information Dissemination
 - b . Activity management
 - c . Online Discussion

Assignment 5:

Write down the objectives and the subobjectives that you want to attain bearing in mind your research problem.

- ▶ My research problem (question)

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- ▶ My research objective(s) and subobjectives.

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Hypotheses Construction

Hypotheses are tentative propositions or predictions about a phenomenon, relationship or a situation that are subjected to verification through the research. The researcher makes expectations about the outcome of the research. After obtaining the results of and analysing them, these expectations (hypotheses) can be proven to be right, partially right or wrong.

hypotheses are used as basis for the study . They bring direction and clarity , specificity and focus to the research. They state the specific aspects of the research problem that the research needs to investigate, what data to collect and what data not to collect.

e.g. When investigating the psychological factors that affect the students participation during Oral Expression class, there could be many. Exploring all the possible factors would take a lot of time and resources. Therefore, based on the researcher's knowledge in the field and their review of the literature available on the topic, they can identify what they assume and predict to be the most probable influential factors. This prediction is what constitutes the hypothesis of the research. They design a study that test the validity of this hypothesis. By the end of the research, this hypothesis could be right, partially right or wrong. In all cases, this is beneficial to the body of knowledge the researcher is contributing to.

Different hypotheses could be formulated depending on the research problem and the nature of the research:

- ▶ *Student's social anxiety decreases participation during Oral Expression classes.*
- ▶ *Student's social anxiety is the most dominant psychological factor that inhibits participation during Oral expression classes.*

Researchers can formulate as many hypotheses as they see appropriate to their research. While some researchers believe in the obligation of constructing hypotheses, others assume that they are not necessary.

Assignment 6:

What hypothesis/ hypotheses can you formulate regarding the outcome of your research problem?

▶ My research problem

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▶ My hypothesis (hypotheses)

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