QUALITATIVE EXERCISE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC WRITING

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Step 1

Task 1

Making qualitative questions from quantitative ones

Survey to parents of children between 7-12 years old.

1. What is your gender?
2. How old are you?
3. How do you define your IT knowledge?
4. How do you monitor children's activity on the Internet?
5. How dangerous do you think the material your children find on the web can be?
6. Have you ever instructed your children about the benefits and dangers of the Internet? Which methods do you think are the most suitable ones for educating your children about benefits and dangers of the Internet?
7. Which one of them are you using?
8. Which guidelines do you feel can teach you the most for making the Internet a safer place for children?

Survey to schools.

1. How accessible is the Internet for children at school?
2. How do teachers supervise children's activities on the Internet?
3. What education have schoolteachers received in order to make the Internet a safer place for children?
4. Which program does your school follow to raise awareness about Internet dangers?
5. Which tutorials do you think your school need in order to make the Internet a safer place for children?

Most of the question have been changed because they were binary, which means they were presenting just two options and they were not allowing participants to express all their related opinions about the topic. Other questions, such as the 6th one in the survey for parents and the majority of probes in the survey to school, might create acquiescence bias, which means that participants might be led to answer the question in a way they consider the most ethical.

Task 2

1. How often do you use a computer in your daily life?
2. Which purposes do you use your computer for?

3. Which programs do you use most often for text edition?
4. And which one do you prefer?
5. What are the reasons behind this choice?
6. Which are the benefits of using this text editor?
7. What are the problems do you experience when using it?
8. What do you think should be improved?
9. Which guidelines would you like to have in order to use it better?
10. How active do you think the software community is?

Comment to other group questions

The questions prepared from the other group for the qualitative study were strongly related to the research topic and they were allowing the researchers to gather very interesting information. However, our only suggestion is that the probes redacted would have been more suitable for a quantitative study as they were close-ended questions. Indeed, they were not allowing participants to freely express their opinions and their beliefs about the topic.

Task 3

Answers to study questions

1. How often do you use a computer in your daily life?
   P1: everyday
   P2: everyday
2. Which purposes do you use your computer for?
   P1: Programming purposes, TV shows, information retrieval
   P2: Programming, watching videos, gaming
3. Which programs do you use most often for text edition?
   P1: Microsoft word, Google Docs
   P2: Microsoft word
4. And which one do you prefer?
   P1: Microsoft word
   P2: Microsoft word
5. What are the reasons behind this choice?
   P1: needs fulfilled, popularity, templates availability
   P2: needs fulfilled, easiness, basic skills
6. Which are the benefits of using this text editor?
   P1: priceless for students, simpleness, user-friendly
   P2: popularity
7. What are the problems do you experience when using it?
   P1: not portable
   P2: not stable
8. What do you think should be improved?
   P1: features lack, not designed for tech people
   P2: not math oriented
9. Which guidelines would you like to have in order to use it better?
   P1: no need for internal guidelines because solutions can be find on Google
   P2: no need for internal guidelines because solutions can be find on Google

10. How active do you think the software community is?
    P1: community is sufficient and active
    P2: community is sufficient and active

Interviews results

Our study was focused on understanding what people think about the word-processing program or text editors. We interviewed two people who have daily computer interaction, and so they were quite familiar with using computer's programs. Both of them stated that they were using the PC for information retrieval, gaming and programming. After asking them these introductive questions, we moved on probes majorly related to the research topic. In this phase we discovered that the participants' favourite text editor is Microsoft Word because it fulfils all their needs, it is popular, and it is provided with a large number of default templates. Moreover, one participant also affirmed that Word requires basic knowledge compared to other text editors.

For what concern the benefits and the drawbacks of this word processor we received different answers. For the former, they said that Word is user-friendly and free for students, while for the latter they affirmed that Word is in some cases not stable and not portable between different operating systems. Hence, they suggested some improvements, such as increasing the tech-people orientation and improving the math writing. Finally, they stated that there is no need for internal guidelines as they are able to solve all their issues by searching on Google or by discussing in the community which they define active and helpful.