Unit 4

4.1 More paragraph practice

Original paragraph

In assessing the quality of an instrument we distinguish three quality domains, i.e. reliability, validity, and responsiveness. Each domain contains one or more measurement properties. The domain reliability contains three measurement properties: internal consistency, reliability, and measurement error. The domain validity also contains three measurement properties: content validity, construct validity, and criterion validity. The domain responsiveness contains only one measurement property, which is also called responsiveness. The term and definition of the domain and measurement property responsiveness are actually the same, but they are distinguished in the taxonomy for reasons of clarity. Some measurement properties contain one or more aspects, that were defined separately: Content validity includes face validity, and construct validity include structural validity, hypotheses testing, and cross-cultural validity.

Better

We assess each instrument based on reliability, validity, and responsiveness. These domains may be subdivided into measurement properties: Reliability includes internal consistency, reliability, and measurement error; validity includes content validity, construct validity, and criterion validity; responsiveness is both a domain and a measurement property. Some measurement properties additionally contain multiple aspects; for example, construct validity includes structural validity, hypothesis testing, and cross-cultural validity.

4.2 Overview of the Writing Process

1. **Prewriting (70% of time)**
    - Collect, synthesize, and organize information

- Brainstorm take-home messages
- Work out ideas away from the computer
- Develop a road map/outline

2. **Writing the first draft (10% of time)**
    - Putting your facts and ideas together in organized prose
3. **Revision (20% of time)**
    - Read your work out loud
    - Get rid of clutter
    - Do a verb check
    - Get feedback from others

4.3 The Pre-Writing Step

- Get organized first
    - Don't try to write and gather informatioin simultaneously!
    - Gather and organize information BEFORE wiritng the first draft
- Organize your thoughts
    - Set up an organizational system that suits you
    - Spend more time organizing and less time writing. It's just plain less painful
- Develop a road-map
    - Arrange key facts and citations from the literature into a crude road map/outline BEFORE writing the first draft
    - Think in paragraphs and sections
- Brainstorm away form the computer
    - Write on the go (while exercising, driving alone, waiting in line,...)
    - Work out take-home messages
    - Organize your paper
    - Write memorable lines

Compositional organization

1. Like ideas should be grouped
2. Like paragraphs should be goruped
3. Don't "Bait-and-Switch" your reader too many times. Then discussing a controversy, follow:
    - arguments (all)
    - counter-arguments (all)
    - rebuttals (all)

4.4 The Writing Step

- Don't be a perfectionist!
- The goal of the first daft is to get the ideas down in complete sentences in order
- Focus on logical organization more than sentence-level details
- Writing the first draft is the hardest step for most people. Minimize the pain by writing the first draft quickly and efficiently!

4.5 Revision

- Read your work out loud (Brain processes the spoken word differently than the written word)
- Do a verb check
- Don't be afraid to cut!
- Do an organizational review
    - In the margins of your paper, tag each paragraph with a phrase or sentence that sums up the main point
    - then move paragraphs around to improve logical flow and bring similar ideas together.
- Get outside feedback
    - Without any technical background, they should easily grasp the main findings, take-home messages, significance of your work

    - Ask them to point out particularly hard to read sentences and paragraphs
- Get editing help

4.6 Checklist for the final draft

- [ ] Check for consistency
    - [ ] No contradictories in your writing
- [ ] Check for numerical consistency
    - [ ] Numbers in abstract match numbers in tables/figures/text
    - [ ] Numbers in text match numbers in tables/figures
    - [ ] Numbers in table/figure match those in other tables/figures
- [ ] Check your references
    - [ ] No "reference to nowhere"
    - [ ] No references that do not procide the indicated information/fact
    - [ ] Always go back to primary sources
    - [ ] Assume that other authors have made errors in citing sources