


Model answers

Analysis

Both the Longman Dictionary (2004) and the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2003) define research as a 'detailed' or 'serious study of a subject' which takes place 'in order to discover new information'. This fairly general definition is **further expanded by Nunan (1994) who states that research is an activity requiring three elements: firstly, a question, secondly, data and finally, analysis and interpretation of data. These three elements need to be present for research.** Spencer (2005) does not actually define research, but looks at how academic research involves the interaction of three 'worlds', notably the 'real world', the 'abstract world' and the 'academic world'. **Her principal claim is that the world of the academic community plays an essential part in the research process by providing a framework for regulation and communication of the research.** Dawson (2002) is only concerned with **social research** and her definition is therefore too limited in application. Nunan's and Spencer's definitions are more appropriate to academic research in that they stress, respectively, the process of research and the academic context. In this paper, therefore, research will be used to mean a systematic process of identifying a question, followed by collecting and analysing data. The research is set in an academic context by being related to other academic research and theories, and is then assessed by other members of the academic community.


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Paraphrase of ,a systematic proces of inquiry‘



Nunan's own words are used, but the 2nd sentence uses the positive form. Original source: Any activity which lacks one of these elements...

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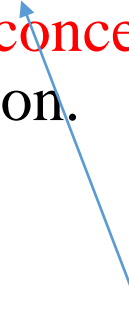


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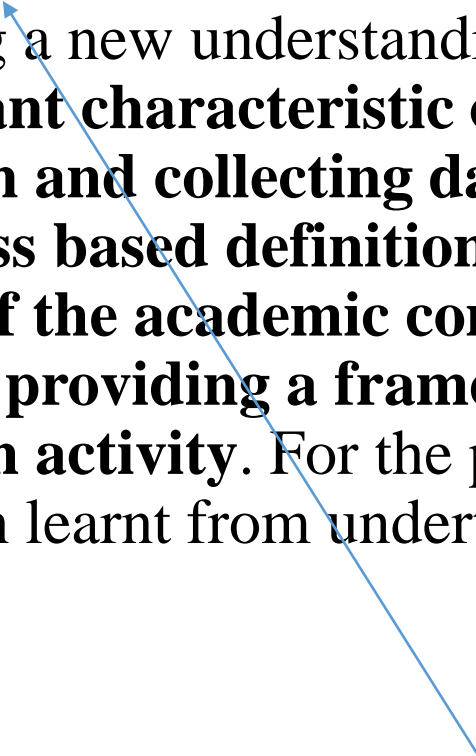
only = the definition is not very relevant

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Model text B

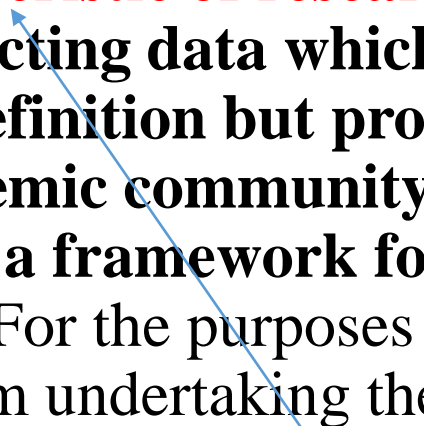
Simple dictionary definitions of research given in the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary and the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English **emphasise the outcome of research**, which is the discovery of new information or reaching a new understanding. However, according to Nunan (1994), **the most important characteristic of research is the systematic process of forming a question and collecting data which is then analysed**. Spencer (2005) also suggests a process based definition but proposes a further element: **she claims that the world of the academic community also plays an essential part in the research process providing a framework for regulation and communication of the research activity**. For the purposes of this paper, the discussion will focus on what has been learnt from undertaking the research process.

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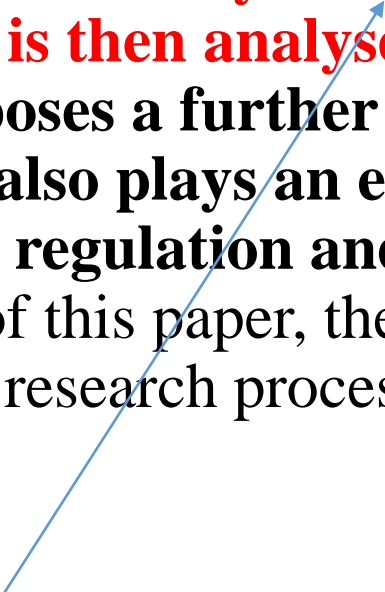
The outcome is the most important common feature of the two definitions.

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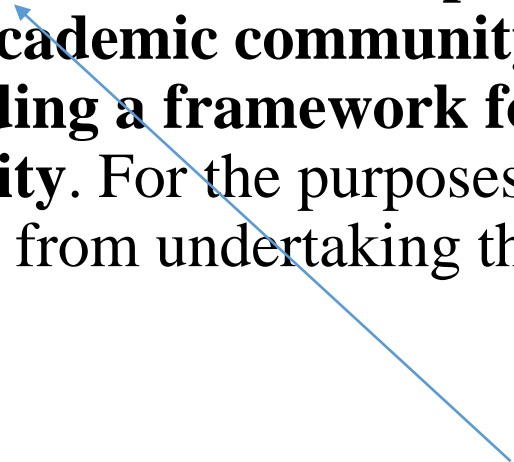
Two points: the minimal definition; any activity which lacks one of these elements

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paraphrased and simplified

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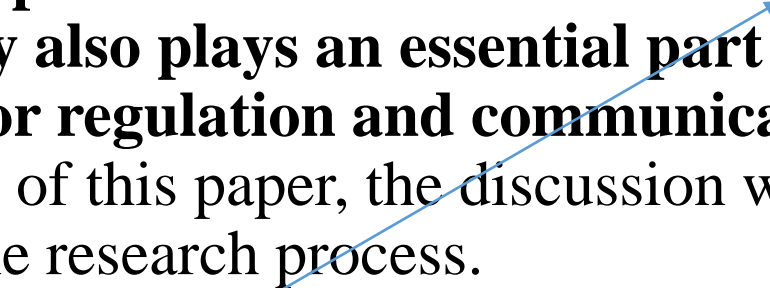
Spencer's passage is a description of a process, can be connected with Nunan's claim (the use of ,also') = real synthesis.

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a difference between Nunan's and Spencer's definition

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a signalling device; the writer may not agree with this claim.

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The same paraphrasing device in both model texts = academic English does not need to be original. THE IDEAS SHOULD BE!

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Dawson's definition is not mentioned, probably not worth considering.

Source: Alexander,O. et al. (2008). *EAP Essentials*. Reading: Garnet Publishing Ltd.