

# Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Method Research

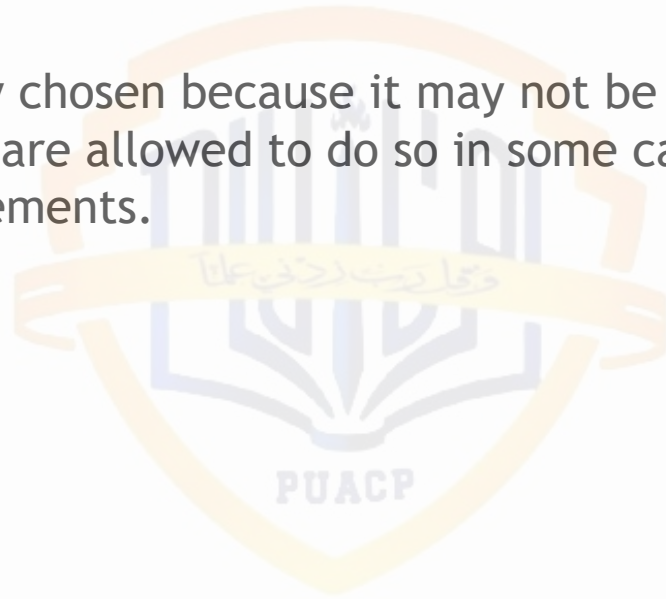
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# Essentials of Research Topic

- ▶ A thesis/dissertation topic must:
- ▶ Relate to or aim to solve or suggest solution(s) to disciplinary and social problems;
- ▶ Showcase the discipline;
- ▶ Include the essential variables, contention, and context;
- ▶ Clear, coherent, correct, and short (12 to 15 words); and
- ▶ Represent the research questions and the main commentary.

# Cont...

- ▶ Research topic must be carefully chosen because it may not be tweaked or modified later. Even though you are allowed to do so in some cases you have to go through procedural requirements.

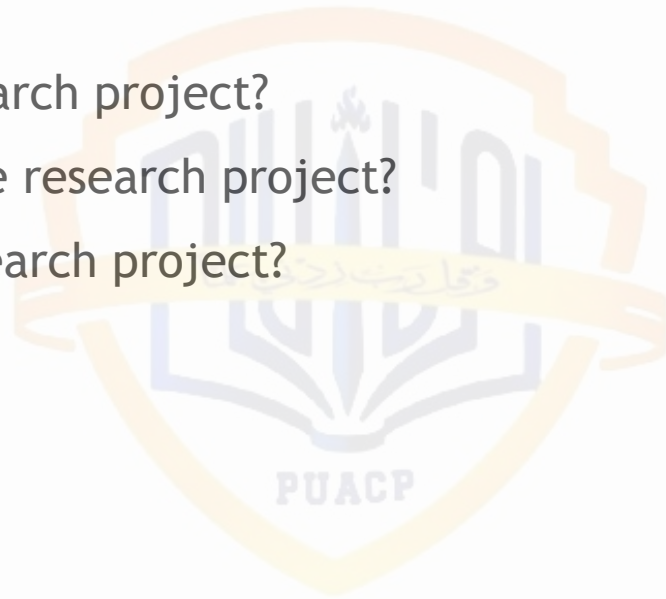


# While selecting a topic

- ▶ Identify an issue where there are different views.
- ▶ Summarize the different views fairly.
- ▶ Decide who you agree with and how you will position yourself.
- ▶ Determine what evidence you will call on to support your position and how the evidence warrants your position.
- ▶ Use the arguments of the view you agree with to critique the arguments of the view you don't agree with (based on the claim, qualification, warrant, data and/or method).
- ▶ With all this at hand, write up your argument by letting the authors interact with other and using appropriate argumentative language.

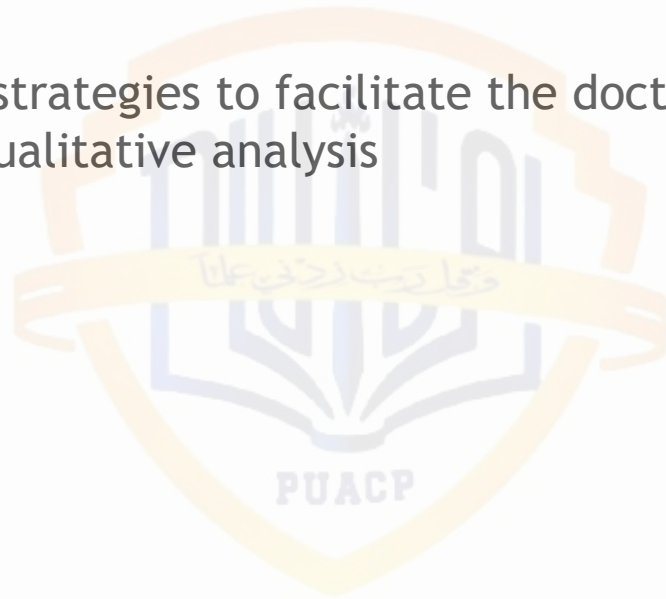
# Classroom Task: Reading Sample Projects

- ▶ What is contribution of the research project?
- ▶ How does the author support the research project?
- ▶ Do you want to improve the research project?



# Article reading

- ▶ Writing challenges, causes, and strategies to facilitate the doctoral dissertation-writing process: A qualitative analysis



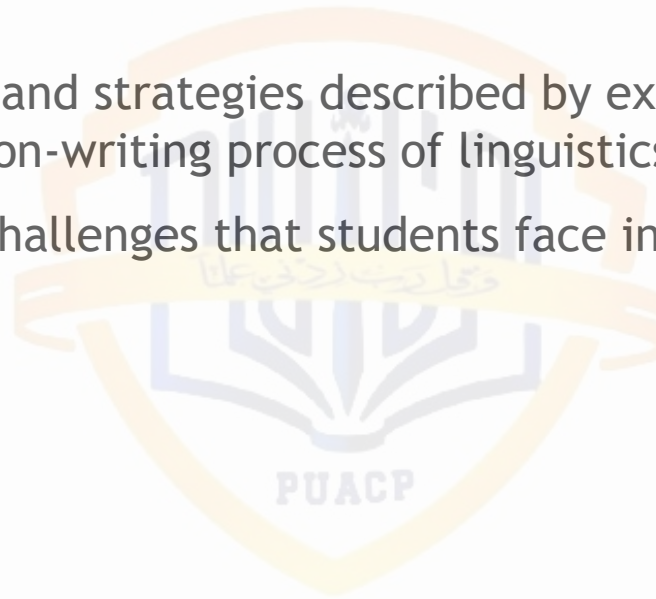
# Answer the questions

- ▶ What are the research questions?
- ▶ Why is this study needed?
- ▶ What are the sources of the data?
- ▶ How the data was analyzed?
- ▶ After reading this article, do you find answer to the research questions?



# Research Questions

- ▶ What are the writing challenges and strategies described by examiners to facilitate the doctoral dissertation-writing process of linguistics students?
- ▶ What are the causes of writing challenges that students face in the doctoral dissertation-writing process?



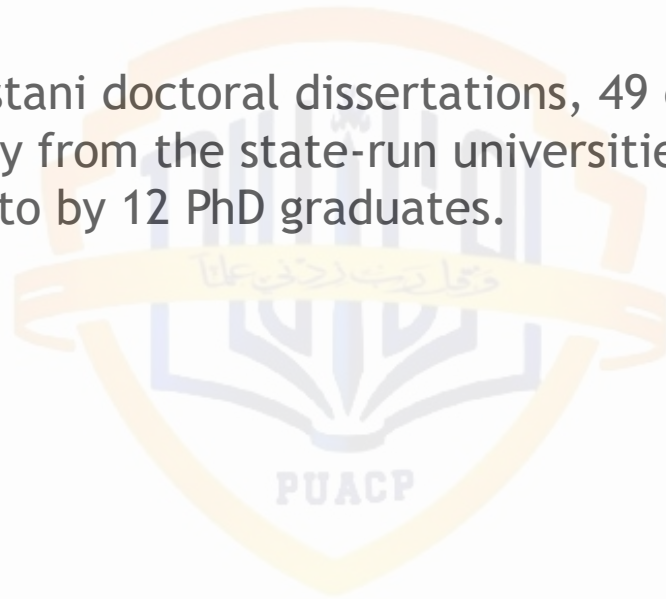


# Rationale for the study

- ▶ The quality of doctoral students' writing came up so frequently in the literature (see e.g., Abdu Saeed and Ghazali 2018; Abdu Saeed, Al-Ahdal, and Al Qunayeer 2020) that it deserves special attention. While past studies are devoted to the lack of academic writing instructions (Odena and Burgess 2017; Harrison, Trudgett, and Page 2017; Graham 2018; Ma 2020), first-language interference (Rafi and Fox 2020 and Rafi and Fox 2021; Paltridge and Starfield 2020; Ma 2020), lack of critical reading (Bosley 2008; Ciampa and Wolfe 2020), argumentative writing (Andrews 2007; Imtiaz and Mahmood 2014; Faize 2015; Wentzel 2018), and examiners' cultural biases (Harrison, Trudgett, and Page 2017), the present study aims at contributing to the growing body of literature on doctoral dissertation writing. Although the existing literature as cited above explores doctoral dissertation-writing problems and facilitating strategies based on a small sample size of students from various disciplines and contexts, there is a need to theorize the writing humps, causes, and strategies in a particular discipline from multiple perspectives and data sets.

# The Data

- ▶ The data were based on 12 Pakistani doctoral dissertations, 49 evaluation reports from 13 countries, mainly from the state-run universities, and a survey questionnaire responded to by 12 PhD graduates.



# Data Analysis procedure

- ▶ This qualitative research delves into the case study design—which may not fit in well with positivistic foundations—to explore commonly emerging categories and themes in the review reports, dissertations, and survey questions. This method helped surface a detailed description and deeper analysis to better understand the writing problems that occur in doctoral dissertations and the ways forward.
- ▶ The methodological approach of Clarke and Braun (2017) served as the basis to conceptualize thematic features in the data. They have proposed thematic analysis to identify, analyse, and interpret patterns of meaning within qualitative data. While scrutinizing linguistic elements of the texts, we determined codes. The similarities and differences among codes helped us create fine-grained multiple categories and themes for analysis.

# Findings

- ▶ The data revealed that the doctoral students faced challenges concerning mechanics of writing, developing an argument in a coherent whole, and structural organization of the dissertation. The examiners recommended the doctoral students to copyedit/proofread the dissertation to overcome mechanics of writing problems, build the argument logically, use formal language, write transition sentences to knit the texts coherently, embed citations to support the claims, and uniform the structure of the dissertation. Five causes of writing difficulties emerged from the survey questions.

# While writing a thesis

- ▶ **Problem:** Argue that you have a reason to say something.
- ▶ **Question:** Argue that what you have to say about this problem has not been said before.
- ▶ **Literature:** Use this to argue that previous research supports the question.
- ▶ **Design and methodology:** Argue that your research is likely to lead to an answer to the question.
- ▶ **Results and conclusions:** Argue that the results you generated have answered the research question and have made a contribution to the literature compared to previous studies

# Activity

- ▶ What is the main argument in your research topic?
- ▶ Why do you think it is worth investigation?



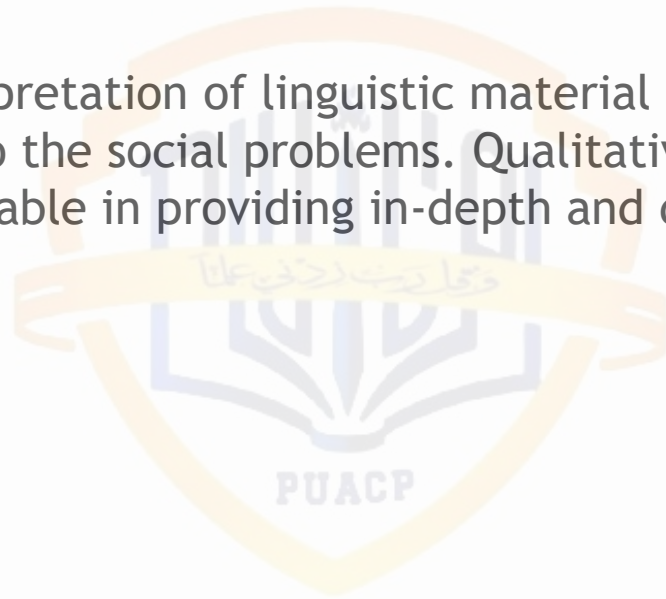
# Key Concepts

- ▶ Ontology
- ▶ Epistemology
- ▶ Paradigmatic vs. Syntagmatic
- ▶ Praxis (research design, and procedure)
- ▶ Triangulation
- ▶ Generalization
- ▶ Instrument



# Qualitative Research

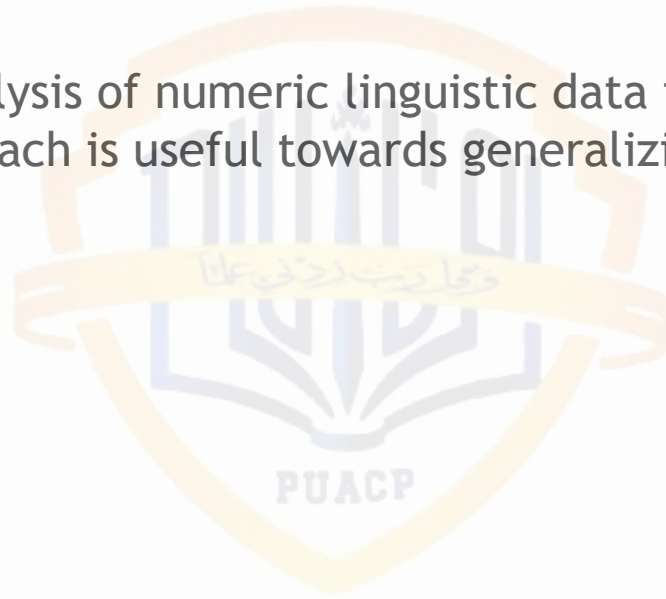
- ▶ Qualitative research is the interpretation of linguistic material to discover, describe, and suggest solution to the social problems. Qualitative research approaches are particularly valuable in providing in-depth and deeper insight into the phenomena.





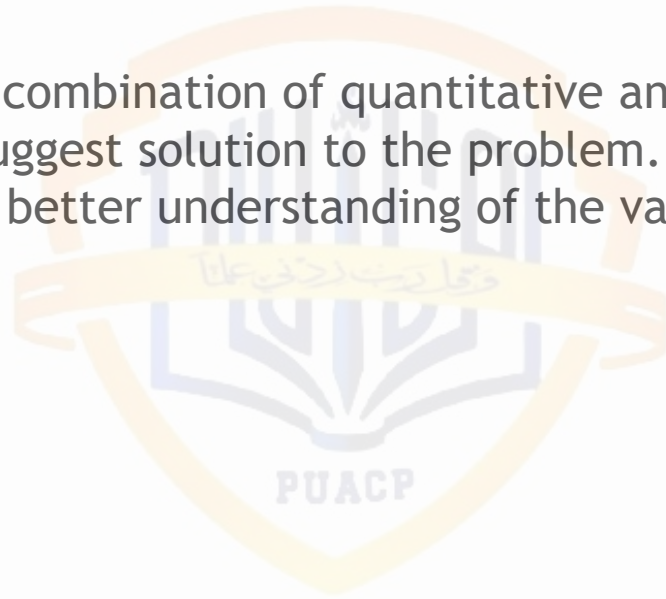
# Quantitative Research

- ▶ Quantitative research is the analysis of numeric linguistic data to test a hypothesis. A quantitative approach is useful towards generalizing research findings.



# Mixed Method Research

- ▶ Mixed method research involves combination of quantitative and qualitative linguistic data to describe and suggest solution to the problem. Mixed method research designs contribute to a better understanding of the various phenomena under investigation.



# Reading for Written Test I

- ▶ Mapping the field from Flick, U. (Ed). *The Sage handbook of qualitative data analysis*. Los Angeles: Sage Publication, pp. 3-20.
- ▶ Quantitative, Qualitative or Both? Combining methods in linguistics research from Litosselit, L. (2010). *Research Methods in Linguistics*. London: Continuum International Publishing Group, pp. 29-45.
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