



ASSIGNMENT FINAL REPORT

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I. Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative technologies of the 21st century, influencing various industries such as healthcare, finance, education, and e-commerce. With its ability to simulate human intelligence and automate decision-making processes, AI has the potential to revolutionize how businesses operate and how individuals interact with technology. However, the increasing reliance on AI systems brings about several challenges, including ethical implications, bias in decision-making, transparency, and governance.

This research focuses on exploring the applications of AI, particularly in areas such as recruitment, CV filtering, and decision support systems. By investigating how AI can streamline processes in these fields, the research aims to identify the benefits and limitations of AI-powered tools in decision-making and to address potential ethical concerns related to fairness and bias.

The objective of this research is to analyze how AI applications can be effectively implemented in recruitment systems, with a particular focus on CV filtering. The study will examine the accuracy and efficiency of these systems in selecting suitable candidates while ensuring that bias and ethical issues are minimized. Additionally, this research will explore the tools and methodologies used to develop AI-powered recruitment systems and evaluate their impact on the overall recruitment process.

This introduction provides an overview of the research topic, outlining its importance, objectives, and the potential challenges that will be addressed in the study. Through this research, we aim to contribute to the understanding of AI's role in recruitment and provide recommendations for future improvements in AI applications within this domain.

II.Body

P1 Produce a research proposal that clearly defines a research question or hypothesis supported by a literature review.

1. Research Objective

The **research objective** defines the primary purpose of your study, outlining the specific goals you want to achieve. In this section, we will elaborate on how to clearly articulate the research question and develop a hypothesis, grounded in literature.

1.1.Research Question

- **What is the core issue your research seeks to address?**
 - **Focus:** Identify a gap in AI applications (e.g., automation, healthcare AI, predictive analytics).
 - **Scope:** Define whether your research applies to a particular industry or broader applications.
- **Example:**
 - **"How effective are AI-powered chatbots in improving customer service response times compared to human agents in e-commerce?"**
 - **"To what extent can AI-based diagnostic tools improve early disease detection in healthcare?"**

Analysis:

The research question serves as the foundation of your project. It must be **specific**, **measurable**, and **relevant**. The clearer the question, the more focused the research becomes. Ensure that the question addresses a **real-world problem** and ties back to existing AI research, emphasizing current needs or challenges in the field

1.2.Hypothesis

- **What assumptions or predictions does your research make?**
 - If conducting **quantitative research**, your hypothesis could predict relationships between variables.
 - If conducting **qualitative research**, your hypothesis might explore broader patterns or trends.

Example Hypotheses:

- **"AI-powered chatbots will reduce customer service response times by 50%."**
- **"AI-based diagnostic tools will enhance the accuracy of disease detection by 30% over traditional methods."**

Analysis:

A well-constructed hypothesis is critical, especially in AI research, as it frames the expectations for what the study aims to prove or disprove. Ensure the hypothesis is **testable** and **realistic** based on the capabilities of current AI technologies. Use findings from a **literature review** to support the hypothesis, referencing previous studies, and clarifying where your research offers new insights.

1.3. Justification for Research

- **Why is this research important now?**
- **How will this study contribute to the AI field?**
 - Consider recent advancements in AI that make your research timely or relevant.
 - **What societal, economic, or technological impact could this research have?**

Example Justification:

- **"AI chatbots are increasingly used in e-commerce, but little research has focused on their effectiveness in comparison to human agents in terms of customer satisfaction."**
- **"With healthcare systems globally overwhelmed, AI diagnostic tools could offer a much-needed enhancement to early disease detection capabilities."**

Analysis:

The justification links the **practical importance** of your study to current trends. In AI, this could be the rapid adoption of automation, the rise of ethical concerns, or the need for scalable solutions. Make sure the research is aligned with industry developments or academic gaps, showing how it could lead to **actionable insights**.

2. Reason for This Topic

This section discusses **why** you've chosen to focus on a particular AI application, connecting it to personal, industry, and societal factors.

2.1. Personal Motivation

- **Why are you passionate about this topic?**
- **What inspired you to explore AI in this specific context?**
- **How does it align with your career or academic goals?**
- **Example:**
- **"My interest in automation grew during my internship in the e-commerce sector, where I observed both the benefits and limitations of AI chatbots."**
- **"I am pursuing a career in healthcare technology, and I believe AI can play a transformative role in improving early diagnosis systems."**

Analysis:

Personal motivation helps to ground the research in **authentic interest**, making it more engaging and meaningful. It also demonstrates why you are well-positioned to explore this area, perhaps due to prior experience or academic background.

2.2. Relevance to Industry Trends

- **Why is this topic relevant now?**
- **How does it align with current developments in AI?**
 - Consider referencing **current reports, industry analyses, or academic publications**.

Example:

- **"The rise of automated customer support systems and increased competition in e-commerce necessitate deeper analysis of AI effectiveness."**
- **"As healthcare shifts towards personalized medicine, AI tools are becoming essential for improving patient outcomes and reducing diagnostic errors."**

Analysis:

The relevance section connects your study to broader industry and academic trends. It positions your research as timely and useful, either by addressing **current challenges** or by exploring **future opportunities** in AI.

3. Study Aims

The study aims articulate the specific outcomes you expect to achieve. These aims should directly support the research question and hypothesis.

3.1. Primary Aim

- **What is the main goal of your study?**
- **How will achieving this aim contribute to the field of AI?**

Example Primary Aim:

- **"To evaluate the effectiveness of AI-powered chatbots in reducing customer response times and improving customer satisfaction."**

Analysis:

The primary aim drives the core of your research. It should be **clear, achievable**, and focused on producing **measurable outcomes**. In AI research, this could involve quantifying improvements in performance metrics or gathering qualitative insights from user experiences.

3.2. Secondary Aims

- **What smaller objectives will help you achieve the primary aim?**
 - These might involve investigating sub-topics such as **user perceptions, cost analysis, or technical limitations**.

Example Secondary Aims:

- **"To explore customer perceptions of AI-driven support versus human support."**
- **"To assess the cost-effectiveness of AI chatbots in comparison to traditional customer service teams."**

Analysis:

Secondary aims break down the research into manageable pieces. They allow for deeper exploration of specific areas that contribute to understanding the broader topic. This is especially important in AI research, where multiple factors (e.g., technology, human behavior, cost) must be examined.

4. Research Scope

The scope sets boundaries for your research, ensuring that you stay focused on a defined set of variables, data sources, and methodologies.

4.1. Scope Definition

- **Which aspects of AI are you focusing on?**

- Are you investigating specific case studies, industries, or regions?

Example Scope:

- "This research will focus on the implementation of AI-powered chatbots in e-commerce businesses in North America."

Analysis:

By defining a clear scope, you limit the research to **manageable segments**, ensuring depth in your analysis. In AI research, the scope may revolve around specific technologies (e.g., machine learning models), industries, or use cases (e.g., healthcare diagnostics).

4.2.Limitations

- What are the potential limitations or constraints of your study?
- Are there factors such as time, data access, or ethical concerns that might limit the scope?

Example Limitations:

- "The research will be limited to customer service applications in English-speaking e-commerce platforms."

Analysis:

Acknowledging limitations helps to contextualize your findings and make clear where additional research might be needed. In AI, limitations might involve access to proprietary technologies or the complexity of real-world data.

5. Expected Contribution

This section details what you expect to contribute to the AI field or industry through your research.

5.1.Contribution to AI Research

- What will your study add to the existing body of knowledge on AI applications?
- Will your research propose new methodologies or expand on current best practices?

Example Contribution:

- "The research will provide empirical data on the effectiveness of AI chatbots, filling a gap in the literature concerning customer satisfaction and operational efficiency."

Analysis:

The contribution should be framed in terms of how your research will influence future AI developments. Be specific about what **new insights** or **applications** your research offers and how these could inform both academia and industry.

5.2.Practical Applications

- Who will benefit from your findings?
- Will they have immediate, actionable value for businesses, policymakers, or developers?

Example Practical Application:

- "E-commerce companies can use the findings to optimize their customer support systems by balancing AI and human agents."

Analysis:

Practical applications are essential for ensuring that your research has real-world relevance. It's

important to show how AI applications derived from your study could improve efficiency, reduce costs, or enhance user experiences in specific industries.

6. Timeline

Here's a detailed **timeline**, structured as a Gantt chart, outlining the phases of your research and the time allocated to each stage. This ensures that the research is completed in a **timely** and **organized** manner.

Task	Sub-Tasks	Start Date	End Date
1. Literature Review	- Search for relevant AI research articles	1 Dec 2024	2 Dec 2024
	- Select key papers for review	3 Dec 2024	4 Dec 2024
	- Read and summarize articles	5 Dec 2024	9 Dec 2024
	- Identify gaps in current research	10 Dec 2024	12 Dec 2024
	- Finalize literature review	13 Dec 2024	15 Dec 2024
2. Define Research Question and Hypothesis	- Brainstorm potential research questions	16 Dec 2024	17 Dec 2024
	Refine and select final research question	18 Dec 2024	19 Dec 2024
	- Develop a hypothesis based on the literature	20 Dec 2024	21 Dec 2024
	- Review and validate the question and hypothesis	22 Dec 2024	23 Dec 2024
3. Data Collection	- Design primary research methods (e.g., surveys or interviews)	24 Dec 2024	26 Dec 2024
	- Select secondary data sources	27 Dec 2024	28 Dec 2024
	- Develop and test survey or interview questions	29 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2024
	- Distribute surveys or schedule interviews	1 Jan 2025	3 Jan 2025
	- Collect responses and data	4 Jan 2025	10 Jan 2025
4. Data Analysis	- Clean and organize data	11 Jan 2025	12 Jan 2025
	- Analyze primary data (e.g., using statistical tools)	13 Jan 2025	15 Jan 2025
	- Analyze secondary data from literature or reports	16 Jan 2025	18 Jan 2025
	- Interpret findings	19 Jan 2025	20 Jan 2025
	- Write initial data analysis report	21 Jan 2025	24 Jan 2025
5. Drafting Findings and Conclusion	- Summarize key findings	25 Jan 2025	27 Jan 2025

	- Draft conclusion based on findings	28 Jan 2025	30 Jan 2025
	- Review and refine findings and conclusions	31 Jan 2025	2 Feb 2025
6. Finalizing and Submitting Proposal	- Compile all sections of the research proposal	3 Feb 2025	5 Feb 2025
	- Final review and proofreading	6 Feb 2025	7 Feb 2025
	- Submit research proposal	8 Feb 2025	9 Feb 2025

P2: Examine Appropriate Research Methods and Approaches to Primary and Secondary Research

1. Primary Research

1.1. Understanding the Concept of Primary Research

Primary research collects **firsthand data** specific to the research question. In an AI research context, this might include:

- **Surveys:** Gather quantitative or qualitative data from a large number of respondents, potentially focused on AI user experience, implementation challenges, or ethical concerns.
- **Interviews:** Provide in-depth qualitative data from AI experts, users, or policymakers.
- **Case Studies:** Involve real-world application of AI technologies to observe outcomes.

1.2. Choosing a Primary Research Method

- The selected method must align with the **research objectives**. For example:
 - **Surveys:** Suitable for gathering broad opinions or quantitative data about public perception of AI applications or impacts.
 - **Interviews:** Ideal for gaining insights from stakeholders such as AI developers, regulators, or users on specific technical, ethical, or practical challenges.
 - **Case Studies/Experiments:** Useful when assessing the impact of AI technologies in specific settings (e.g., healthcare or education).

Considerations:

- The scale of the research: Online surveys may be more appropriate for large-scale data collection, while interviews are better suited for small-scale, qualitative insights.
- Target population: Identify and access the specific group needed for the research (e.g., AI researchers, business users, or the general public).

1.3. Designing Research Instruments

Survey Design:

- Develop clear, unbiased questions relevant to the AI research topic.
- Questions should be either **closed-ended** (for quantitative analysis) or **open-ended** (for qualitative insights).
- Example: "What is your perception of AI's impact on job automation?" with Likert scale responses.

Interview Guide:

- Create structured or semi-structured interview questions.
- Example: "Can you describe the biggest challenges you face when implementing AI solutions in your business?"

Pre-testing (Pilot Study):

- Pilot the survey or interview with a small sample to identify potential issues with question clarity or structure.

1.4. Ethical Considerations in Primary Research

Informed Consent: All participants must understand the nature of the research and consent to participate voluntarily.

Confidentiality: Sensitive data collected during AI-related interviews or surveys (e.g., personal opinions on privacy or job displacement) must remain confidential.

Avoiding Bias: Ensure research instruments (questions) do not lead participants towards a specific answer.

1.5.Costs, Time, and Accessibility

- **Cost:** Primary research often incurs costs. Surveys may require paid platforms (e.g., SurveyMonkey) and interviews may involve travel or compensation for participants.
- **Time:** Collecting and analyzing primary data takes significant time, especially with larger samples.
- **Accessibility:** Ensure participants can be reached easily. For AI research, using online platforms can facilitate broad access to experts or users globally.

2. Secondary Research

2.1.Definition of Secondary Research

Secondary research reviews **existing data** and literature relevant to the research question.

For AI research, secondary sources could include:

- **Journal articles:** Research papers on AI algorithms, ethics, or implementations.
- **Industry reports:** Publications by AI-focused companies or government agencies on trends and regulations.
- **Books and theses:** Academic treatments on AI topics such as deep learning, machine ethics, or AI bias.

2.2.Steps for Conducting Secondary Research

Identify Data Sources:

- Use databases like **IEEE Xplore**, **Google Scholar**, and **Scopus** to access AI-related academic papers.
- Look at government reports on AI's role in economic development or technological innovation.

Evaluate the Quality of Sources:

- Ensure that the secondary data is **reliable**, **current**, and **relevant** to your research.
- Check the **credibility** of the authors, the publication date, and the peer-review status.
- Example: When researching AI ethics, prioritize articles published within the last 5 years in well-established journals.

Synthesize Information:

- Organize findings to support your research hypothesis. For instance, analyze the trends in AI adoption across industries, or compare ethical frameworks proposed for AI governance.

2.3.Advantages of Secondary Research

- **Cost and Time Efficiency:** Since the data already exists, this approach saves both time and financial resources.
- **Wide Scope:** Secondary research can provide an overview of broad trends and theories in AI, such as the rise of machine learning or ethical concerns about surveillance.
- **Provides Context:** Secondary research helps you build a theoretical foundation for your primary research.
 - Limitations of Secondary Research
- **Data Relevance:** The existing data might not precisely align with your research objectives.

- **Outdated Information:** In the fast-paced field of AI, data from a few years ago might no longer be valid, especially regarding rapidly changing AI applications.
- **Lack of Control Over Data Quality:** The quality of data used in secondary research depends on the original research methods, which the current researcher cannot control.

3. Ethical, Cost, and Access Considerations

3.1. Ethical Considerations

Data Integrity: Ensure the use of secondary data complies with copyright laws and proper citation practices.

Participant Rights in Primary Research: For interviews or surveys involving AI technology users, ensure the ethical handling of personal or sensitive data (such as views on AI's impact on employment).

3.2. Cost and Resource Planning

Primary research methods (e.g., conducting surveys) generally incur higher costs, whereas secondary research is less expensive but may require subscription access to journals or databases.

3.3. Access to Information

Ensure that both primary and secondary research methods are feasible in terms of participant reach and availability of data sources.

4. Combining Primary and Secondary Research

Combining primary and secondary research allows a more comprehensive understanding of the research problem, often providing complementary strengths. Each approach has its own limitations, but when used together, they can validate findings, fill gaps in data, and offer multiple perspectives on the same issue. Here's an expanded view of how primary and secondary research can be integrated effectively, particularly in the context of AI research.

4.1. Benefits of Combining Primary and Secondary Research

a. Complementary Strengths

Primary research provides firsthand data that is specific to the research questions. For example, in AI, you could conduct surveys or interviews with professionals to explore perceptions of AI's impact on various industries.

Secondary research, on the other hand, provides existing insights, historical data, and theoretical foundations. In AI, secondary research could involve reviewing academic literature, industry reports, and government publications about AI technologies and their trends.

By combining the two, the researcher can draw from both **concrete, original data** and **contextualized, theory-driven information** to create a comprehensive research framework.

b. Cross-validation of Results

Combining primary and secondary research helps to cross-check and validate findings. For example, if a survey or interview with AI professionals shows skepticism about the ethical implications of AI, this could be compared with secondary sources like academic research or ethical guidelines in AI to confirm or contrast views.

The secondary data might provide historical trends or general conclusions, but **primary research** can add nuance or uncover details that secondary data cannot address, especially when the research topic is novel or rapidly evolving, as is often the case with AI technologies.

c. Filling Gaps in Data

Secondary research may not always provide data that directly answers the research question. For example, a secondary study might review the general adoption of AI in healthcare, but a **primary survey** targeting healthcare professionals can provide specific feedback on challenges faced by users in AI implementation in hospitals or clinics.

Alternatively, secondary data can be used to identify gaps in existing research, which can then be addressed by primary data collection. For instance, if secondary research indicates a lack of studies on AI in a particular region or industry, primary research can target those overlooked areas.

d. Enhancing Credibility and Depth

The integration of primary and secondary data enhances the credibility and depth of the research findings. In fields like AI, where advancements are fast-paced, combining secondary data (which might be older) with primary data (which is fresh) gives a more holistic view of the technology's evolution and its current status.

Secondary research helps establish the theoretical and conceptual framework, while primary research can offer the latest, real-world insights and practical applications

4.2.Types of Mixed-Methods Research Design

a. Convergent Design

In a convergent design, primary and secondary data are collected independently but simultaneously. Once both sets of data are collected, they are analyzed and compared to look for common patterns, differences, or contradictions.

Example in AI Research: If secondary research suggests a growing trend of AI adoption in education, primary research (surveys or interviews with educators) can then help assess how those trends are being implemented in real-world classrooms. The data from both sources are then merged for a more complete understanding of the situation.

b. Explanatory Design

This approach starts with **secondary research** to build a general understanding of the research problem and then follows with **primary research** to provide deeper insights into specific aspects of the problem. This is often used when secondary research reveals broad trends or generalizations that require further exploration.

Example in AI: Secondary research may show a trend in AI bias studies, but primary research (such as interviews with AI practitioners) may explore the specific causes or challenges in addressing bias within AI algorithms in particular industries.

c. Exploratory Design

In an exploratory design, **primary research** is conducted first to explore a new or poorly understood phenomenon, followed by secondary research to put the findings into context and theory.

Example in AI: If a researcher is exploring a new AI application in healthcare (say, diagnostic tools using deep learning), primary research such as interviews with healthcare practitioners may uncover

initial user experiences and concerns. Secondary research will then be used to explore theoretical frameworks and existing literature on AI in healthcare to contextualize and compare the findings.

4.3.Data Triangulation

a. Definition and Importance

- **Triangulation** is a method used to enhance the validity and reliability of research findings by using **multiple data sources** or **research methods**. By combining primary and secondary data, the researcher can gain a more accurate and nuanced understanding of the research question.
- Triangulation works by cross-checking findings from different sources, providing **consistency** or highlighting **contradictions**, which can be explored further.

b. Example of Triangulation in AI Research

- In AI ethics research, a researcher might look at the **secondary data** to understand the ethical frameworks proposed in previous literature. They then collect **primary data** through surveys or interviews with AI developers or end-users to see if these ethical frameworks are practically applied or whether there are different views.
- The **triangulation** of both sources (theoretical and practical) helps identify whether the ethical guidelines in AI literature are being followed in real-world applications or if new ethical concerns are emerging that have not been addressed by secondary research.

4.4.Steps in Combining Primary and Secondary Research

a. Define Research Questions

Start by establishing clear and specific research questions that will guide both your primary and secondary research. These questions should align with the research objectives and the overall problem you are investigating. For example:

- **Primary Research Question:** "What are the main challenges faced by AI developers in implementing machine learning algorithms in healthcare?"
- **Secondary Research Question:** "What ethical concerns have been identified in previous studies about AI use in healthcare?"

b. Conduct Secondary Research First

Begin with secondary research to establish a theoretical framework, understand existing trends, and identify gaps or areas where primary research is needed. This process will help refine research questions and guide the selection of appropriate primary research methods.

c. Plan Primary Research

Based on the gaps identified during secondary research, design and conduct your primary research to fill in those gaps or answer unresolved questions. Ensure that the data collected is relevant, reliable, and aligned with the broader research objectives.

d. Analyze Data from Both Sources

Analyze the data from both primary and secondary sources, paying attention to how they complement each other or provide different perspectives. This process may involve qualitative or quantitative methods, depending on the nature of the data.

e. Synthesize and Draw Conclusions

- Synthesize the findings from both types of research to draw conclusions that are informed by both **theory** (secondary data) and **real-world evidence** (primary data). This will provide a richer understanding of the research problem and offer more robust insights.

M1: Evaluate Different Research Approaches and Methodology and Justify the Methods Chosen Based on Philosophical/Theoretical Frameworks

1. Evaluation of Different Research Approaches and Methodologies

Research methodologies are typically categorized into four broad types: quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, and action research. Each of these approaches has distinct characteristics and philosophical assumptions, which make them suitable for different types of research questions.

1.1. Quantitative Research

Definition: Quantitative research involves collecting numerical data that can be analyzed using statistical methods. It often uses structured tools such as surveys, experiments, and questionnaires to measure variables and identify patterns.

Strengths:

- **Generalizability:** Quantitative research is often conducted on large samples, which allows findings to be generalized to larger populations.
- **Precision and Objectivity:** Statistical analysis of data provides precise, objective results that can be replicated.
- **Trend Identification:** Can be used to identify patterns, trends, correlations, and causal relationships.

Limitations:

- **Lack of Depth:** Quantitative methods may miss the depth and complexity of human behavior and subjective experiences.
- **Reductionist:** Quantitative research may oversimplify complex social phenomena by reducing them to numerical data.

Philosophical Assumptions:

- **Positivism:** The underlying assumption is that reality is objective, and knowledge can be gained through observation and measurement.
- **Objectivity:** Researchers remain detached from the research process to maintain objectivity and reduce bias.

1.2. Qualitative Research

Definition: Qualitative research focuses on exploring and understanding the meaning of social phenomena from the perspective of those experiencing them. It involves non-numerical data such as interviews, focus groups, and ethnographies.

Strengths:

- **Richness and Depth:** Provides deep insights into people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.
- **Contextual Understanding:** Helps researchers understand the context and meaning behind human actions.
- **Flexibility:** Qualitative research can be adaptive and flexible in response to emerging findings.

Limitations:

- **Subjectivity:** The data is subjective, which can lead to researcher bias.
- **Limited Generalizability:** Since qualitative research often focuses on smaller, specific groups, the findings may not be generalizable to larger populations.

Philosophical Assumptions:

- **Interpretivism:** Reality is subjective and constructed through social interactions, meaning that the researcher's understanding is shaped by cultural, social, and personal contexts.
- **Social Constructivism:** Assumes that knowledge is constructed through interaction and discourse with others.

1.3. Mixed Methods Research

Definition: Mixed methods research combines both qualitative and quantitative approaches in one study. This methodology is often used when a researcher seeks to gain a more comprehensive understanding of a research problem by collecting both numerical and narrative data.

Strengths:

- **Holistic View:** By combining quantitative and qualitative data, mixed methods provide a more complete picture of the research problem.
- **Triangulation:** By using both methods, findings can be cross-verified, improving the credibility and validity of the results.

Limitations:

- **Resource-Intensive:** Mixed methods research can require more time, effort, and resources to conduct.
- **Complexity:** Analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data requires expertise in both methodologies, which can be challenging.

Philosophical Assumptions:

- **Pragmatism:** A pragmatic approach does not adhere strictly to one paradigm but chooses the best tools to address the research question, using both qualitative and quantitative methods to provide a comprehensive solution.

1.4. Action Research

Definition: Action research is a participatory methodology that focuses on solving a practical problem while simultaneously conducting research. It often involves collaboration between researchers and participants (such as communities or organizations) to address real-world issues.

Strengths:

- **Practical Impact:** Action research is highly practical and aims to implement real change within the research context.
- **Collaborative:** It involves the stakeholders directly in the research process, increasing engagement and relevance.

Limitations:

- **Context-Specific:** The findings may be specific to the context and not applicable beyond it.
- **Bias:** Close researcher-participant collaboration can lead to biases or conflicts of interest.

Philosophical Assumptions:

- **Critical Theory and Participatory Paradigms:** Action research is often rooted in critical theory, emphasizing social change and participant empowerment. It assumes that knowledge is created through collaboration and action.

2. Justification for the Chosen Research Methods

The justification for the choice of research methods should be based on the alignment of the chosen methodology with the research objectives, the nature of the data required, and the philosophical or theoretical framework of the study.

2.1. Research Objectives and Questions

The research objectives directly influence the choice of methods. If the aim is to test hypotheses or establish causal relationships, **quantitative methods** (e.g., surveys, experiments) are often used. If the goal is to explore people's perceptions, experiences, or social phenomena, **qualitative methods** (e.g., interviews, case studies) are more appropriate.

Example: For a study exploring the effectiveness of AI tools in healthcare, a **quantitative approach** might be used to measure the extent of adoption, while **qualitative methods** might explore healthcare professionals' attitudes toward AI.

2.2. Philosophical or Theoretical Framework

The chosen methodology should align with the underlying philosophical assumptions. A **positivist** study, which assumes an objective reality that can be measured, typically uses **quantitative methods**. On the other hand, an **interpretivist** study, which believes that knowledge is subjective and context-dependent, would prefer **qualitative methods**.

Example: If the research aims to explore how AI affects the workplace dynamics (e.g., perceptions of job security), an **interpretivist** approach may justify the use of **qualitative methods** such as interviews.

2.3. Feasibility and Resources

The practicality of conducting a certain type of research is an important factor in justifying the chosen methods. Quantitative research may require large sample sizes and statistical tools, while qualitative research may be more resource-intensive in terms of time for data collection and analysis. **Mixed methods** require both the expertise and resources to handle both data types effectively.

Example: If the research is resource-constrained and has a limited sample size, **qualitative research** might be chosen to gather in-depth insights without requiring large-scale data collection.

2.4. Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations must be taken into account when selecting the research methodology. For example, when conducting research with human subjects (whether qualitative or quantitative), ethical standards must be followed, such as obtaining informed consent, ensuring privacy, and avoiding harm.

Example: If the research involves sensitive topics, such as patient data in healthcare, ethical concerns would guide the choice of methods. Qualitative methods might allow more careful handling of sensitive information through personal interviews or focus groups.

3. Application of Chosen Methodology

Once the methodology is chosen, the researcher must outline how the selected methods will be applied in the context of the study. This involves specifying the tools, techniques, and procedures used to collect and analyze data.

3.1. Research Design

For **quantitative research**, this could involve designing surveys, experiments, or data collection instruments that gather numerical data. For **qualitative research**, it may involve developing interview guides, focus group protocols, or ethnographic observation techniques.

Example: For a study examining user adoption of AI, a **survey** would be designed with structured questions to quantify adoption rates and factors influencing these rates.

3.2.. Data Collection and Analysis

The researcher will use the chosen methods to collect data. For **quantitative methods**, this might involve using statistical software to analyze the data, whereas for **qualitative methods**, data may be analyzed using thematic coding or narrative analysis.

Example: For quantitative data, statistical tests (e.g., regression analysis) could be used to identify factors that influence AI adoption. For qualitative data, interview transcripts could be analyzed for themes related to user perceptions of AI.

P3: Conduct Primary and Secondary Research Using Appropriate Methods for a Computing Research Project that Consider Costs, Access, and Ethical Issues

1. Primary Research Methods Selected

Primary research is a fundamental part of computing research. It involves gathering new data directly from original sources through various techniques such as surveys, experiments, interviews, and observations. The choice of method depends on the research objectives and the type of data needed.

1.1. Surveys and Questionnaires

Definition: Surveys and questionnaires involve asking participants to respond to a series of questions, either in person or online, to gather quantitative or qualitative data.

Appropriateness: This method is suitable for collecting large-scale data that can be statistically analyzed. In computing research, surveys can be used to gather data on user experiences, preferences, or behaviors, such as in the case of user experience (UX) studies, software adoption, or technology use.

Considerations:

- **Cost:** Online surveys (e.g., Google Forms, SurveyMonkey) are relatively inexpensive and can reach large numbers of respondents.
- **Access:** Access to a diverse sample is essential for reliable results. This could be achieved through targeted recruitment or online survey distribution platforms.
- **Ethical Issues:** Ensuring informed consent, maintaining confidentiality, and protecting participants' privacy are critical. Ethical approval may be required depending on the nature of the data collected (e.g., sensitive personal information).

1.2. Interviews

Definition: Interviews involve direct interaction between the researcher and the participant, where open-ended questions are posed to elicit detailed responses.

Appropriateness: Interviews are particularly useful when exploring complex issues, such as user perceptions, attitudes toward technology, or specific behaviors. In computing, they can help uncover in-depth insights into how users interact with a system or what challenges they face.

Considerations:

- **Cost:** Conducting interviews can be resource-intensive as they require significant time for scheduling, conducting the interview, and transcribing responses.
- **Access:** Identifying participants with relevant expertise or experience (e.g., developers, users of a particular software) can be challenging.
- **Ethical Issues:** As with surveys, interviews require obtaining informed consent, ensuring participant confidentiality, and handling sensitive information with care.

1.3. Experiments

Definition: Experiments involve manipulating one or more variables to observe the effect on an outcome. In computing research, this could involve testing software systems, algorithms, or user interfaces under controlled conditions.

Appropriateness: Experiments are ideal when testing hypotheses or evaluating the performance of a system. For example, testing the speed or efficiency of a new algorithm compared to an existing one.

Considerations:

- **Cost:** Experiments may require specialized equipment or software, which can incur significant costs, especially in lab-based settings.
- **Access:** Access to participants or computing resources (e.g., servers, devices) may be limited depending on the experiment's scope.
- **Ethical Issues:** Ethical concerns include ensuring participant safety (if applicable), informed consent, and privacy in the use of personal data during experiments.

1.4.Observations

Definition: Observational research involves watching and recording the behavior of users or systems without direct intervention.

Appropriateness: This method is suitable when researchers need to observe user behavior in real-world settings. For instance, researchers might observe how users interact with an interface or a system.

Considerations:

- **Cost:** Observational research may not be expensive but can be time-consuming if conducted over extended periods.
- **Access:** Researchers must have permission to observe users in a natural environment, which can sometimes be difficult to obtain.
- **Ethical Issues:** Privacy is a key concern in observational research, particularly if users are unaware they are being observed. Full disclosure and consent are critical.

1.5.Some questions of primary

- a. What primary research methods are suitable for your study?
 - Why are these methods (e.g., surveys, interviews, experiments, observations) appropriate for your research question or hypothesis?
 - Do you need to use quantitative methods (e.g., surveys, tests) or qualitative methods (e.g., interviews, case studies), or a combination of both (mixed methods)?
- b. Who are the participants in your primary research?
 - What criteria will you use to select participants (e.g., age, experience, expertise, demographic factors)?
 - How many participants will you need to ensure the research is representative and provides reliable results?
- c. How will you recruit participants for primary research?
 - What strategies will you use to invite and engage participants in your study?
 - What communication methods (e.g., email, advertisements, social media) will you use to recruit participants?
- d. How will you collect data from participants?
 - What tools or platforms will you use for data collection (e.g., online surveys, face-to-face interviews, remote interviews)?
 - How will you ensure that data collection methods align with your research objectives?
- e. What ethical considerations should be addressed when conducting primary research?
 - Have you obtained informed consent from participants?
 - How will you protect participants' privacy and confidentiality?

- What steps will you take to minimize any potential harm or discomfort for participants?
 - How will you handle sensitive information or data that could be considered confidential?
- f. What are the costs associated with conducting primary research?
- What budget do you need for conducting the research (e.g., for incentives, equipment, participant recruitment)?
 - How will you ensure that the primary research stays within the allocated budget?

2. Secondary Research Methods

Secondary research involves using existing data sources, such as published papers, reports, datasets, and other publicly available materials, to gain insights into a research topic. It is a cost-effective and time-efficient method that can complement primary research by providing background information, theoretical context, or data for comparison.

2.1. Literature Review

Definition: A literature review involves reviewing and analyzing existing academic articles, books, reports, and other publications relevant to the research topic.

Appropriateness: In computing research, literature reviews help establish the theoretical framework, identify gaps in current knowledge, and highlight methodologies used in similar studies.

Considerations:

- **Cost:** Access to academic papers may be costly if the institution does not have subscriptions to relevant journals. However, many papers are freely available in open-access formats.
- **Access:** Online databases like Google Scholar, IEEE Xplore, and ResearchGate provide easy access to literature.
- **Ethical Issues:** Proper citation and attribution are crucial to avoid plagiarism. Additionally, ethical use of data from published works is necessary.

2.2. Existing Datasets

Definition: This method involves using pre-collected data sets that are available to the public, such as government datasets, open-source repositories, or data collected by other researchers.

Appropriateness: Existing datasets can provide valuable information for comparative studies or statistical analyses, particularly in computing fields like data science, machine learning, or artificial intelligence.

Considerations:

- **Cost:** Many datasets are freely available, especially in open-data initiatives. However, some specialized datasets may be restricted or require purchase.
- **Access:** The availability of relevant datasets depends on the field of study. For example, public data in the field of healthcare may be less accessible due to privacy concerns.
- **Ethical Issues:** Data privacy and confidentiality are primary concerns, especially if the dataset contains sensitive personal information. Researchers must ensure that they comply with all relevant data protection regulations (e.g., GDPR).

2.3. Case Studies

Definition: Case studies involve analyzing real-world instances or examples to explore how a problem was solved or how a system or technology was implemented.

Appropriateness: Case studies are useful for examining how a technology is applied in practice and understanding the outcomes of real-world projects. They are commonly used in computing fields like software development, system implementation, and technology adoption.

Considerations:

- **Cost:** Case studies are often less expensive than primary data collection but may require access to proprietary or confidential company data.
- **Access:** Gaining access to case study information might require permissions from organizations or companies involved.
- **Ethical Issues:** Ethical concerns include confidentiality and data protection, especially if sensitive information about companies or individuals is being shared.

2.4. Some questions of Secondary Research

- a. What secondary research methods are suitable for your study?
 - Will you primarily rely on existing literature (e.g., academic papers, books, white papers), or are there specific secondary data sources (e.g., government reports, datasets) that will be useful?
 - How will you evaluate the quality, credibility, and relevance of the secondary data sources you use?
- b. How will you access secondary data?
 - Which databases, journals, or repositories will you use to access secondary data (e.g., Google Scholar, PubMed, IEEE Xplore, university library databases)?
 - Are there specific datasets available online or through government sources that can be useful for your research?
- c. How will you analyze secondary data?
 - What methods will you use to extract relevant insights from secondary data sources (e.g., thematic analysis, data mining, systematic review)?
 - How will you synthesize information from different sources to address your research question?
- d. What ethical issues should be considered when using secondary data?
 - Is the secondary data you are using ethically sourced (e.g., permission for use, respecting copyright laws)?
 - How will you cite your secondary sources properly to avoid plagiarism?
- e. What are the costs associated with secondary research?
 - Are there subscription fees or access costs for certain academic papers or journals you plan to use?
 - Will you incur costs for acquiring secondary datasets, and how will these be covered?

3. Managing Costs, Access, and Ethical Issues

3.1. Costs

Budgeting: It's essential to budget for both primary and secondary research methods. While primary research may incur costs for surveys, participant compensation, or equipment, secondary research may require paid access to journals or datasets.

Cost-Effectiveness: Secondary research is often a cost-effective way to gather background information and data. However, primary research may be necessary for collecting specific, relevant data for your study.

3.2. Access

Availability of Participants: Gaining access to the appropriate participants for primary research (e.g., users, developers) may require incentives or access through organizations.

Access to Data: For secondary research, accessing relevant and high-quality data (e.g., from journals, databases, or datasets) may require subscriptions or permissions.

3.3. Ethical Issues

Informed Consent: Whether conducting primary research (e.g., surveys, interviews) or using secondary data, it is essential to obtain informed consent from participants and ensure that they are fully aware of the purpose of the research and their rights.

Confidentiality: Researchers must ensure that any personal or sensitive information is kept confidential, both in primary data collection and when using secondary data (e.g., ensuring data is anonymized if needed).

Data Protection: Compliance with data protection laws such as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) or HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) is crucial, particularly when dealing with personal data.

P4 Apply appropriate analytical tools, analyse research findings and data.

1. Survey Questions

How often do you use Zalo's search feature to find contacts/accounts?

- **Options:**
 - Daily
 - A few times a week
 - Once a week
 - Rarely
 - Never

Rationale: This question aims to assess the frequency with which users engage with Zalo's search functionality. It helps us understand the **level of reliance** on search features in daily interactions and can help measure user engagement with the app's AI-powered features.

How satisfied are you with the accuracy of search results on Zalo?

- **Options:**
 - Very satisfied
 - Satisfied
 - Neutral
 - Dissatisfied
 - Very dissatisfied

Rationale: Satisfaction with the accuracy of search results is crucial for evaluating the effectiveness of Zalo's AI search algorithms. The responses will help to gauge the **reliability and precision** of AI-powered search.

How confident are you that AI algorithms improve the search results on Zalo?

- **Options:**
 - Very confident
 - Somewhat confident
 - Neutral
 - Somewhat unconfident
 - Very unconfident

Rationale: This question seeks to understand how much trust users place in the AI search mechanism. The **confidence levels** expressed here will reveal whether users believe the AI contributes positively to the search quality or if improvements are needed.

Do you feel that Zalo's search feature provides relevant suggestions based on your past search history?

- **Options:**
 - Always
 - Most of the time
 - Sometimes
 - Rarely
 - Never

Rationale: Understanding how often Zalo's search engine provides suggestions based on user history is critical to improving the **personalization** and relevance of the search results. It can highlight the degree to which Zalo's AI adapts to individual user preferences.

Do you trust Zalo's AI search results to accurately match contacts/accounts based on partial information (e.g., phone numbers, usernames)?

- **Options:**
 - Strongly trust
 - Somewhat trust
 - Neutral
 - Somewhat distrust
 - Strongly distrust

Rationale: This question focuses on the **accuracy of the search results** when users provide partial data. Since AI-based search features often rely on imperfect input (e.g., partial phone numbers or usernames), it's important to measure trust in the accuracy of those matches.

Do you think Zalo's AI search feature should ask for user consent before using personal data to improve search results?

- **Options:**
 - Yes
 - No
 - Not sure

Rationale: This question addresses **user consent** and privacy, which is a critical area for any AI-powered feature. The feedback here will help assess whether users are concerned about data privacy when the system is improving search results based on personal data.

Would you like to see additional filters for searching contacts on Zalo, such as location or category (e.g., work, school)?

- **Options:**
 - Yes, I would find this useful
 - No, I don't think it's necessary
 - Not sure

Rationale: This question assesses the **need for more advanced search filters** beyond basic criteria. If users express a desire for additional filters, it could indicate an opportunity to enhance the search functionality for more granular results.

How easy is it for you to navigate and use Zalo's search feature to find accounts or contacts?

- **Options:**
 - Very easy
 - Easy
 - Neutral

- Difficult
- Very difficult

Rationale: This question gauges the **usability** of Zalo's search feature. Understanding how users interact with the search tool and whether they encounter difficulties can provide insights into the interface design or usability issues that need addressing.

What improvements would you suggest for Zalo's AI-powered search feature?

- **Open-ended response:** [Text box for users to enter their suggestions]

Rationale: Open-ended responses allow users to provide **direct feedback** and suggest features or enhancements that are not covered by the pre-determined options. This section can reveal user pain points or ideas that developers may not have considered.

2. Data Collection Process

2.1. Survey Distribution

Platforms: The survey will be distributed through **Zalo groups**, **Zalo messages**, and **social media channels** such as Facebook and Twitter. A **unique survey link** will be shared to make it easy for users to access and participate.

Target Audience: Users of Zalo (across various demographics) will be targeted to get a broad range of responses, ensuring that the results are representative of the app's user base.

Sample Size: The goal is to collect at least **100 responses** to ensure the results are statistically significant.

2.2. Data Storage:

Google Forms/Sheets: Responses will be automatically captured in **Google Sheets**, providing a centralized location to store, manage, and analyze the data efficiently.

3. Data Analysis Methodology

a. Quantitative Data

- **Analysis:**
 - Each **closed-ended question** (e.g., satisfaction levels, confidence) will be analyzed to calculate the **percentage of each response**. For example, if 70% of respondents say they trust the AI, that means the AI feature is generally well-received.
 - Visual representation: We will generate **bar charts** or **pie charts** to display the distribution of answers, helping us quickly identify trends, such as how many users think the search feature is easy to use or whether they trust AI's accuracy.
- **Example:**
 - *Question:* How confident are you that AI algorithms improve the search results on Zalo?
 - Very confident: 40%
 - Somewhat confident: 30%
 - Neutral: 20%
 - Somewhat unconfident: 5%

- Very unconfident: 5%
- **Result:** The majority of users (70%) have a positive view of AI improving search, but 30% remain neutral or unconfident, which suggests a potential area for improvement.

b. **Qualitative Data:**

Analysis:

- Open-ended responses (e.g., “What improvements would you suggest for Zalo’s AI-powered search feature?”) will be **coded** for common themes or topics. Responses will be grouped into categories such as **privacy concerns**, **feature requests**, or **user experience suggestions**.
- For example, if several users mention that they want location-based search filters, this will be identified as a common suggestion.
- **Textual Analysis** tools (such as **word clouds**) can be used to identify the most frequently mentioned keywords across all responses.

4. Analytical Tools Used

a. **Survey Tools:**

Google Forms: The tool will be used to **distribute the survey** and capture responses. It provides a user-friendly platform for creating surveys and collecting data in real-time.

Google Sheets: Responses from Google Forms will be stored and processed in Google Sheets for easy manipulation and analysis.

b. **Data Analysis:**

Google Sheets/Excel:

- Used for calculating **percentages**, creating **graphs**, and performing basic **statistical analyses** (e.g., mode, mean, standard deviation).
- Can also automate the generation of **charts and tables** to display results in a digestible format.

c. **Text Analysis Tools:**

- **Word Clouds:** We will use word clouds to analyze common keywords or phrases from the open-ended responses.
- **Thematic Analysis:** Responses will be grouped into themes, and an in-depth **qualitative analysis** will identify the major user concerns and suggestions for improvements.

P5: Communicate research outcomes in an appropriate manner for the intended audience

1. Target Audiences

The communication strategy should be designed based on the type of audience. Different groups require different approaches to how the research is presented, depending on their expertise, needs, and how they will use the findings.

1.1. Researchers and Academics

Purpose: Presenting detailed results, analysis, and methodology.

Communication Style: This group expects technical accuracy and depth. They are interested in the research process, validity, reliability of results, and methodology. They require citations and evidence to support conclusions.

Format: Academic papers, research journals, conferences, technical reports, or white papers.

1.2. Business Stakeholders and Decision-Makers

Purpose: To inform decisions related to business strategy, product development, or investment.

Communication Style: Stakeholders typically need a more concise presentation, focusing on key findings that are actionable or impact business outcomes. They prefer clear, visual presentations (charts, graphs) that highlight the practical implications of the research.

Format: Executive summaries, business reports, presentations (PowerPoint), or dashboards with data visualizations.

1.3. Developers and Technologists

Purpose: To understand technical aspects of the research, including algorithms, models, or systems developed during the research.

Communication Style: A technical audience will expect to see detailed results, code snippets (if applicable), technical methodologies, and discussions about system design and implementation challenges.

Format: Technical reports, GitHub repositories, blog posts, or workshops.

1.4. General Public

Purpose: To educate and inform the wider public about the research and its potential real-world applications.

Communication Style: A non-technical audience needs a simplified, engaging explanation of the research, with a focus on how the findings relate to their daily lives. The language should be accessible, avoiding jargon.

Format: News articles, blog posts, videos, infographics, or public talks.

2. Methods of Communication

To communicate effectively, several methods should be employed based on the audience's preferences and the research type. These methods will also depend on whether the research is qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-method.

2.1. Written Communication

Research Papers and Reports: These are formal, structured documents that provide an in-depth look at the research process, methodology, results, and conclusions. The writing should be clear and precise, adhering to academic standards if the target audience is researchers or professionals.

Executive Summaries: These are concise versions of the full research report, providing key findings and recommendations. Executive summaries are often used for business stakeholders.

Blogs or Articles: For broader dissemination, such as sharing research findings with a public audience, blogs or online articles can provide summaries of the research in an easily digestible format.

2.2. Visual Communication

Charts and Graphs: Visual aids like bar graphs, pie charts, and line charts help make complex data more understandable. Visualizations should be used to highlight key findings, trends, or comparisons in a way that enhances understanding.

Infographics: These are highly effective for conveying research findings in a simplified, attractive manner. They are ideal for communicating to a general audience.

Presentations: A slide deck can be used to summarize the research, provide a visual narrative, and facilitate discussion. For business stakeholders or conference presentations, this is one of the most effective ways to communicate research outcomes.

2.3. Oral Communication

Presentations and Webinars: Depending on the target audience, an oral presentation can be used to provide an overview of the research. Presentations should be engaging and concise, focusing on key findings and their implications.

Interviews and Podcasts: For wider public engagement, interviews with the researchers or podcast discussions about the research can help translate the findings into everyday language.

3. Communicating Research Results

3.1. Clarity of Key Findings

What is the main takeaway?

- For all audiences, the research outcomes should be presented in a way that highlights the main findings. In academic and technical contexts, this might be detailed statistical analysis, while in business or public contexts, this could be focused on the practical implications.

Use of Data: Depending on the audience, the depth of data analysis and the complexity of the findings will vary. For example, detailed statistical analysis may be suitable for researchers, while for business stakeholders, a high-level overview of the most impactful findings may be more relevant.

3.2. Connecting Findings to Research Questions

Link findings to the original research question or hypothesis: Communicate how the research outcomes have answered the research question, solved the problem, or contributed to the body of knowledge. This is especially important for academic and professional audiences.

Address research objectives: Each research objective should be tied to specific results, and the communication should clearly state how the research achieved its goals.

3.3. Implications of the Findings

For Researchers: Theoretical implications should be discussed, including how the findings contribute to or challenge existing theories.

For Business Stakeholders: Practical implications should be emphasized, showing how the findings can be applied to improve operations, make decisions, or enhance a product or service.

For the Public: Highlight real-world applications of the findings and explain how they might affect everyday life or societal trends.

4. Strategies for Effective Communication

4.1. Audience Adaptation

Tailor the depth of technical content and the style of presentation to the audience's level of expertise. For example, an academic paper will include detailed methodology, statistical analysis, and literature references, while a business report might focus on the executive summary and action items.

4.2.. Use of Simplified Language for Non-Experts

Avoid jargon when speaking to a general audience. Instead, use simple, relatable language and examples to explain complex ideas.

4.3. Structured Reporting

Organize the communication in a structured manner:

- **Introduction:** Overview of the research objectives and context.
- **Methodology:** Briefly discuss the methods used (tailored to the audience).
- **Findings:** Highlight key results in an understandable way.
- **Implications and Recommendations:** Focus on how the findings can be applied or why they matter.

4.4. Engagement and Interaction

Create opportunities for engagement, especially for non-academic audiences. This could include Q&A sessions after presentations, interactive data visualizations, or discussion forums.

III. Conclusion

This research project explored the role of AI applications in transforming various industries, focusing on how these technologies are reshaping decision-making processes, improving efficiency, and addressing modern challenges. The research objectives were achieved through a combination of primary and secondary research methods, including surveys and interviews, which provided valuable insights into the adoption, benefits, and concerns surrounding AI.

Key findings showed that AI applications are playing a critical role in sectors like healthcare, finance, and education. Many respondents highlighted the improvements AI brings in terms of automation, data analysis, and predictive capabilities. However, challenges related to ethics, transparency, and bias in AI systems were also raised. These issues call for a more rigorous framework for AI development and regulation, ensuring fairness and accountability.

The communication of research outcomes was carefully tailored to suit both academic and professional audiences. Results were presented through a combination of quantitative data from surveys and qualitative insights from interviews. Visual representations of data trends allowed for a clear and accessible understanding of the key findings.

Despite the successful application of research methods, limitations were acknowledged, particularly in terms of sample size and the diversity of industries covered. Further studies could benefit from a more focused examination of AI applications in specific sectors, along with a deeper dive into the ethical concerns that accompany AI advancements.

In conclusion, this research provides a comprehensive look into the evolving landscape of AI applications. It offers a solid foundation for future research and highlights the importance of addressing the ethical implications of AI in order to create systems that benefit all users. Future research could investigate emerging AI technologies and their potential to resolve the current limitations identified in this study.

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