

Research Seminar 3 – Autumn 2020

Language Pedagogy PhD Programme - **Holló Dorottya**

The aim of the seminar:

The general aim of this research seminar is to assist students in thinking about their dissertation research project and in preparing and writing up their formal research proposal, which is the major written assignment for this course.

The course consists of the following modules:

1., Identifying the elements of research proposals; reading and analyzing proposals

Participants will read and discuss professional literature on designing research as well as a number of formal research proposals, and they will examine comments on these made by course tutors and reviewers. Particular emphasis will be put on the feasibility of the proposal as well as the clarity of its presentation and the coordination of the research questions and the methods chosen to investigate these.

2., Designing the steps of the doctoral research

Participants will start to turn their research ideas into a feasible research design. The methods and the process of the project will have to be matched to the research focus. Everybody's research plan will be discussed and, if necessary, modifications will be suggested.

3., Reading the literature on the participants' research topics and related methods

Participants will be asked to read and report on articles or other relevant texts of approximately 50 pages in the area of their proposed research every week. These readings aim to deepen the participants' knowledge of their research area and to refine the methods to be used in their research project.

4., Joint seminar with 1st year students – Giving presentations

This module provides an opportunity to give a presentation in front of an interested and motivated audience who are not familiar with the background of the research projects the presentations are about. Participants will describe their research proposal, while also providing a model to 1st year students of giving an academic presentation.

Procedure:

In this seminar participants will work towards designing their doctoral research and writing up the research proposal, which is the main assignment of the course. After reading and analyzing research plans everyone will design their research and present it to the others. Feedback will be provided by the group and the tutor to help the presenter re-think and refine their research plan. The participants' supervisors will also provide comments. Further considerations to improve the research plan will come from the participants' readings, which they will have to report on weekly. At the end of the term, participants will present the outline of their research proposal and also submit a written version of the detailed research proposal outline.

The fully developed proposal will have to be submitted by mid-January. This will then be read by the Dissertation Proposal committee. This committee is appointed by the Programme Director to provide feedback on and to take a formal decision about your dissertation proposal. It consists of the Dissertation Proposal Committee, consisting of the tutor of Research Seminar 3, the Director of the Programme and the Director of Studies. If there is an overlap in these positions or if one of these tutors is the supervisor, a suitably qualified member of the teaching staff of the Programme is called in to act as third reader. The members of the committee give written feedback on the proposal and accept the proposal or return it for re-writing. The supervisor is also invited to give feedback. The committee can take up to a month to assess the proposal. The process therefore continues during RS4, when the decision is announced. If a paper is to be re-written, it has to be submitted again by the end of the second month of Research Seminar 4 if the author wishes to earn credit for RS4 in the same term. On approval, the participant can go on to carry out their research. Research seminars 3 & 4 form a unit in the sense that they both lead directly to the participants' dissertation research. (Research seminar 4 will offer the opportunity to carry out a part of the planned research either as a pilot or a fully-fledged version.)

Assessment:

To earn a credit for RS3, participants have to:

- prepare for and participate in classes,
- prepare and present the detailed outline of their dissertation proposal during the term in the form of a **fifteen to twenty-minute conference type presentation** accompanied by a handout. This presentation must detail and justify the focus and the steps of the presenter's doctoral research. The presentations will be followed by a group discussion and feedback from the tutor.
- submit the detailed outline of their dissertation proposal in writing on the day of their oral presentation.
- submit their fully developed research proposal by mid-January as specified [below](#). (Because of the lengthy assessment process of the proposals, the mark earned for the proposal will count towards the mark for RS4.)

Intended schedule:

N°	Date	Topic
1	Sept 17	course introduction Handouts 1,2 Reading: Creswell, J.W. (2009). <i>Research design – Qualitative, quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches</i> (3 rd ed.). Thousand Oaks: Sage. Part I.1. The selection of a research design (pp. 3-21), and Part I.4. Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations (pp.73-94). Handout 3 Supplementary reading*: Blaikie, N. (2010). <i>Designing social research – The logic of anticipation</i> . (2 nd ed.) Cambridge: Polity Press. Chapter 4: Strategies for answering research questions. (pp.79-109) Handout 4 (optional, for self-reference) * We will not discuss the supplementary reading, but you might find it useful.
2	24	Process of designing research, writing a res. prop. Readings: Hopkins, C.D., Antes, R.L. (1990). <i>Educational Research – a structure for inquiry</i> (3 rd ed.). Itasca, IL.: F.E. Peacock Publishers. chs 6,(7,16)** appendix A, Blaikie, N. (2010). <i>Designing social research – The logic of anticipation</i> . (2 nd ed.) Cambridge: Polity Press. Chapter I. Preparing Research Designs (pp.12-34) Handout 5 proposals: Perrow, Elekes, Lázár, Handouts 6,7 ** We will not discuss chapters in parentheses, but you might find them useful.
3	Oct 1	proposals: Lam, Kerekes, Csépes, Szerencsi,*** Handouts 6,7 identifying topic, key issues, research questions, methods, broadening and focusing, Handout 8 *** regular font: ELTE proposal, italics: UCB proposal
4	8	proposals: Gebhard, Godó, Szabó, Szatzker; Handouts 6,7 research questions, methods, broadening and focusing, Handout 10
5	15	proposals: Dóczi, Petrić, Gutierrez Eugenio; Handouts 6,7 reading and organising literature Handout 9
6	22	proposals: Menyhárt 1 & 2, Llanes; Divéki Handouts 6,7 revisiting research questions
Autumn Break		
7	Nov 5	research question workshop
8	12	identifying methods and research protocol, dealing with newly emerging questions, issues and problems, research proposal preview
9	19	Research proposal outline – Presentations
10	26	Research proposal outline – Presentations to first year students
11	Dec 3	Research proposal outline – Presentations to first year students
12	10	Research proposal outline – Presentations

Readings

Blaikie, N. (2010). *Designing social research – The logic of anticipation*. (2nded.) Cambridge: Polity Press.

Creswell, J.W. (2009). *Research design – Qualitative, quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Hopkins, C. & Antes, R. (1990). *Educational research*. 3rd ed. Itasca, ILL: Peacock Publishers.

Research proposals from our programme with the authors' permission:

Csépes Ildikó, Divéki Rita, Dóczi Brigitta, Elekes Katalin, Godó Ágnes, Esther Gutierrez Eugenio, Lázár Ildikó, Juliana Llanes, Menyhárt Adrienn, Bojana Petrić, Szabó Péter, Szatzker Orsolya, Szerencsi Katalin

Research proposals from the University of California at Berkley with the authors' permission:

Meg Gebhard, Julie Kerekes, Wan Shun Eva Lam, Margaret Perrow

Other readings on content and methodology will be tailored to the participants' needs as their project unfolds.

About the research proposal:

The research proposal is the description of the aims, the relevance, the methods and procedures of the proposed dissertation research; it allows the dissertation proposal committee to examine the relevance and feasibility of the intended research in order to give feedback and then to pass formal judgement on the research topic and the intended approach.

The research proposal should

- state the problem or area being researched and why it is of interest
- present the research question(s)
- present a brief overview of the relevant literature/theoretical background
- present the implications for the research from the literature review, and either some procedure for preliminary data collection and analysis based on the literature, or a design for a pilot study
- (where already conducted) report on the pilot study or a preliminary analysis
- draw conclusions for the main study or the full analysis on the basis of the experience of the pilot work
- present and justify the detailed design of the research along with the methods of data collection and analysis
- describe ethical considerations regarding the research
- present a detailed schedule of work to be done, with milestones and a timetable
- indicate the significance of the research for language pedagogy

It has to:

- be related to language pedagogy
- be connected to and draw upon current theory or issues of a theoretical nature
- be written in a suitable academic style
- be feasible in terms of scale, time-schedule, instrumentation, access to data sources, and time for analysis and writing up
- show evidence of having been piloted and revised where appropriate
- show evidence of awareness of the need for believable, valid results in the research paradigm used
- show evidence of having received supervision, and of having heeded advice
- show all the research instruments already designed
- have an 'Application form for research ethics approval' attached to it.

Submitting the research proposal

- The proposal should be between 8,000 and 14,000 words in length (depending on the type of study proposed), and should be prepared in consultation with the supervisor. (Experience shows that proposals tend to be 12-14,000 words long.). An application for research ethics permission (available on the langped.elte.hu site) must be attached to the proposal.

- Since the proposal is to be handed in electronically, please use single or 1.5 spaced pages.

- Please note that the smallest instance of plagiarism will automatically lead to immediate suspension, a fail mark and disciplinary measures.

- The research proposal must be submitted electronically as a .doc , .docx or .rtf file to the Director of Studies.

Deadline: Friday, 15 January, 2021. (If a reviewer prefers to read a hard copy, it has to be supplied upon request.)

The referees' reports will usually contain a commented version of the submitted proposal. The suggestions will be marked using the track changes and comments functions. These are usually not visible on phones and tablets/ipads, so make sure to view the documents on a device that has a proper version of Word on it.

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Please remember the anti-discrimination policy of the Department of English Language Pedagogy:

DELDP staff are fully committed both to promoting the freedom of expression and to respecting the rights and dignity of all people, whatever their ethnic or cultural background, religion, beliefs and sexual orientation. We expect the same commitment from our students in their everyday and professional discourse and behaviour.