

Master I (LS)

Methodology in Social Sciences

Writing a Thesis (Part I)

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Writing a Thesis

The components of the thesis are:

- the preliminary pages
- the main text or the body of the thesis
- the supplementary pages

The Preliminary Pages

The preliminary pages include the following sections:

- the title page
- Acknowledgements
- Abstract
- Table of Contents
- List of Tables
- List of Figures
- List of Abbreviations or Acronyms

The Preliminary Pages

- **The title page** supplies information about the title and the writer of the thesis. A model of the title page is provided by the department or the university.
- **Acknowledgements:** this page includes thanks directed to the persons who helped the researcher to achieve the research work.

The Preliminary Pages

- **The Abstract** is a brief summary of the thesis. It presents the essential ideas of the research work including the problem, the purpose of the study, the methodology and the main research findings.

The Preliminary Pages

- **Table of Contents:** all the sections, titles and subtitles are listed.
- **List of Tables:** the tables included in the thesis are mentioned.

The Preliminary Pages

- **List of Figures:** the figures included in the thesis are listed
- **List of Abbreviations or Acronyms:** the abbreviations or acronyms used in the thesis are mentioned.

The Body of the Thesis

The body of the thesis comprises:

- the general introduction
- the chapter referring to the theoretical section embodied in the literature review
- the chapters involving the practical section (methodology, data analysis and interpretation, suggestions and recommendations)
- the general conclusion

The General Introduction

The general introduction involves:

- background information
- the different purposes of the study
- the statement of the problem
- the research questions and hypotheses
- the methodology
- the summary of the different chapters
- the contribution of the study to the domain of scientific investigation

The Literature Review

- The literature review gives background information and provides a summary of the historical development of research about the studied issue. Also, it explains the significance of the research topic and discusses the main concepts involved in the study by referring to other research works.

The Literature Review

- The literature review refers to the chapter that reflects the researcher's reading. It deals with previous studies and relies on secondary sources related to the studied issue. It is based on a combination of the techniques of summarizing, paraphrasing and quoting.

References

- ❑ Ary, D., Jacobs, L. C., Sorensen, C., and Walker, D.A. (2014). Introduction to Research in Education. USA: Wadsworth.
- ❑ Oliver, Paul. (2008). Writing Your Thesis. London: Sage Publications Ltd.