

Level : Master I (DAELE)

Module : Methodology in Assessment

Thesis Writing

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Thesis Writing

- Thesis writing represents an essential process that relies on the writer's skill and mastery of language.
- The form and the content of the thesis should be given importance in order to ensure the good quality of the research work.
- 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 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.
- **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 data 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.
- 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 is based on a combination of the techniques of summarizing, paraphrasing and quoting.

The Practical Section

- The practical section embodies two or three chapters involving the methodology, data analysis and data interpretation as well as suggestions and recommendations.
- **Methodology:** this part deals with the purposes of research, the method, the sample and the description of the research instruments.
- **Data Analysis and Data Interpretation:** this section concerns the analysis of the collected information and the summary of the most important research findings.
- **Suggestions and Recommendations:** this chapter is based on the researcher's suggestions that are generated from his/her own experience and reading.

The General Conclusion

- The general conclusion describes the content of the thesis briefly.
- It outlines the problematic issue and research objectives.
- It summarizes the main research findings.
- It may list the limitations of the study.
- It states the implications of the study
- It highlights the necessity of further research.

The Supplementary Pages

- The supplementary pages include the bibliography and appendices.
- The bibliography refers to all the works and books read by the researcher concerning the studied topic whether they are quoted within the thesis or not. It should comprise all the sources and references mentioned in the main text.
- The appendices consist of extra materials that can not be presented within the body of the thesis. They can incorporate the research instruments such as the questionnaire or interview and the materials that are not produced by the writer of the thesis like students' written production, texts or textbook activities.

References

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