**Research  
Definitions of research**

        Research is a process of investigation about a specific phenomenon. According to Kothari (2004, p.7)  …research is the fountain of knowledge for the sake of knowledge and an important source of providing guidelines for solving different business, governmental and social problems. It is a sort of formal training which enables one to understand the new developments in one’s field in a better way. Therefore, it aims at finding solutions and improving the studied situation. Moreover, “research is the process whereby questions are raised and answers are sought by carefully gathering, analyzing, and interpreting data” (Perry, 2005, p.8).  
Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary defines it as “a careful study of a subject, especially in order to discover new facts or information about it”. Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English defines research as follows:   
1- Serious study of a subject, in order to discover new facts or test new ideas  
2- The activity of finding information about something that you are interested in or need to know about

**The researcher**  
       Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary defines the researcher as “a person who studies something carefully and tries to discover new facts about it”. A good researcher should have the following qualities: curiosity, honesty, prudence, creativity and healthy criticism.  
  
  
**References:**  
-  Kothari, C.R. (. 2004).Research Methodology. New Age International Publishers.  
-  Perry, Fred. (2005.)Research in Applied Linguistics: Becoming a Discerning Consumer. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

**Research (part 2)**  
**Purposes of research**

Research is undertaken for different purposes. According to Kothari (2004, p.2):  
             The purpose of research is to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures. The main aim of research is to find out the truth which is hidden and which has not been discovered …to gain familiarity with a phenomenon or to achieve new insights into it (studies with this object in view are termed as exploratory or formulative research studies); to portray accurately the characteristics of a particular individual, situation or a group (studies with this object in view are known as descriptive research studies).  
Research may attempt to describe, explain or explore phenomena.  Thus, it can be descriptive, explanatory or exploratory.

**Types of research**

        Research can be basic or applied. Basic research refers to the theoretical investigation while applied research is the practical aspect. Research can either be applied (or action) research or fundamental (to basic or pure) research. Applied research aims at finding a solution for an immediate problem facing a society or an industrial/business organisation, whereas fundamental research is mainly concerned with generalisations and with the formulation of a theory (Kothari 2004, p.3). Also, research can be quantitative or qualitative. Quantitative research relies on the use of statistics. Qualitative research is based on description.

**References:**  
-  Kothari, C.R. (. 2004).Research Methodology. New Age International Publishers.  
-  Perry, Fred. (2005). Research in Applied Linguistics: Becoming a Discerning Consumer. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates

 Methodology

**Definitions of Methodology**

     Methodology refers to the way of doing something. It is a set of procedures and principles.   
Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English defines methodology as “the set of methods and principles that you use when studying a particular subject or doing a particular kind of work”.

**Research methodology** refers to the way of doing research. Kothari (2004, p.8) states that:  
           Research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. It may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically. In it we study the various steps that are generally adopted by a researcher in studying his research problem along with the logic behind them.  
Therefore, research methodology means the steps followed by the researcher when making an investigation. It includes the methods, tools and activities of research.

**Definitions of Method**

A method means a procedure or a specific organized plan. Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English defines a method as “a planned way of doing something, especially one that a lot of people know about and use”. A method of research implies a specific way of studying a research topic. Thus, “research methods may be understood as all those methods/techniques that are used for conduction of research” (Kothari, 2004, p.7). Generally speaking, a research method is considered as a research strategy. It refers to a set of techniques and research tools. A research tool refers to the procedure of data collection. It is a means used by the researcher to get information about the research topic from the sample.

**References:**  
- Kothari, C.R. (. 2004).Research Methodology. India: New Age International Publishers.  
- Perry, Fred. (2005.). Research in Applied Linguistics: Becoming a Discerning Consumer. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.  Methodology in the Social Sciences