

Choosing a Research Topic

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TOPIC Features

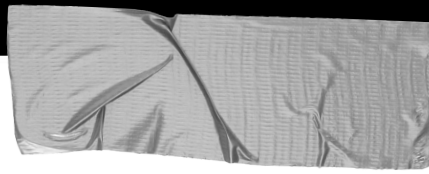
Choose a topic that interests you

Choose a topic that you can conduct in 8 months

Choose a topic in agreement with your supervisor, but you need to be the leader of the idea.

Choose a topic that makes your research sound credible, and meaningful to the community of research.





1. How to find a topic

- **Existing**
Read the existing theories.
- **New**
Find out what is the recent research of the topic
- **Related**
An idea that can be related to different concepts

Existing

Look for the existing social sciences theories:
socio-constructivism, pragmatism, socio-cultural theory...

Understand what they stand for, and how they function in the area of education, teaching and learning.

New

Think of how your topic is unique, has not been conducted by other students in your institution, is not going to be conducted by your peers this year.

Related

Think of the limits of your topic, in relation to your area of specialism, your choice should be meaningful. If you are in applied linguistics 'didactics' you stick to the area of research in teaching and learning. A class (virtual, in person)/students/ teachers/ trainers/ educators)

Think of the university customised research approaches (QUA/QUAL/mixed approaches)

Institution research guidelines (what teachers provide in class, online theses)

Know the rules of the game before you play

Things to consider

Understand how research works!

Read methodology books to differentiate between theory, methodology, and method.

Think of using different languages to know about your topic. Start broad, and narrow it down.

Identify area that interest you (courses you have studies, broad areas, it may be like assessment, teaching using a specific approach, psychopedagogy, speaking skills, writing skills)

Choose areas that appeal to you, keep you motivated through the research process, but not emotionally chosen

Hit the literature

Find articles that share the same interest in your area, what is the existing knowledge,

to find the gap, find what others have not done,

What does the literature say?

Head back to your course, choose a keyword, and search them in Google Scholar, pick the most top 5 in each area you are interested in, pick up recent articles.

Kuiken, F., & Vedder, I. (2008). Cognitive Task Complexity and Written Output in Italian and French as a Foreign Language. *Journal of second language writing*, 17(1), 48-60.

Ismail, N., Maulan, S., & Hasan, N. H. (2008). "The Impact of Teacher Feedback on ESL Students' Writing Performance. *Academic Journal of Social Studies*, 8(1), 45-54.

Johns, A. (1995). Teaching Classroom and Authentic Genres: Initiating Students into Academic Cultures and Discourses. In Belcher, D & Braine, G. (Eds.), *Academic Writing in a Second Language*. Norwood, NJ: Ablex Publishing Co.

Kepner, C (1991) An Experiment in the Relationship of Types of Written Feedback to the Development of Writing Skills. *Modern Language Journal*. 75, 305-313.

Kibler, A. K., & Hardigree, C. (2017). Using Evidence in L2 Argumentative Writing: A Longitudinal Case Study across High School and University. *Language Learning*, 67(1), 75-109.

Kuiken, F., & Vedder, I. (2008). Cognitive Task Complexity and Written Output in Italian and French as a Foreign Language. *Journal of second language writing*, 17(1), 48-60.

Lam, R. (2014). Promoting Self-regulated Learning through Portfolio Assessment: Testimony and Recommendations. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 39(6), 699-714.

Leki, I. (2001). Material, Educational, and Ideological Challenges of Teaching EFL Writing at The Turn of the Century. *International Journal of English Studies*, 1(2.), 197-209.

Linn, R. L. (2008). *Measurement and Assessment in Teaching*. Pearson Education India.

Search an old topic in a new context,

You will bring new insights to the topic, area of research

Example. Wellbeing was explored in psychology research, and now it is studied in business contexts and education with other concepts

Current research: wellbeing is studied to explore its relationship with leadership in institutions (business/ schools)

Wellbeing in EMI classes: How teachers who are inquired to teach their content in English feel about the shift, implementation, and practices of English in their classes.

EMI, in both contexts is investigated through 'socio-economic/socio-political understandings in a socio-cultural context.

Example

Asian Context

EMI

Use of English

No access to, only through reading

High economic context

Private institutions

North African context

EMI

Use of English and French

Access to, no literature

Low economic context

Public institutions

Backward forward

Brainstorm what you want to study

Try to connect ideas

Take notes

Brainstorm what you read

Try to connect ideas from the literature,

Find how those ideas are conducted

Take notes

And edit your ideas

Find new context to old topics

Conduct current topic in new context

AI/EMI?

LIST UP the TOPIC, then form 3RQs

**EMI/university/teachers/ syllabus/wellbeing/students/students of
Maths/languages**

What is related to what?

What can impact what?

How one can make the other?

Recap

Your topic should be unique to your institution

Your context should be unique to the existing literature.

Brainstorm

Algeria

Schools

Multilingual class (arabic.
french.english)

Higher Education

Trendy topics

English class

In this space write your brainstorming ideas, thinking of n issue you faced in the past, you observed in the present, you reflect of its potential solutions

References

[How To Choose A Research Topic For A Dissertation Or Thesis \(7 Step Method + Examples\) - YouTube](#)

