



MIXED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY TOOLS

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Abstract

Mixed research methodology is the most popular methodology among the social science and language research scholars. This paper tries to define mixed research methodology. It also explains the different elements of mixed research methodology in the first part. The second part of the paper is associated with the tools of mixed research methodology namely questionnaire and interview. The paper attempts to explain the different attributes of these tools.

KEY WORDS: *Mixed research method, Qualitative, quantitative methods, Triangulation Survey questionnaire, Interview*

INTRODUCTION: Research design, research tools, selection and description of the partakers, setting, instruments used for data collection, data analysis and credibility of the study are the imperative issues in research methodology. Significance of the research tools particularly interview and questionnaire in mixed methodology is the subject of this paper. The credibility of the research tools depends on research tools. Data collection and analysis are closely associated with research tools. It is only the research design that determines the selection of research tools hence next to research design; in research methodology research tools are important.

MIXED METHODOLOGY: The studies imply qualitative, quantitative or mixed methodology. Mixed methodology is mostly preferred. In mixed methodology data is collected from both the methodologies. It also implies both types of data analysis procedures. In it both qualitative and quantitative data is given precedence. Use of both qualitative and

quantitative data analysis procedure helps researchers to draw on all possibilities. It also provides a broader perspective to the study. Quantitative data gives authenticity to the qualitative data described and qualitative data describes the quantitative data in all aspects. A researcher believes that, “Using both forms of data allows researchers to simultaneously generalize results from a sample to a population and to gain a deeper understanding of the phenomenon of interest.”

Survey questionnaires obtain quantitative data. eg. Questionnaires fill up by teachers regarding teaching of English fetch quantity of the teachers suffering from the problem of mother tongue influence or problem of shyness or any such problem. The interviews taken are explained with the qualitative methodology and presented in quantitative way too. Hence survey questionnaire and interviews are most important tools for any kind of research design- qualitative, quantitative or mixed.

TRIANGULATION: A core feature of mixed-method research methodology is the introduction of triangulation to authenticate data. This serves to assure reliability in exposing research results. Triangulation is defined as “the collection and comparison of data from two or more separate observations or illustrations of the behaviors being studied”. This is the most important tool used in the recent studies to gather data. Data is collected through written survey questionnaires and interviews with the partakers. The use of these two data collection tools facilitated to confirm both the answers in the questionnaires and interviews. This process of authentication is triangulation.

RESEARCH TOOLS

In this study, mainly two research tools have been studied.

- 1) Survey questionnaire
- 2) Interviews.

These tools help teachers and students to express themselves in a better way and their experience in their own terms. They are free to express their cultural, social, administrative, economical, political constrains. These research tools are known as tools of mixed method. Research methodology scholars think that “this is the most appropriate research methodology to be used for social type of study”. It is helpful to record the experience of the partakers. It also assists to compare and contrast the data in qualitative way. It again facilitates the post implementation results.

WRITTEN QUESTIONNAIRE: Questionnaire is a tool for accumulating large amount of data swiftly and reasonably. If a researcher wants to accumulate data from various places and persons, it is only possible through written questionnaire printed or online. The strength of questionnaire lies in precision, simplification and convenience. The questionnaires more often fail in examining complex social relationships or a complex pattern of interaction is true. But at the same time its reliability and consistency gives it a real strength. Its suitability of implementation in any situation is the most unique characteristic. Thus, following are the main features of the written questionnaire.

1. Precision
2. Simplicity
3. Convenient
4. Reliable
5. Consistency
6. Easy implementation

The written survey questionnaire can be designed according to the need of the research. Questionnaires can be sent to any size of the population to explore the difficulties, challenges understanding and so on. The questionnaire may contain both open-ended and closed-ended questions. It is better for exploring all the possibilities.

Generally the first part of the questionnaire is dedicated to the personal information of the partakers. Every kind of personal information including teaching experience for teachers and studying class for students is included in this section. The second part deals with their socio-educational information. Especially it tries to seek information about the location, infrastructure, strength, work, working hours etc. Most of the part of the information gathered in this part is analyzed by the research scholars in their first chapter that gives information about the implemented methodology. The third section of the questionnaire explores the topic of the research. It discovers the important information.

INTERVIEWS: The interview is defined as, “a meeting at which somebody is asked questions in order to find out their views.” By oxford Advanced learners dictionary. The interview may be formal, informal or semi structured. Mostly mixed methodology prefers semi structured interviews. Interview is a special way of collecting information. It allows interviewers to go beyond the slandered answers and can even challenge the question. The

questions when are open-ended interviewees feel free to deviate from the stereotype answers. The interviews helped to understand the various shades of the problem from the speeches of the interviewees.

A standard interview demands Twenty to thirty five minutes time. Before beginning the actual interview partakers should be briefly explained the questions. Some time need to be given to them to contemplate on the questions. This helps to make the interview more conversational. Some additional questions may be asked pertaining to their responses to questions which they answer without any hesitation if we succeed in creating conversation friendly environment. The aspirants should feel enthusiastic in sharing their personal views and experiences which they felt that are not included in the questionnaire. When participants feel uncomfortable about any question, that question should not be stressed. Partakers should be given freedom to answer the questions.

All the questions need to be open ended and focusing on methodology and its implementation related issues. The language must be the language of the interviewees. If the interviewer and interviewee have different mother tongue a translator must be organized. There should not be any barrier of communication. At least a freedom needs to be given to the interviewees to be bilingual if they feel uncomfortable, especially when we are interviewing rural, uneducated or students.

Thus, interview is one of the major research tools. Mixed methodology implies both these tools effectively for collecting data and data analysis.

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