

**FINAL
ASSIGNMENT:
RESEARCH
PROPOSAL**

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FINAL ASSIGNMENT FOR THIS SEMESTER

- Submit a **research proposal** for one study that could be a part of your dissertation
- The document should be structured according to the structure described by Sekaran, Bougie, p. 45 – 46 with added ethical considerations (see next slide)
 - You can use the following sources as tips concerning content and style Robson, McCartan (2016, in study materials) or [this guide](#)
- Methods and materials (questionnaires, interview schedules, observations schedules, stimulus materials etc.) should be included in full and placed in appendices.
- For the purpose of the assignment you may simplify your planning by disregarding the discrepancy between English as the official language of the course and the fact you might be doing the study in a population of non-native speakers
- Deadline is in course description in the IS.
- There are no strict limits on the length but usually around 8-10 normed pages (roughly 2500 words) without references and appendices.

Structure of proposal from S-B (p. 45 – 46)

1. A working title.
2. Background of the study.
3. The problem statement:
 - a) The purpose of the study
 - b) Research questions.
4. The scope of the study.
5. The relevance of the study.
6. The research design, offering details on:
 - a) Type of study – exploratory and descriptive
 - b) Data collection methods
 - c) The sampling design
 - d) Data analysis.
7. Time frame of the study, including information on when the written report will be handed over to the sponsors.
8. The budget, detailing the costs with reference to specific items of expenditure.
9. *Ethical consideration*
10. References

Notes

- Sections 2-3: Please assume the reader has only general knowledge of your area of interest. Make sure your background is written clearly and includes all important theory to make the research statement understandable to a non-specialist.
- Sections 4-5: Please, be realistic. There is no need to exaggerate. Even small findings on limited populations can be useful.
- Section 6 should be very detailed, concrete. Think it through all the way – almost a like a script of your interactions with participants from recruiting them to thanking them good bye.
- Section 9 is an addition to S-B structure. Please argue why you believe all ethical requirements are met.

The following are just resources that could be useful.

Writing up - IMRaD

Typical Research Article Structure

INTRODUCTION

Topic – literature review – RQs/Hs

METHODS

Sample – Measures – Design - Analyses

RESULTS

Data description – models – tests of hypotheses – exploratory analyses

DISCUSSION

Findings – implications – limitations – further research

In the past decade much research has focused on...

It remains unclear why...

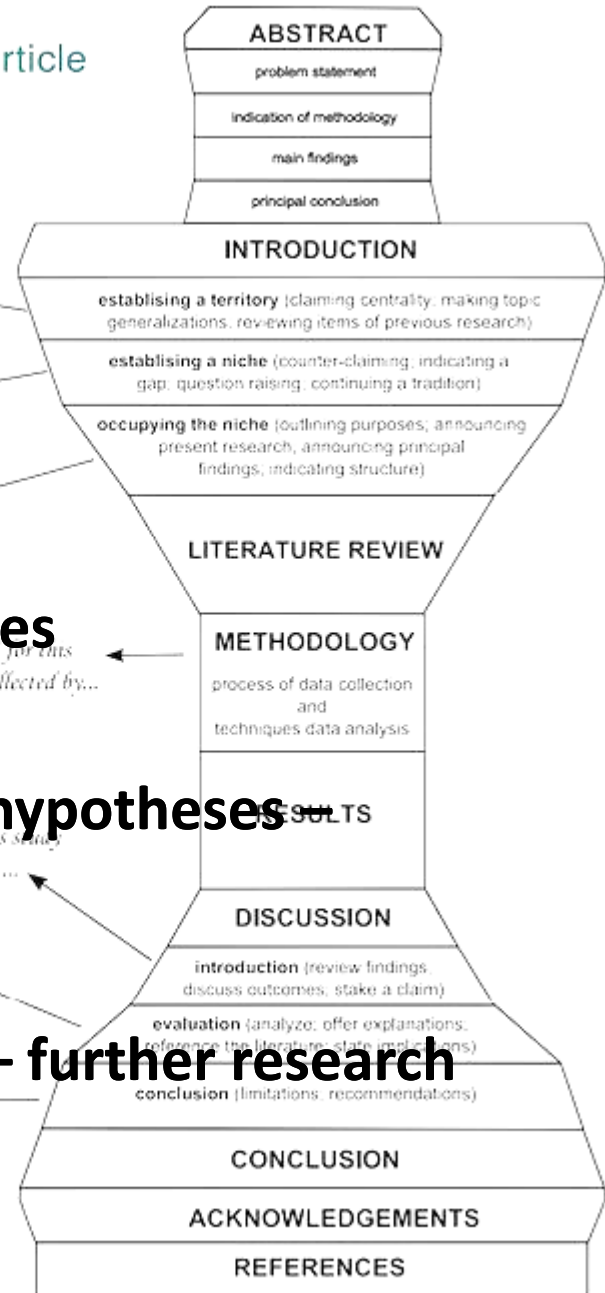
The purpose of this study was to...

The data used for this study were collected by...

The findings of this study clearly show that.....

One explanation for...

limited by...



INTRODUCTION

From the topic to RQ/H

- The topic – what is the problem area and why it is important
- The problem – what is the problem and what are solutions in literature → what is unknown, uncertain, missing, controversial....
- My contribution – what my research should bring – RQs/Hs that logically follow from the previous paragraphs

METHOD

- How do I (plan to) achieve the aims of my research.
- In detail allowing the reader to assess
 - feasibility
 - validity – interenal and external – and threats to it
 - researcher competence
- Design
- Sample
- Methods (measures, protocol)
- Analyses

Order of the first three varies.

In lab experiments the placement of detailed description of the experimental procedure varies.

METHOD - DESIGN

- The overall strategy of creating new knowledge
- Identification of standard type of design + details, deviations
 - Observational, Survey, Longitudinal, panel, (Quasi-)Experimental, Case study, Evaluation, Ethnography, GT, Simulation

METHOD - METHODS

- Measures (to be) used
- Experimental procedures.
- Short descriptions with arguments for sufficient validity and reliability
- In QUAL studies often merged with Design.
 - Procedures ensuring validity are explicitly proposed as a part of method
 - What choices will be made during the study and how will they be made?

METHOD - **SAMPLE**

- Description of sampling procedure
- Argument for sample size
- Description of sample (not in a proposal)
- Ethics statement (unless in a special section)

METHOD - ANALYSIS

- Plan (or description) of the analysis
 - Data processing
 - Analytical approach
- Tools used (software)
- Relevant level of detail – often short unless the analysis is unusual or complex

ETHICS OF RESEARCH WITH HUMAN SUBJECTS – AN OVERVIEW

Research ethics (Ruane, 2016)

- Doing no harm
- Obtaining informed consent
 - Competence
 - participants need to have the ability to know what is in their best interest
 - Voluntarism
 - participants must have freedom of choice about study involvement
 - Full information
 - participants should receive all relevant information about study
 - Comprehension
 - participants must understand information presented
- Protecting privacy
 - More complicated in our technology saturated world
 - Many public settings still have privacy expectations
- Avoiding conflict of interest
 - a challenge given prevalence of corporate funding of research
- Ethics review boards
 - (<https://vyzkum.rect.muni.cz/cs/zazemi/etika-vyzkumu>)

