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## Research methods: Uses and limitations of questionnaires, interviews, and case studies

By Ben Beiske

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In qualitative research, since methods are often more flexible and subjective, it's important to reflect on the approach you took and explain the choices you made. Discuss the criteria you used to select participants or sources, the context in which the research was conducted, and the role you played in collecting the data (e.g. were you an active participant or a passive observer?)

How long were the interviews and how were they recorded? Participant observation Describe where, when and how you conducted the observation or ethnography. It involves studying the methods used in your field and the theories or principles behind them, in order to develop an approach that matches your objectives. What is a questionnaire and what are the biggest advantages and disadvantages of questionnaires? Find out here and learn how to avoid the limitations of this research method. There are tons of options you can use for your research. In this article, we will focus on the one we know best: questionnaires. As with every research method, there are pros and cons. We've gathered the biggest treasures and pitfalls so you can make the best possible decision. Get ready to discover the 10 biggest advantages like cost efficiency, scalability and quick results. But also disadvantages such as respondents with their own agenda and a possible lack of personalization.

First things first: What is a questionnaire? Survey Method. Questionnaires. Interviews. Quantitative Data Collection Methods. Case Studies. Focus Groups. Observation. Unstructured interviews are usually the least reliable from research viewpoint, because no questions are prepared prior to the interview and data collection is conducted in an informal manner. Unstructured interviews can be associated with a high level of bias and comparison of answers given by different respondents tends to be difficult due to the differences in formulation of questions. Semi-structured interviews contain the components of both, structured and unstructured interviews. In semi-structured interviews, interviewer prepares a set of same questions to be answered by all interviewee... Through case study methods, a researcher is able to go beyond the quantitative. statistical results and understand the behavioural conditions through the actor's perspective. By including both quantitative and qualitative data, case study helps explain both the process. and outcome of a phenomenon through complete observation, reconstruction and analysis of areas that have used case study methods extensively, particularly in government, management. and in education. For instance, there were studies conducted to ascertain whether particular. recorded and archived particularly when interviews and direct observation by the researcher are the main sources of data. vi. the case study is linked to a theoretical framework (Tellis, 1997). Case study. Oral history. Focus groups/group interviews. Participant observation. Holistic research. Differences in the methods of data collection in quantitative and qualitative research. Major approaches to information gathering. Collecting data using primary sources. Observation. The interview. The questionnaire. Constructing a research instrument in quantitative research. Asking personal and sensitive questions. Structure of the report. Problems and limitations. Appendix. Work schedule.

What are the Limitations of a Study (Research)? Why and Where to Include Limitations in My Research Paper. Common Limitations of the Researchers. Limited Access to Information. Every research has certain limitations, and it's completely normal, but you need to minimize their range of scope in the process. Provide your acknowledgment of them in the conclusion. Identify and understand potential shortcomings in your work. They are a basic foundation for any researcher who must use them to achieve a set of specific objectives or aims. What if there are no previous works? You may face this challenge if you choose an evolving or current problem for your study or if it's very narrow. Using a grounded theory, varieties of research methods in TEFL are investigated. Among of them are case study, quasi experiment, qualitative experiment, meta analysis, descriptive research, activity theory, error analysis, R & D, action research, research and development (R&D), and survey method. Due to the limited space, however, the paper will only describe four popular methods: descriptive research, case study, error analysis, and R & D. The description of each method is supported with examples found in international journal articles published around the world. Discover the world... collected through direct and email interview and questionnaires. Data analysis procedure was adapted from. A variety of quantitative and qualitative research methods are available to the researcher, ranging from interviews, questionnaires, observation, experiments, to case studies. This paper will focus on three of the above methods, namely questionnaires, interviews, and case studies, in chapters two, three, and four respectively. Each chapter will give a brief introduction about the method, and then highlight the main strengths and limitations of each approach. For the purpose of this paper, induction is defined as a data-driven approach to research, while deduction is seen as theory-driven.[1] A Interview is one of the popular methods of research data collection. The term interview can be dissected into two terms as, "inter" and "view". The essence of interview is that one mind tries to read the other. The interviewer tries to assess the interviewed in terms of the aspects studied or issues analyzed. Purpose and Importance of Interview. The main purpose of interview as a tool of data collection, is to gather data extensively and intensively. Assuming that personal interviewing is being used, each interviewer will be instructed to ask the questions in the order given on the questionnaire and to ask only those questions. The resulting interviews will be structured-direct in nature.

Advantages of the Interview Method: (1) The personal interviews, compared especially to questionnaires usually yield a high percentage of returns. (2) The interview method can be made to yield an almost perfect sample of the general population because practically everyone can be reached by and can respond to this approach. It will be remembered that the questionnaire approach is severely limited by the fact that only the literate persons can be covered by it. ADVERTISEMENTS: Again, the observational approach is also subject to limitations because many things or facts cannot be observed on the ...  
In all these cases the interviewer has to probe deeper.  
ADVERTISEMENTS: The test of a good interviewer is that he is alert to incomplete or nonspecific answers. Keywords: qualitative research, case study, theoretical paradigm, methodology, multi-level analysis. 2. Introduction.  
The discussion focuses on limitations of each paradigm for the current study on RDBs. Positivism: The positivist paradigm does not fit well with the research problem at the heart of this work.  
Case studies/ convergent interviewing: triangulation, interpretation of research issues by qualitative and/or quantitative methods (such as structural equation modelling).  
Additionally, prior theory in this investigation focused the literature review and assisted in developing the research issues and interview schedule, along with a suitable research design and system of data collection (Lincoln & Guba 1985; Miles & Huberman 1984; Yin 1993).  
Definition of case study research. Through case study methods, a researcher is able to go beyond the quantitative. statistical results and understand the behavioural conditions through the actor's perspective. By including both quantitative and qualitative data, case study helps explain both the process. and outcome of a phenomenon through complete observation, reconstruction and analysis of.  
areas that have used case study methods extensively, particularly in government, management. and in education. For instance, there were studies conducted to ascertain whether particular.  
recorded and archived particularly when interviews and direct observation by the. researcher are the main sources of data. vi. the case study is linked to a theoretical framework (Tellis, 1997). The researcher can use one or more of the several research methods under the case study method depending upon the prevalent circumstances. In other words, the use of different methods such as depth interviews, questionnaires, documents, study reports of individuals, letters, and the like is possible under case study method. Case study method has proved beneficial in determining the nature of units to be studied along with the nature of the universe.

A variety of quantitative and qualitative research methods are available to the researcher, ranging from interviews, questionnaires, observation, experiments, to case studies. This paper will focus on three of the above methods, namely questionnaires, interviews, and case studies, in chapters two, three, and four respectively. Each chapter will give a brief introduction about the method, and then highlight the main strengths and limitations of each approach. For the purpose of this paper, induction is defined as a data-driven approach to research, while deduction is seen as theory-driven.[1] Researchers choose methods that best suit their study topics and that fit with their overall approaches to research. In planning the design of a study, sociologists generally choose from four widely used methods of social investigation: survey, experiment, field research, and secondary data analysis. Every research method comes with pluses and minuses, and the topic of study strongly influences which method or methods are put to use. In this section, you will examine how researchers use each of these research methods. Learning outcomes. Describe how sociologists utilize surveys. Explain the three types of field research: participant observation, ethnography, and case studies. Describe secondary data analysis. Using a grounded theory, varieties of research methods in TEFL are investigated. Among of them are case study, quasi experiment, qualitative experiment, meta analysis, descriptive research, activity theory, error analysis, R & D, action research, research and development (R&D), and survey method. Due to the limited space, however, the paper will only describe four popular methods: descriptive research, case study, error analysis, and R & D. The description of each method is supported with examples found in international journal articles published around the world. Discover the world... collected through direct and email interview and questionnaires. Data analysis procedure was adapted from. Survey Method. Questionnaires. Interviews. Quantitative Data Collection Methods. Case Studies. Focus Groups. Observation. Unstructured interviews are usually the least reliable from research viewpoint, because no questions are prepared prior to the interview and data collection is conducted in an informal manner. Unstructured interviews can be associated with a high level of bias and comparison of answers given by different respondents tends to be difficult due to the differences in formulation of questions. Semi-structured interviews contain the components of both, structured and unstructured interviews. In semi-structured interviews, interviewer prepares a set of same questions to be answered by all interviewee...