

Dornyei, Z. (2007). *Research methods in applied linguistics*. New York: Oxford University Press. 336 pages.

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Not since Hatch and Lazaraton's (1991) research manual for applied linguistics has a textbook been specifically written for conducting research in the field. Dornyei's *Research Methods in Applied Linguistics* is comprehensive, covering quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research reflecting the different research paradigms currently found in applied linguistics. Separated into four main sections, the book is organized practically following the different stages of conducting research.

Part One presents key issues in research methodology. The author first focuses on qualities of a good researcher, a topic often overlooked but much needed. There is also a list of useful readings on research methodologies from the social sciences and applied linguistics. In Chapter Two, the quantitative and qualitative distinction is discussed through three lenses: "an ideological contrast," "contrast in categorization," and "contrast in the perception of individual diversity" (p. 25). For each research methodology, the author offers a historical overview, main characteristics, and strengths and weaknesses. A highlight of the textbook is the discussion in Chapter Three: Setting quality criteria and research ethics, "a curiously neglected issue in much applied linguistic research" (p. 48). Validity and reliability issues are raised not only for quantitative research, but also for qualitative and mixed methods research. The author then discusses key ethical issues in conducting research such as human subjects' protection and data confidentiality. The final chapter explores longitudinal and cross sectional research.

Part Two is about collecting data and Chapter Five begins with sampling followed by an extensive examination of questionnaire surveys, one of the commonest data collection instruments. The author also discusses experimental and quasi-experimental design, representing "quantitative research at its most scientific" (p. 115). Then, there is an overview of internet surveys, an increasingly available and improving medium of data collection. Chapter Six is devoted to conducting ethnographic work such as interviews, focus-groups interviews, case studies, diary studies, research journals, and introspection methods (think aloud and retrospective interviews). Chapter Seven, mixed-methods research, attempts to integrate both quantitative and qualitative data at one or more stages of the research process, and focuses on the purpose of such research, the compatibility of different research paradigms, and the main types of mixed-methods research. Lastly, Dornyei devotes a separate chapter to conducting classroom research: doing classroom observations, using mixed methods to understand classroom events, and the challenges classroom research poses.

Part Three of the textbook explores data analysis, with Chapter Nine describing the main statistical procedures in quantitative data analysis. There is a comprehensive discussion of data preparation for analysis focusing on coding, inputting, screening, cleaning, and manipulating data. Next, key statistical concepts are introduced followed by descriptive and inferential statistics used in applied linguistics research. More advanced statistics such as factor analysis, structural equation modeling, and meta analysis are introduced to help understand research using these procedures. Chapter Ten, qualitative data analysis, outlines four main principles: analysis is

inherently language-based, process is iterative, using subjective intuition, and employing formalized analytical procedures to establish data patterns. Included also are the phases of the analytical process: transcribing, coding, and tools suggested for “growing ideas” such as writing memos, vignettes, interview profiles, and forms of data display. Also in this chapter is a discussion of “grounded theory,” a common concept in the qualitative research literature. The chapter concludes by examining computer-aided qualitative data analysis (CAQDAS). The final chapter considers mixed-methods data analysis, which is an integration of data at the analysis stage. The most common integrated analytical strategy data transformation is discussed, as are extreme case analysis and multiple level analysis.

Part Four, reporting research results, starts with Chapter Twelve stressing use of a style manual for standardization in writing. Then, the author outlines the structure of quantitative research reports, discussing everything from front matter (title, abstract, table of contents) to conclusion and even presenting reader-friendly figures and tables. Chapter Thirteen, writing qualitative and mixed methods reports, begins with differences in qualitative research such as the lack of a fixed format, use of words rather than numbers as evidence, and longer but richer reports. Next, the importance of presenting the mixed methodology in the introduction of the report and the need for a modified style template and literature review that fits the particular mixed method used is emphasized. The final chapter recommends adopting a flexible approach to doing research. The author offers different perspectives on making pragmatic choices whether it is content, audience, practical or personal considerations. The author concludes by recommending a mixed-methods approach to every research situation as any secondary component can be highly informative.

Overall, the book is a useful resource, particularly for the novice researcher. Dornyei offers excellent basics and practical information such as piloting research, maintaining a research log, and techniques to manage and store data. The textbook is a complete overview of the various applied linguistics research paradigms and, therefore, is ideal for a research methods class. The discussions are thorough, the illustrations are varied, and, taken as whole, the book is useful, accessible, and practical.

References

Hatch, E., & Lazaraton, A. (1991). *The research manual: Design and statistics for applied linguistics*. Rowley, MA: Newbury House.