

An Introduction to Graduation Research/Project 2016-2017

University of Human Development
Department of English

Dr. Sabir H. Rasul





A. Graduation Projects

1) Translation (English < > Kurdish)

human development books

literary books (novel, play, etc.)

international reports

Note: It is continuous process with regular checks from the supervisor.



3000 word commentary:

- what (children story, 60pages)
- the importance (not translated before, very interesting culturally and educationally)
- methodology (a mixture of literal and communicative translation)
- difficulties (cultural terms, names of people, names of places, grammatically complex structures)
- recommendations (adapting names, clarifying meaning, changing title)
- Resources/references (at least 10 references)

2) Media Projects:

translating educational films (subtitling)

translating documentary films (subtitling)

producing educational videos (English,
Kurdish)

Note: Followed by a 3000 commentary.

3) Writing projects:
Writing short stories, novels!
drama!

Note: Followed by a 3000 commentary.

Characteristics of research

- Research is logical, empirical, reductive, planned and imaginative. You may feel you're not at all good at logic... you grasp things intuitively, by example not by logical rules, but anyone who can plan a holiday or a wedding has the necessary mental equipment.



Logical

- This means that in carrying out research you will draw *conclusions*. If you discover that all your students aged 25 or more score very highly on the reading test you're using, than those aged 15 to 24 get middling scores, and those aged under 15 score poorly, you will conclude something about the reading test. First of all, age is clearly related to performance on this test. That's logical. The older the student, the better the score. This is a straightforward, clear conclusion which can be drawn and is not likely to be contested.

Empirical

- “Empirical research” simply means “checking it out” by collecting data and analysing it. We do not ignore the experts in the field; everything we do is dependent on previous ideas. However, in empirical research you do not simply take the authorities on trust – you try to check it out.

Reductive

- Reductive means that data get reduced to more manageable chunks. This can be done by focusing your research topic or narrowing it down.
- Drama
- Shakespeare's plays
- Shakespeare's Macbeth
- The notion of 'treason' in Macbeth

- Translation
- Translation of journalistic texts
- Translation of journalistic texts between English and Kurdish
- Translation of idioms in journalistic texts between English and Kurdish
- *as a rule of thumb the title should have no more than 12 words



Planned

- You can't carry out research without first of all making a plan, the same way you make a plan to build a house. You would want to decide how many rooms, doors and windows there should be before you started, and would have to get in some supplies. In the case of a house, you might well want to buy one which had already been made for you, or have an architect and builder do most of the work for you. But in the case of academic research, unfortunately there are no architects and builders! No expert is likely to be available to draw up the plans for *your* research.

Choose an interesting topic

- *Do not choose a topic merely because your supervisor or some book or article recommends it. Choose a topic which interests **you**.*
- A research topic is connected to a general area of study, such as applied linguistics, translation and poetry: the kinds of areas which give rise to names of courses. First of all, you should decide which general area you most like.

Theory

- Theory is the backbone of any academic research study. You need to design your research within the framework of a relevant theory. Theories such as structuralism and post-colonialism are classic methods used in literature and linguistics. You need to consult with your supervisor in deciding on an appropriate theory.



The research questions

- Research questions are also essential elements of any academic research project.
- In (applied) linguistics, the research questions should be measurable, while in literature a philosophical research question may work better.
- * Researchers typically set two or three research questions.

An example in applied linguistics

- For 2 groups of Kurdish university students taught English conversation using visual aids and taught using a non-visual aids by the same teacher,
- Is there a significant difference between their scores on an achievement test?
- Is there a significant difference between the attitudes and perceptions of the two groups?



An example in literature

- In George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, how is the concept of dictatorship presented and how can it be related to dictatorial regimes in the modern world?
- How modern humans are depicted in the era of industrialism in T. S. Eliot's poems?

Research Design/Structure

- Introduction (%5-10%)
- Literature Review (relevant research background) (%20-25%)
- Material and Methodology (%10-20%)
- Findings/Analysis/Discussion (%40-50%)
- Conclusion (%5-10%)

- ***Stages in the research process***
- Having identified a research topic, let us now turn to an overview of stages in the research process. The main stages are these:

stage	What you do	what you write
<i>planning</i>	<i>preparation, imagining results</i>	<i>notes, Literature Review</i>
<i>piloting</i>	<i>testing it all out</i>	<i>Methods chapter</i>
<i>data collection</i>	<i>e.g. interviewing or teaching subjects, finding texts, setting up a corpus</i>	<i>notes, Methods chapter</i>
<i>data analysis</i>	<i>e.g. transcribing taped data, sorting, counting</i>	<i>Findings/Analysis/Discussion</i>
<i>writing up</i>		<i>revise Methods, Analysis and Discussion & Literature Review, write Conclusion and then Introduction!</i>

quantitative vs. qualitative method

- Quantitative method is largely concerned with counting, e.g. scores on tests of various kinds.
- Qualitative method is concerned with distinguishing different qualities, e.g. different strategies students use in reading/listening comprehension. In the case of literature, qualitative methods can be used to understand, for instance, the notion of love in Shakespeare's sonnets.

Useful Tips



- Read a relevant research paper from cover to cover to see how the research question are presented and how answer to these questions are achieved. Besides, to understand the structure and design of the research paper.
- Read, read and read! Research is basically the reflection of what you read and what you build upon the work that has already been done. Remember to make note of what you read – a notebook is a must.
- Set a reasonable time plan – e.g. Literature Review 3 weeks, data collection 2 weeks, data analysis (4 weeks), etc. And remember to strictly adhere to your time plan.
- Make use of technology – to find relevant material online, to get in touch with your supervisor and to save the piece of work you produce at each stage.

- Best of luck!
- Any questions!