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## Research Methodology for Literary Research

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### Abstract

This researcher paper includes the integrities of literary research. It incorporates the different steps of research writing. Literary research is different from other social sciences researches. This paper deals in how literary researches are different from other researches. The whole process of literary research from starting to the end of the research is discussed in this paper. It focuses on the step-wise process of literary research that help scholars in their progress of their research. It starts with the meaning of research to the culmination of a literary research. The problem is, the researcher does not find any information regarding the procedure of a research work. It will scholars in getting the actual research procedure. Textual analysis method has been used for research methodology in the research paper.

**Keywords:** Research, Research Methodology, literary research

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The word research is made of two words. 1. Re 2. Search. Research means search again. We are not searching something new; we are searching which is already existing. We are to bring to light by searching again that is already existing. But later, it was added the word systematic. Mean what we are researching must be systematic that is called research.

French word for research is Chercher, meaning to look for. The Latin word is Circare meaning to traverse. Dictionary meaning of research is the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.

Research is basically search of knowledge. In research, there is search for which is already existed. That is why it is called Re-search. And this research is scientific and systematic in the relevant subject or topic. There are many Dictionary meanings of this word but we can say that it is a movement from known to unknown. In fact, it is a journey of coming from darkness to light. And this journey of discovery starts with questions and quarries. In our mind more questions or problems strikes off and on, that disturbs our mind. This inquisitiveness is the mother of all knowledge and method. And answer to question that disturbs you always can be termed as research. If you find a suitable

answer that satisfies the inquisitiveness is research.

Some features of research in Academic World

1. Systematic
2. Fresh Approach
3. Review of Literature
4. Practical Conclusion

When research is done, it is done with some objectives. Keeping those objectives in mind; a researcher starts its research. There might be many objectives, it depends on the researcher what he wants to objectify. There could be many objectives, some of them can be annumerated. It could be to acquire or to gain advanced knowledge of the selected texts. It could be the intensive understanding of the original text. Objectives of the research could be to apply a particular theory or to proof a theory, can be applied to a particular text or not. Theories are well stablished but until or unless we will not apply them on a text, its importance cannot be understood so formulation of a theory is also essential in literary research.

One of the objectives of the literary research could be to develop a thorough understanding of the text: literary criticism, literary creativity, expected literary research methods. Another objective of the research is to develop a theory in the field of literature. Research will help you in making a concept or literary tools for making the study

profound. Out of these objectives, literary research will help you in understanding a literary text in many facets.

There are many types of researches in English. E.g., Descriptives, analytical, fundamental, qualitative, quantitative etc. some of the types of researches we will take to study.

1. Descriptive
2. Analytical
3. Fundamental
4. Applied
5. Quantitative
6. Qualitative
7. Explorative
8. Formulative
9. Conceptual
10. Empirical
11. Applied
12. Fundamental
13. Comparative
14. Longitudinal
15. Diagnostic

English literature is not a social science. English literature is a discipline of humanities. The humanities focus on religion, history etc. social sciences' subjects are of academic subjects that relates to human behaviour, relationships, and other aspects of society. Literary research is done by a creative writer. Creative writer creates a new literary work and understands and evaluates other works based on his understanding of literature.

When object of study is the writer then tool applied for this kind of research would be same as used in social sciences. Tools are specific when it is used for the purpose of his works.

Literary researches are of many types: - 1.

1. Biographical Research
2. Bibliographical Research
3. Textual Literary Research
4. Theoretical Literary Research
5. Interpretative Literary Research

If we go in detail, in the significance of Research work we will find out the different importance of the research. First, research is significance for career. We can use research as career. It could be a good option for person and nation as well. Secondly, research is important for professional development. By doing research, teachers can be promoted in their profession as in universities and colleges in India. Teachers get promoted if they have Ph.D. in their concern streams. Thirdly, researcher

get financial aid if they do research in their stream.

Research gives an outlet to the researchers. New ideas come out by research. It also gives new ideas that can give benefit to the public. It also gives new insight to the people that can give new knowledge and comfort to them. New philosophies of life come through research. It generates new ideas, theories, philosophies that can help in changing our life in terms of comfort to them. Research leads to the development of creativity. And after knowing new style, we can improve in the style of writing. Creative work come out by research that is already existed. Sometimes creative work comes out and it is not known to us. It is only through research this creativity brings to light to the public. And this is not through literary research, why these theories come to light to the literary researches and literary man. Theory is the result of the exhaustive research in that area. The more literary researches are done the more literary theories come out to the literary field.

Research methodology is a way to find out the solution to the research problem. It is the logic behind the methods we use in the research problem. Through this we explain why/how/in what way, the research is going to proceed? We also explain in this research methodology that why a particular technique of analyzing the data has been used in the research.

In this journey of research, we are to heed upon some points to substantiate our research topic. In the first point we formulate a research problem. In other words, we select a research topic. And this topic comes out of our study of our interest area. Out of the ocean, we are to find out one topic/area for research. At second point, we study related to literature, concepts, and theories. It will give depth to our search. Third point in this research process is to review of previous researches in that area. Based on this study, make a report of 250-300 pages, and submit in the concerned department. If your research study is worth analyzing then the same department would conduct viva on that topic. If you can defend your topic then university would award you degree.

Work out the research Problem

A thesis should be original contribution of the research. And this research is based on the research problem which is found after the deep study of the

subject. And research problem is based on your exhaustive study on a particular topic. Research can be a new interpretation of the known facts. So, research may be a fresh interpretation of a set rule. And it could be a discovery of new facts or knowledge. So, research is not just a one-dimensional phenomenon but it is multidimensional. Research can be obtained in many ways. It is just not an outcome of the efforts you performed at a certain time.

Research problem can be obtained majorly by two steps. Firstly, by understanding the research problem thoroughly. You need to go deep into the problem. And secondly, interpret this problem in a research-oriented way. This is how you can get the research problem of your study.

Research problem is based on the study of a few standard critical studies on a particular field. And this study will further pave the way for research gap in the field. This study will bring out the topic of the research. Further study in the field will narrow down your study in the form of a specific topic of your research.

### **Review of Literature**

Review of literature is a very important aspect of the thesis. It gives the total understanding of your topic. What other researches had been done in the area and what is the further social relevance of your research.

In review of literature, you define and limit your research problem. Researcher consult the source material and collect information related to research topic. Sources could be abstracting journals, indexing journals, published or unpublished bibliographies, anthologies, academic journals, conference proceedings etc.

Review of literature comprises primary and secondary sources related to your research problem. A topic of research has primary and secondary sources. You should have a thorough study of both the sources.

### **Formulating hypothesis**

There are two kinds of hypothesis. Null and alternate hypothesis. For example, if we want to know the relation between caste and society and we do not know the relations. Then we will create hypothesis. One hypothesis is that there is no relation between caste and society then it would be null hypothesis. And second would be alternate hypothesis; If we make a

hypothesis in which we say there is relation between caste and society then it would be alternate hypothesis. The role of hypothesis is to keep the researcher on the right track. It helps to emphasis on important aspects of the problem and to remind the data collecting methods.

There should be a clear design of your research in researcher's mind, that is called research design. The researcher should know the objectives, purpose of the research. Research design clarifies what, why and where about the research. Data collection and data analysis come under research design.

### **Research approach**

Research approach is of two types. One is quantitative and second is qualitative. For quantitative data, the analysis will be quantitative. Data collection is done by inferential method or survey method. On the other hand, qualitative approach is used for subjective assessment of attitude, opinion, and behaviour. In this method the data collection is done by interview, focus group, projective techniques etc.

### **Literary approach**

Though there are so many literary approaches in literature. But here Wilbur Scott's literary approach has been taken which is taken by him in his edited book *An Anthology of Modern Critical Texts*. Wilbur Scott divides it into five broad groups.

1. Moral Approach
  2. Psychological
  3. Formalistic
  4. Archetypal
  5. Sociological
- One more literary approach is taken which talks about 6 broad groups. William J Handy and Max Westbrook divided criticism into majorly into 6 broad groups.

1. Formalistic criticism
2. Genre criticism
3. Archetypal
4. Psychoanalytic
5. Historical
6. Interdisciplinary

### **Data collection for literary studies**

In literary studies, majorly, data collection is done by primary data and secondary data. Primary data includes works of the authors, autobiography, interviews, articles in newspapers, magazines, letters etc. and secondary data includes articles in journals, books, critical books on the author, magazines, e-articles, websites, literary theories.

### **Processing and analysis of data**

In the data analysis, data interpretation comes first. Researcher is to interpret the present data, collected from

many sources. To evaluate the data, you need to systematize the data to improve the quality of data. Sometimes coding is required to understand the data. Then you need tabulation to systematize the data. If it is too much of data then you are to do statistical calculations to understand it further. And then you use the data for your research interpretation.

Hypothesis testing

In the end of your research, examine whether the facts support the formulated hypothesis. If it does then generalize it and do the interpretations. In case there is no hypothesis is built, the researcher may seek to explain his finding based on some theory. In other words, build a suitable theory based on your research.

In the end of your research, prepare a report in which the following titles would be covered.

1. Title
2. Certificates
3. Preface
4. Acknowledgments
5. Table of contents
6. Report: introduction, chapters, conclusion
7. Appendices: Bibliography, graphs, charts etc.

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