Writing An Appealing PhD Research Proposal

Workshop Akselerasi Karir Dosen
Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta
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DITJEN Sumber Daya Iptek-Dikti
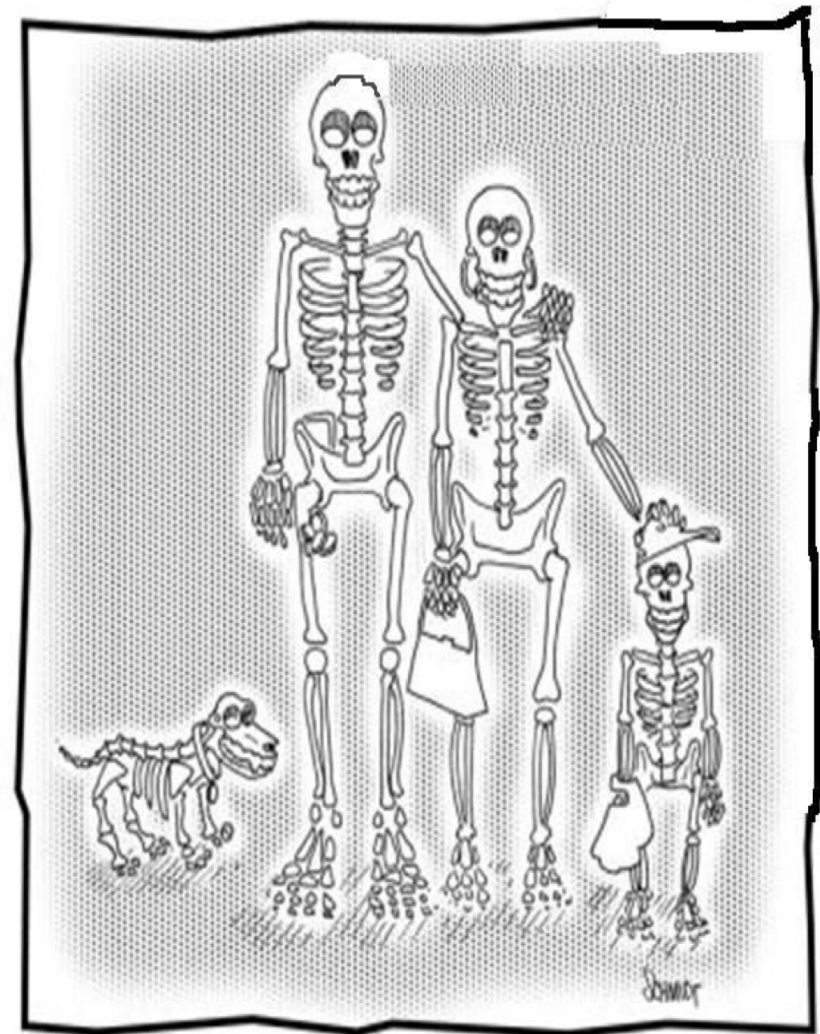
- What is a Research Proposal
- How to construct a Good Research Proposal
- How to make our Research Proposal Appealing
- EXAMPLE(s)
- Pitfalls

What is a Research Proposal?

The skeleton of **an idea** which the researcher wants to pursue.

RADIOLOGIST FAMILY PHOTOS

What is an IDEA ?

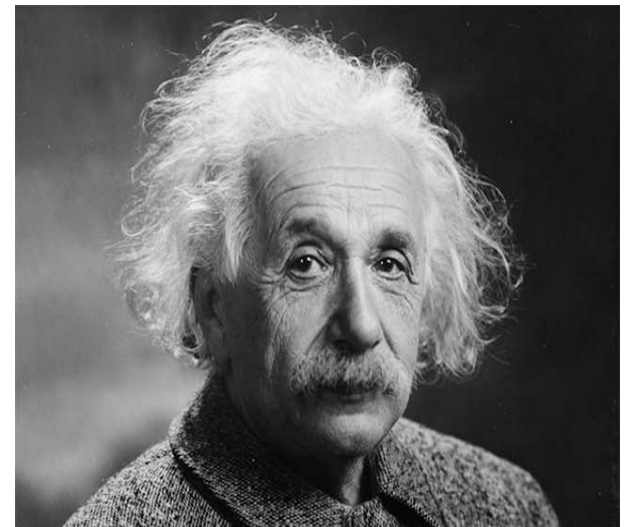**"A thought or suggestion as to a possible course of action"**

"Everything begins with an idea."

~ Earl Nightingale

Which IDEA is worth pursuing ?

If at first the idea is not absurd, then there is no hope for it.

Albert Einstein

Charles K. Kao
(Fibre Optic Noble Laureate)

Ideas do not always come in a flash but by diligent trial-and-error experiments that take time and thought.

Margaret Heffernan
(Entrepreneur, CEO, writer and keynote speaker)

For **good ideas** and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument, and debate.

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A Good PhD Research Proposal

A GOOD Research Proposal starts with:

- ❏ A GOOD Research Question

  OR

- ❏ A GOOD Analytical Question

A Good PhD Research Proposal

It will contain:

1. A **clear** Research Question and approach to answering it

2. Highlight its **originality** and/or significance;

3. Explanation how it **adds to**, develops (or challenges) existing literature in the field;

4. Persuasion to potential supervisors of the **importance** of the work, and **why** is the writer the right person to undertake it

The Structure

Basically, Research Proposals have, but not limited to, the following structure:

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Aims and Objectives
- Literature Review: Overview of current development of the research
- Positioning of the research
- Research design & methodology
- Work-plan and Time-line of research
- References

The Title

- The MOST IMPORTANT part of a research proposal/paper;

- The basis for a research engine to find the respective research paper;

- Should clearly indicate what your proposed research is about;

- CONDENSE the Title into a few words (not more than 16 words);

- AVOID using abbreviations or too many technical terms.

A GOOD Research Title
(www.editage.com/insights)

- Predicts the content of the Research Proposal;

- Should capture the readers' attention;

- Should reflect the tone of the writing

- ALWAYS write a title after one has completed writing his/her proposal

- Differentiates the paper from other papers of the same subject area

- Use keywords that highlight what the research is about

- NEVER insert a period at the end of your title

ABSTRACT

- Abstract is usually written after the proposal has completed

- Abstract **is NOT** a summary of contents of the proposal.

- It is a **resume of** basic issues of the proposal:
    1. Problem, need, or goal;
    2. Why is the problem, need, or goal so important;
    3. The approach to tackle/achieve the problem, need, or goal;
    4. Expected result(s)

Introduction

- Explanation of why choosing to research problem 'A' or issue 'B';

- Demonstrate the author's understanding of the current research climate for his/her area of interest;

- Often times the introduction is constructed the last, after the entire body of proposal is complete

Aims and Objectives

- What are you trying to achieve with your research?
- What is the purpose → this is the **aim of the research**
  - Addressing a gap in the current research?
  - Look at a theory more closely and test it out?
  - Is there something to be proven or disproven?
- **Objectives are** the aim broken down
  - The steps to achieving the intended output
  - They are smaller proof points that will underpin the research purpose
  - Should be in logical order. If one needs to 'x' before 'y' before 'z', then the order of the objectives is x, y, and z;

Rules of GOOD Research Objectives
(Kevin Lyons, Research Supervisor)

1. They should be presented briefly and concisely;

2. They should be presented in logical sequence;

3. They should be realistic (achieved within expected time-frame and available resources)

4. They should be phrased in operational terms;

5. They should use action verbs that are specific enough to be evaluated or measured;

6. They should be static once the study work begins (NOT a moving target)

Literature Review

- The author's understanding of what is currently being discussed about the topic:
  - Strong understanding of the key topics of the research;
  - Important studies;
  - Notable researchers in the area of research;
  - How these have contributed to the current research-scape;
- What has already been published about the topic;

Proposed Methodology

- Provide the methodology and techniques used to conduct the research:
  - What/which materials and equipment will be used for the research?
  - Which theoretical framework this research will draw on?
  - What method being used to collect data?
- Highlight why choosing this particular methodology:
  - Provide its merits
  - Why other methodologies may not have been as suitable?
  - Demonstrate that the methodology chosen is the most appropriate way to carry out the research;
  - Highlight its limitations, constraints, ethical considerations → how to address these

TIPS for Writing A Strong Methodology
(Shona McCombes, Scribbr.com)

- Focus on your objectives and research questions
  - Should clearly show why the method suit your objectives. Convince the reader

- Cite relevant Sources
  - Your methodology can be strengthened by reference to existing research

- Write for your Readers
  - If you are using standard methods → no need to explain in great detail
  - But if take a less common approach → you need to explain and justify it

- Discuss Obstacles
  - Explain how you deal with difficulties in collecting or analysing data
  - How you minimize the impact

Work Plan

- It is a critical component of the research
  - ➢It indicates the feasibility of completion within the timeframe;
  - ➢Support in achieving the objectives of the research:

- Provide milestones in achieving each stages of the research;

- To show that the research is likely to be both original and completed within the respected timeframe.

Expected Research Contribution

- Why is the author's research question or hypothesis worth asking?

- How is the current research lacking or falling short/

- What impact will the research have on the discipline?

- Establish why is the research important;

- Be sure to draw a link between the research and the faculty/school the author is applying to;

- Cite these reasons to demonstrate how the research will benefit and contribute to the current body of knowledge

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To Make our Research Proposal Appealing

- Identify the reader → Have a clear idea of his/her research interest
- Use the reader's own concept and/or language
- State the benefit and the range of its effect
- Replace jargon with simple language
- Write the proposal as simple as possible
- Keep it **short** and **sweet**
- Be realistic

Last But Not The Least

- Edit your entire proposal **RUTHLESSLY.**
- The Appearance **is equally important** as its Content
- No Typographical Error
- No Grammatical Error

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EXAMPLE-1
(from UMY)
(a)

Nama : Margaretha Dharmayanti Harmanto, S.Pd.,M.Hum.
Fakultas / Program Studi: : Fakultas Ekomi & Bisnis / Prodi Akuntansi
Universitas tujuan : University of Edinburgh / University of Manchester (UK) / University of Adelaide / Monash University (Australia)
Skema : beasiswa

PROPOSAL For Ph.D.

CAPTURING THE IMPLEMENTATION FOR DIGITAL LEARNING IN ASIA AND UK (or AUSTRALIA)

INTRODUCTION

The use of technology in industrial area have been widely influenced the education field as well. Technology used in learning can be in forms of e-learning, MALL, CALL, and others. In learning English, the technology has been implemented either in forms of blended-learning, flipped-learning and online learning other forms of teaching-learning activities. The term digital learning then is commonly used referring to the use of technology in learning. This study aims to discover the implementation of digital learning in Asia countries and United Kingdom. The application of digital learning in those countries have been widely used, either in forms of e-learning, MALL or ICT. In terms of technology used, UK and Asia have more or less such as the use of Kahoot!

TIDAK JELAS

Belum Menarik

EXAMPLE-1

(from UMY)

(b)

Nama: Margaretha Dharmayanti Harmanto, S.Pd.,M.Hum.

CAPTURING THE IMPLEMENTATION FOR DIGITAL LEARNING IN ASIA AND UK (or AUSTRALIA)

INTRODUCTION

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United Kingdom. The application of digital learning in those countries have been widely used, either in forms of e-learning, MALL or ICT. In terms of technology used, UK and Asia have more or less such as the use of Kahoot!, Facebook, Pods, clickers and others. The focus of this research will be the implementation of digital learning in studying English especially English for Specific Purposes which covers curriculum, teaching-learning activities, and assessment. The result of this investigation will enrich applicable digital learning method to learn ESP in Indonesia.

This research will be different from other researches since it will provide different description of digital learning implementation, which in terms of language learning, they share different function either English as first language (F1), second language (F2) and Foreign Language. However, in learning English for Specific Purposes they will share similar ideas that the learners learn distinctive terms of English based on the field of their study. There are some issues related to learning styles, learners' attitudes, teachers' professional development and other factors which may provide different influence towards

Apakah ini Strata S3 ?

EXAMPLE-1
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(c)

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distinctive terms of English based on the field of their study. There are some issues related to learning styles, learners' attitudes, teachers' professional development and other factors which may provide different influence towards the implementation of digital learning in those countries.

Previous researches have revealed the use of digital learning in Asia such as in China (Liu Li, 2012; Liu and He, 2014), Malaysia (Al-rahmi, Othman and Yusuf, 2015; Shuib *et al.*, 2015; Fan *et al.*, 2016; Murugan, Teoh and Liau, 2017) and in United Kingdom (Perrotta, 2018). However, they only used one country instead of some countries with different language use of English. This study will use countries which use English as their F1, F2 and Foreign Language.

Research questions:

How do the Asia and UK countries implement digital learning for ESP learning?

What similarities and differences do those countries share in implementing digital learning for ESP?

What factors influence the success of digital learning implementation?

How can those findings help to develop a better digital learning to learn ESP in

EXAMPLE-1
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(d)

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INTRODUCTION

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Research questions:
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4. How can those findings help to develop a better digital learning to learn ESP in Indonesia?

Terlalu LUAS/LEBAR

EXAMPLE-1
(from UMY)
(e)

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CAPTURING THE IMPLEMENTATION FOR DIGITAL LEARNING IN ASIA AND UK (or AUSTRALIA)

METHODS

Belum SPESIFIK

This research will use mixed methods. The quantitative data will be in forms of questionnaire, while the qualitative data will be in forms of observation and interview. The countries chosen for this study will be countries in Asia such as Taiwan, Indonesia and/or Malaysia. Taiwan is chosen since this country is trying to expand more its education by cooperating with certain other countries, and one of them is Indonesia. It is also chosen because it shares the same issue in learning English as a foreign language. While Malaysia, on the other hand, even though it shares similar language with Indonesia, which is Malay, but English has been widely used for communicating.

EXAMPLE-1
(from UMY)
(f)

Nama: Margaretha Dharmayanti Harmanto, S.Pd.,M.Hum.

CAPTURING THE IMPLEMENTATION FOR DIGITAL LEARNING IN ASIA AND UK (or AUSTRALIA)

CONCLUSION

Digital learning is one of important parts in education. The growth of technology has embarked in teaching-learning activities. In Indonesia, the digital learning has been used in schools and higher education. Learning English as a foreign language is still considered as a difficult subject for Indonesian students, therefore, it is important to have a learning media that can help them in learning English specially ESP. Discovering the implementation of digital learning in both Asia and UK countries will give insight on how the digital learning to study ESP in Indonesia will be applied better.

EXAMPLE – 2
(from UMY)

(a)

- Judul Menarik

- Masih berantakan
- Tidak ada segregasi

- **Monopoly by State in the context of Competition Law in Indonesia**
- Muhammad Annas
- To protect important sector, Indonesia through law number 5 1999 allowed state to conduct monopoly. Those thing is an exception as regulated in article 51 of law number 5 1999. Hal tersebut menjadi sebuah pengcualian sebagaimana diatur dalam pasal 51 Undang-Undang Nomor 5 Tahun 1999. Based on ariticle 51 law number 5 1999 Concerning The Prohibition On Monopolistic Practices And Unfair Business Competition stated that state allowed to conduct monopoly over important sectors and the field which related to life of the people as an exception. Thus state have control toward the important sector by conduct monopoly. Control toward important sector conducted by state through State-Owned Enterprises (Tommo Gunawan, 2016).

EXAMPLE – 2
(from UMY)
(b)

- **Monopoly by State in the context of Competition Law in Indonesia**
- Muhammad Annas
- ……………………………………………………………………………………………
- Exception of monopoly which conducted by state through State-Owned Enterprises based on Article 51 Law Number 5 Of 1999 Concerning The Prohibition On Monopolistic Practices And Unfair Business Competition is not always effective. According to article 51 State-Owned Enterprises allowed conduct monopoly as long as regulated by law (monopoly by law) and as long as there is no abuse of it. In fact there is case of violation towards competition law which conducted by State-Owned Enterprises based on Decision of Business Competition Supervisory Commission of Indonesia (KPPU). In decision toward case number 09/KPPU-L/2016, PT. PGN (State-Owned Enterprises) proven violate Article 17 Law Number 5 of 1999. In this case PT. PGN conduct price fixing toward gas. PT. PGN is State-Owned Enterprises. Perusahaan Gas Negara (PGN) is the largest national company in the natural gas transportation and distribution segment. The company plays a signficant role in meeting domestic natural gas needs (https://pgn.co.id/tentang-kami?lang=en).

EXAMPLE – 2
(from UMY)
(c)

- **Perlu elaborasi**

- **Monopoly by State in the context of Competition Law in Indonesia**
- Muhammad Annas
- ……
- Based on case which happened in Indonesia, indicate that monopoly which conducted by state is not always effective. In its relation based on essential facilities doctrine, it is important to adopt it to restrict monopoly which cause inefficiency. Instance, monopoly by PT. PGN precisely cause monopolistic practice which clearly prohibited under competition law of Indonesia. It is important to protect sector which consider as something important for a state. Monopoly is one of the way to protect it. But since there is fact which shown that monopoly by state is not always effective, it is important to know the things as follow

EXAMPLE – 2
(from UMY)
(d)

- **Monopoly by State in the context of Competition Law in Indonesia**
- Muhammad Annas
- ....
1. When does a state need to do a monopoly?
2. When the state must stop monopolizing certain sectors?
3. What is the consideration to determine a sector consider as important sector?

- The methods which will be used for this research is normative comparative study , which means researcher will use literature and legal documents of some countries which consider succeed to apply monopoly by state.
-

- **Metoda masih umum**
- **Mengapa bukan metoda lain yang dipakai?**

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PITFALLS

- **Procrastinate** → Just start whatever the result is;
- **No outline.** → develop an outline;
- Got the **first draft** as soon as possible → let the flow continue
  - Want to be perfect in the first draft → **is WRONG;**
- Write the **introduction** in the beginning? → introduction is the hardest part. It would be better to write the introduction last;
- **Repetitive** in the writing (from Abstract to Introduction & further);
- Did **not follow** wat was required.

Active & Succinct

FAIL

[F] FIRST

[A] ATTEMPT

[I] IN

[L] LEARNING

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Becka Schoettle
(Pediatrician)

Together,

Ordinary people
can achieve extraordinary results

Terima Kasih

BUKALAH CAKRAWALA PIKIRAN

&

Jangan GR