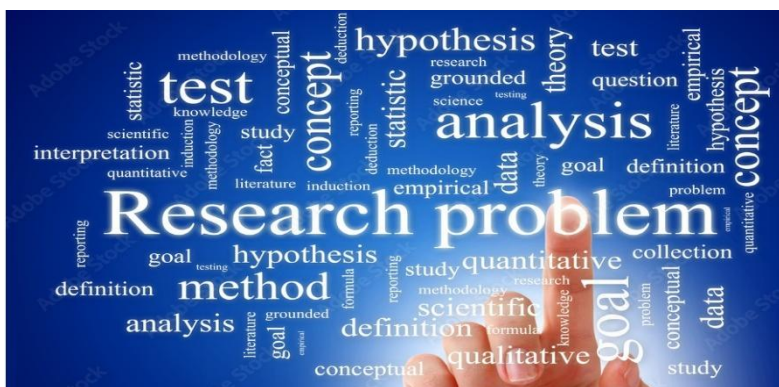


**University Of Abdelhafid Boussof-Mila**

**Faculty of Economics, Commercial &**

**Management Sciences**

**Lecture two: Writing a Research Problem and Objectives**



**Addressed To master one Students-Semester 2**

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## **1. Introduction**

Writing a research problem and objectives is one of the most important steps in academic research writing. A well-defined research problem helps the researcher focus on a specific issue, while clear research objectives guide the direction of the study. Without a clear research problem and objectives, research becomes vague and unfocused.

In academic research, the research problem explains what the researcher wants to investigate, and the objectives describe what the researcher aims to achieve. Therefore, learning how to write a research problem and objectives is essential for students, researchers, and academic writers who want to produce structured and meaningful research.

## **2. Definition of Research Problem**

A research problem is a clear statement that describes the issue or gap that the researcher wants to study and solve.

It identifies:

- The issue or difficulty
- The area of study
- The gap in knowledge
- The focus of the research

In simple words, a research problem is the question or issue that the research tries to answer.

### **Example**

General topic: Academic writing difficulties

Research problem:

Many university students face difficulties in academic research writing due to lack of training and guidance.

This statement clearly identifies the issue and the area of study.

### **3. Characteristics of a Good Research Problem**

A good research problem should have several important features.

#### **1. Clear**

The problem should be easy to understand and well-defined.

#### **2. Specific**

It should focus on a particular issue, not a general topic.

#### **3. Researchable**

The problem should be possible to investigate through data and evidence.

#### **4. Relevant**

It should be important in the academic or educational field.

#### **5. Feasible**

The researcher should be able to study it within time and resources.

### **4. Sources of Research Problems**

Research problems can come from different sources.

#### **Literature Review**

Reading previous studies helps identify gaps in research.

#### **Classroom Experience**

Teachers and students can observe real educational problems.

#### **Social and Educational Issues**

Problems in society or education can inspire research topics.

## **Previous Research**

Limitations of previous studies can lead to new research problems.

## **5. Steps to Write a Research Problem**

### **Step 1: Choose a Topic**

Select a general research area.

Example: Academic writing

### **Step 2: Identify an Issue**

Find a problem related to the topic.

Example: Students struggle with writing research papers

### **Step 3: Narrow the Problem**

Focus on a specific issue.

Example: EFL students have difficulties in writing research problems

### **Step 4: Write the Problem Statement**

Example:

Many EFL university students face difficulties in writing academic research problems due to limited knowledge of research writing conventions.

## 6. Definition of Research Objectives

Research objectives are clear statements that describe what the researcher wants to achieve in the study.

They explain:

- The purpose of the research
- The goals of the study
- The expected results

In simple terms, research objectives show what the researcher plans to do.

## 7. Types of Research Objectives

**General Objective** The main goal of the research.

Example:

To investigate difficulties faced by EFL students in academic research writing.

**Specific Objectives** Detailed goals that support the general objective.

Examples:

- To identify common writing difficulties
- To analyze students' academic writing skills
- To examine teaching methods used in writing
- To suggest solutions for improving academic writing

## 8. Characteristics of Good Research Objectives

Good research objectives should be:

**Clear**

Easy to understand.

## **Measurable**

Possible to evaluate and observe.

## **Achievable**

Realistic and possible.

## **Relevant**

Related to the research problem.

## **Time-bound**

Possible to complete within a certain period.

This is known as **SMART objectives**.

# **9. Difference Between Research Problem and Objectives**

## **Research Problem**

- Describes the issue
- Explains the difficulty
- Focuses on the problem
- Written as a statement

## **Research Objectives**

- Describes the goals
- Explains what the researcher will do
- Focuses on solutions
- Written as action verbs

Example:

Research Problem:

Students face difficulties in academic writing.

Objectives:

- To identify writing difficulties
- To analyze causes
- To propose solutions

## **10. Importance of Writing Research Problem and Objectives**

Writing a research problem and objectives is important because:

- It gives direction to the research
- It helps in organizing the study
- It guides data collection
- It clarifies the purpose of research
- It improves research quality
- It helps readers understand the study

Without a clear problem and objectives, research becomes weak and unclear.

## **11. Conclusion**

Writing a research problem and objectives is a crucial step in academic research writing. The research problem identifies the issue to be studied, while the objectives define the goals of the research. A clear research problem and well-structured objectives help the researcher conduct organized and meaningful research.

Therefore, mastering this skill is essential for students and researchers who want to produce effective academic research.