

# WRITING THE PROBLEM STATEMENT

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## Common Components in Writing Research Proposal (Thesis)

- Background
- Research Problems
- Objectives
- Research Questions / Hypothesis
- Operational Definition
- Scope and Limitation
- Significance of the Research
- Contribution of the Research
- Methodology
- Literature Review
- Organisation of the Thesis

#### What is problem statement

- ► The research problem is the educational issue or problem within your broad topic area. Research problems tend to emphasizes the need to explain, predict, or describe something.
- ➤ Statement of the Problem Statement is the formulation of the main problem of the study. Contains variables and variable relationships studied. Good problem statement: Stated precisely and clearly. State a clear relationship between the variables being studied. Each variable studied can be tested.

#### Why problem statement very important

- ▶ One of the most challenging aspects of conducting research is to clearly identify the "problem" that leads to a need for your study (Creswell, 2005).
- ► Explain the importance of the research topic. Arousing the reader's interest. Focusing the reader's attention on how the study contributes.

#### Sources of problem statement

- ▶ 1. Experience researchers or other individuals who relate to daily life such as experience as an educator.
- ▶ 2. Past literature/research a research finding that has certain aspects or matters that have not yet been touched or dealt with and new research that can be a stimulus or catalyst for one or more further research.
- ➤ 3. Theory deficiencies in the theories that are used can also be used as a research problem and also guide research through predictions that help to build new ideas and research.
- ▶ 4. Practical issues Issues that need to be resolved such as textbook selection, discipline, stress and teachers' self-concept.

## The following aspects that researchers need to consider in the process of identifying a research problem

- ► The context of the field identified as a problem.
- ▶ Main theories and concepts as well as the latest ideas in the field.
- Basic to assumptions in related fields
- ► The causes of related issues are given importance
- Aspects that require resolution

#### Continued

▶ The background, contentions and unanswered questions, as well as significant issues that need to be explored. The researcher should give full attention to the above matters at the problem identification stage so that he can think about the related problem analytically, that is so that the researcher can also think about possible solutions for the problem.

#### Principles of Research Problem Statement

- ► The problem being studied is a precise and concrete problem that needs a solution. For example, a school principal wants to know whether the mentoring system helps new teachers or not.
- ► The value of a problem is whether it is beneficial to oneself or the country and it cannot be done hastily. Avoid choosing a problem based on imagination without reviewing past works as this will create confusion among readers about the problem under investigation.

## The following are guidelines related to writing a problem statement

- Must be stated precisely and clearly.
- ▶ It should explain what is to be researched, how to identified problem and limitations such as the extent to which the research needs to be done.
- ▶ Limiting the field of research by focusing the problem on smaller areas.
- Contains explanations of variables or terms.
- ► Evaluate the assumptions used by providing evidence that supports the assumptions.

#### The following are guidelines related to writing a problem statement

- ▶ Expressed in operational form. Example: The effect of writing practice time on the achievement of 1st grade students in essay writing.
- Expressed in the form of a relationship between two variables.
- Expressed in the form of a question. Example: Does the amount of training time have an effect on the achievement of grade 1 students in the Mathematics test. So, in general, a problem statement will:
- discuss general issues about the problem
- describe the problem and the relationship between the variables

#### The following are guidelines related to writing a problem statement to the problem

- discuss shortcomings in past research
- ▶ close with questions that need to be answered. According to Creswell (2005), the elements that should be in a problem statement are:
- topic or subject studied
- ▶ the problem studied
- evidence to justify the selection of the research problem, i.e evidence based on works or literature or evidence from practical experiences
- lack of evidence related to the subject being the focus of the research, i.e. existing evidence, what is left or what still needs to be known more
- research target, that is how the action of dealing with what needs to be known can help researchers, educators, planners and other interested individuals or groups.

## Among the questions that may arise that can be used as a guide by new researchers to write the 'Research Problem' section in their research proposal are:

- ► Are the things identified worthy of study?
- ► How to write this research problem so that the reader can be convinced that it is important to study?
- Does the subject to be studied contribute to new knowledge?
- ► Has this been studied before by other researchers? If so, what other aspects of the identified problem have not been addressed or explored?
- Are the things to be studied relevant to practice in the world of education?

## Relationship between problem statement and back ground of study

► The background presents the phenomena related to the study [from general / international / global to the focus of the study i.e. in an inverted pyramid - leads to issues that ultimately lead to the construction of the research problem statement (Muhammad Syukri Salleh)

#### Relationship between problem statement and back ground of study

Background = backdrop to the problem statement

The problem statement is either:

- Described at length analytically
- Stated through a short statement after the analytical description is done in the background of the study

## The Relationship Between Problem Statement and objectives

	Objektif		Persoalan
1.	Mengenal pasti faktor-faktor pemilihan sistem perbankan Islam menurut gelagat pengguna berteraskan Islam	i.	Apakah prinsip kepenggunaan, konsep barangan atau perkhidmatan, ciri penggunaan dan kaedah penggunaan yang membentuk gelagat pengguna berteraskan Islam Apakah faktor-faktor penentu pemilihan sistem perbankan Islam menurut gelagat pengguna berteraskan Islam
2.	Menganalisis gelagat pemilihan sistem perbankan Islam dalam kalangan pengguna Muslim masa kini di Terengganu	iii. iv. v.	Apakah faktor-faktor penentu pemilihan sistem perbankan Islam dalam kalangan pengguna Muslim di Terengganu mengikut demografi dan faktor kepatuhan beragama Apakah pola penggunaan produk dan perkhidmatan perbankan Islam mengikut faktor-faktor penentu oleh pengguna Muslim di Terengganu Apakah terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan antara penggunaan produk dan perkhidmatan perbankan Islam dengan faktor-faktor penentu berdasarkan demografi dan faktor kepatuhan beragama

 PM: Kemudahan daripada institusi kewangan Islam kurang mendapat sambutan dalam kalangan pengguna Muslim. Objektif: meneliti persepsi pengguna Muslim terhadap institusi kewangan Islam berbanding institusi kewangan konvensional ► PM: Berlaku kasus salah laku dan penipuan di institusi pembangunan Islam yang ulung dan wujud kod etika Islamnya yang tersendiri. Obektif: Menilai kod etika institusi secara teori dan praktis

# Examples of Problem Statements - ISDEV Candidates

#### THANK YOU