

Tikrit University
Collage of Education for Humanities
English Department



Writing Research Paper

Third Year

Choosing and Narrowing a Topic

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Chapter Two: Choosing and Narrowing a Topic

Thesis Statement: It is the main idea of the paper (is the essence of a paper and everything else in the paper is aimed at supporting it). Through the process of writing the research everyone may choose to state his/her topic either as a question or as a hypothesis, an assertion of a possible conclusion. The answer to the question or hypothesis will become the thesis statement.

Thesis statements have two parts: a subject and an assertion. All thesis statements, then, have a subject and an assertion about that subject. A good thesis statement has a narrowed subject and a precise assertion. Thesis Statement Should be between 1-2 sentences and no more than 25-30 words. It should be clear, concise, and focused on the main point or argument of the paper.

Here are some examples of thesis statements:

1.The title: “Social media as a tool for promoting hate language “

Thesis Statement: “Social media, is known as a medium for global communication. Unfortunately, it has been turned into a powerful instrument for the spread and amplification of hate language, fostering a breeding ground for prejudice, discrimination, and animosity, thereby undermining the principles of inclusivity and civility in our interconnected digital society”.

2.The title: “Psychological Challenges encountered by EFL University Students in Learning Speaking”

Thesis statement: ”Knowing speaking challenges faced by the students is very essential and helpful for both students and teachers. Analysing them enables the teachers to find out what kind of challenges prohibit their students during speaking class and try to evaluate and overcome those challenges together.

3.The title: “Analysis of The Theme of Revenge in Hamlet”

Thesis statement: “Hamlet is a sorrowful hero who is madly looking for vengeance for his beloved father’s demise, murders everyone who stands on his way, and eventually manages to take revenge by killing King Claudius, the man who murdered his father.”

Choosing a topic for a thesis paper

Here are some recommended procedures to choose a topic for a thesis:

- 1-Choose a general topic that interests you.
- 2-Do some quick, preliminary reading to learn more about your topic and to see whether enough sources appear to be available.
- 3-While doing your preliminary reading and throughout your research, develop a "working" thesis statement and continue to refine it.

Here some tips you must avoid in choosing a topic

- 1- Do not choose a topic that's trite.
- 2-Do not choose a topic that's too contemporary.
- 3-Do not choose a topic that's too obscure.
- 4- Do not choose a topic just because you have read an interesting book it.

The elements of Thesis and Dissertation

A Thesis or Dissertation consists of three elements:

- 1-The preliminaries (front mater)
- 2- The Body of the paper
- 3-The reference materials (back mater or end mater)

Preliminary consists of:

Title page: The first page of a Thesis, dissertation, or other research project. It presents the title, the full name of the writer and the submission statement, which includes the faculty or school, the institution and the degree sought, the month and year in which the degree is to be granted as it is shown below:

Ministry of Higher Education
Tikrit University
College of Education for Humanities
English Department



The Importance of Scaffolding Technique in Improving Speaking Skills

Prepared by :
Suheer Abdullah Iltaeef

Supervised by:
Asst. Instructor Marwah Shihab Yaqoob

2021 A.D.

1442 A.H.

Copyright page (Holly Quran): It is a separate page immediately following the title page.

Dedication: some examples of dedication:

"To my mother and father, who never stopped believing in me."

"To my child, who is my heart living outside of my body."

"To my partner, my best friend, my greatest supporter."

"To the friend who believed in me when I didn't."

"To all those who pick up this thesis/ research/ paper, thank you for giving my words a chance."

"For the person I was when I started writing this thesis/ paper, and the person I am now."

Approval sheet: It provides space for the signatures of persons such as the supervisor, the name of the members, chairman and the dean indicating their acceptance of the work.

Acknowledgement: It presents expressions of appreciation for assistance and guidance. Have a look on the example below:

"I would like to give my warmest thanks to my supervisor (name) for his/ her continuous support, without his/ her, this research would not have been completed. I would like also to thank all my lecturers in English department for their continuous advice and encouragement. Special thanks go to my family for their continuous support and understanding when undertaking my research and writing my project."

Abstract: A brief descriptions of the contents of articles, thesis and dissertation. It is a summary of dissertations that graduate students have written. It should include a statement of the problem, aims of the study, hypothesis, limits, value and the basic definitions. It should not be numbered or counted as a page.

Table of contents: Table of contents usually follows the preface and acknowledgments, the accepted practice for a thesis or dissertation is to place the table of contents before all the sections it lists. The table of contents should list all elements of the preliminaries, the chapter (part or section) titles, the main headings and subheadings, and the reference materials.

List of Tables, Figures and Plates: List of tables, figures and/or plates should follow the table of contents. The preferred form for listing titles or captions of tables, figures and palates calls for capitalization of the first and last word and of all nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs and verbs.

-List of Abbreviation

-List of Appendices

The Body consists of :

-Chapter One: Introduction

-Chapter Two : Theoretical Background

-Chapter Three:

-Chapter Four:

-Chapter Five

The Reference Material Consists of:

References or bibliography? What is the difference?

A reference is a list of sources used to support your research. It includes the details like the author(s) of the source, the publication year, the title, and page number(s) when applicable of all the cited sources in alphabetical order.

A bibliography is a list of sources used to support your research. Like reference, bibliography includes the author(s) of the source, the publication year, the title, and page number(s) It includes all the sources referred to and particularly relevant sources, even if they haven't been referred to in your work, listed in alphabetical order.