ISLAIB

How to Write a Research Proposal for an MA Dissertation in Translation Studies

A research proposal is a short document delineating the main constituents of an intended research work. It aims to present and justify your choice of a research topic/project and the way you are going to conduct it.

The research proposal should be **between 2000 and 3000 typed words (that is about four to six pages), double-spaced, font type Times New Roman, and font size 12pt. It should follow the following order and include the components below.**

1. **Title:** it should be informative, descriptive, direct, accurate, appropriate, interesting, concise, precise, unique, and should not be misleading.

2. The Constituents

Introduction

The first stage of your proposal establishes the territory in which the proposed research will place itself. This territory can be either

- a research territory (i.e. the academic field that is going to be addressed by the research), or
- a 'real world' territory (i.e. what kind of applications or implications the proposed project can have in the world outside the immediate academic field).

In some research proposals both territories can be usefully addressed.

Gap/ Rationale

Here you indicate the gap in the knowledge or the problem in the territory. With your research, you want to fill in this gap or to solve this problem. If the gap is in the research territory, it means you aim at contributing to the general understanding and knowledge within the discipline. If it is in the 'real world', it means your objective is to offer a solution to particular problems.

Goal/Objective

Here you state the aim or general objective of your study. You explain what the project intends to do, what its chief contribution will be. It is in this stage that you can suggest how to fill in the gap presented in the previous stage.

Literature Review

Reporting Previous Research/ Literature Review

Here you can report or refer to the earlier research in the field, either by yourself or by others.

Theoretical framework

This is the section where you elaborate on the theoretical approach(es) you will adopt while examining your data or those approaches which you will be challenging, enhancing or refuting. This section is crucial in giving the evaluators an idea about how prepared you are to do research at this level.

Methodology

Data and accessibility

The material you will be looking at in your research will be presented here. This section should also mention any particular difficulties envisaged in accessing your data and how you are planning to overcome them.

Means/Methodology

Here you specify how the goal will be achieved, describing the methods, procedures, plans of actions and tasks that lead to the goal. At the initial stage of your research, you do not need to put details here. Yet there should still be an obvious link between the gap, the goal, the theoretical framework, the data and the means.

Findings

Achievements

You might wish to conjecture about the anticipated results, findings or outcomes of the study, if you already have a general idea about them. Of course, the actual results, findings or outcomes may differ drastically in the end.

Contribution(s)

You can then briefly explain the usefulness and value of these achievements for the domain of research itself, for the world outside or for both.

Importance Claim

You may wish to conclude your proposal by emphasizing the urgency or importance of your proposal's territory, its objectives, or its anticipated outcomes with respect to either the "real world" or the research field.

3. Tentative Plan

4. Bibliography

It includes all the works consulted and those referred to/cited in your dissertation. It should be organized alphabetically.

Suggested Research Areas

Research in Translation Studies is wide-ranging, it may cover, but is not limited to, the following areas: (see the document attached from *The Map: A Beginner*'s *Guide to Doing Research in Translation Studies*)

- Comparison of Texts
- Text Analysis and Translation
- Genre Translation
- Multimedia Translation
- Translation and Technology
- Translation History
- Translation Ethics
- Terminology and Glossaries
- Interpreting
- The Translation Process

President of the MA Commission

Dr. Mahassen Mgadmi

Assistant Professor

Research Proposal Template

- **Title**

- **Research question(s)/Hypothesis(es)**

- **Components:**

  - Introduction
  - Background/Gap/ Rationale
  - Goal/Objective
  - Reporting Previous Research/ Literature Review (what has been written, its weaknesses/strengths)
  - Theoretical framework
  - Data and accessibility
  - Means/Methodology
  - Achievement(s)
  - Contribution (s)
  - Importance Claim

  - **Tentative Plan**

  - **Bibliography**

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