

Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

Doctoral School of Languages and Literatures



Research methodology in linguistics: quantitative and qualitative paradigms

prof. UAM dr hab. Agnieszka Kiełkiewicz-Janowiak

Type of classes	tutorial		
Language of	English		
instruction			
The number of	20 hours / graded credit		
hours + form of			
passing classes			
Purposes of classes	A1 – to juxtapose and compare the qualitative and quantitative approaches to language-related research with a focus on social context phenomena A2 – to make students understand the principles of applying both approaches to the research questions, data collection, analysis and interpretation of results A3 – to make students able to take an informed stand in the academic debate on the qualitative—quantitative dilemma A4 – Practical aims of the course include: - for the student to be able to discuss their own PhD projects, particularly their methodology, in terms of the qualitative—quantitative distinction - for the student to consider (and be able to critically discuss) extending their research project by applying an alternative methodological approach A5 – to explain the ideas behind mixed methodology and methodological pragmatism		
Learning contents	 lecture on the historical and philosophical background of the qualitative and quantitative paradigms in social sciences and in language studies discussing principles of analysing quantitative data in (socio)linguistic research (incl. identifying variable categories, sampling, modelling variation, statistical significance), based on assigned reading and students' own research experience presentation of selected approaches to interpretive data analysis (such as discourse analysis, narrative analysis, thematic analysis, 		

	grounded analysis) based on notable examples of linguistic research 4. presentation on basic concepts in <i>qualitative</i> methodologies (fieldwork, survey, interview, ethnographic research; research ethics; data and analysis) 5. discussion on how the qualitative and quantitative approaches are complementary in bearing valid research results (based on assigned reading and students' experience and their PhD projects) 6. considering mixed methods and methodological pragmatism 7. preparation of students' individual concluding statements on the qualitative—quantitative dilemma, including their own viewpoint and critical stance on the overall validity of the issue 8. general discussion in class throughout the course: - students are to read publications of their choice addressing the qualitative – quantitative dilemma - students deliberate and take decisions on their own PhD projects' methodology
Entry requirements	having attained introductory stage of own PhD research project and initial methodological decisions

requirements	methodological decisions	, ,		
Learning outcomes				
		Verification methods:		
In terms of knowledge: A person who has completed classes knows and understands (at an advanced level):				
 the achievements of world science in the discipline in which the education takes place, as well as the paradigms and directions of development of this discipline, in a way that enables their creative and innovative development and their verification within the framework of research projects undertaken [E_W01]; 				
science in v proper selec effective app	ethodology appropriate for the discipline of which education takes place, which allows for ction of research theories and tools and their plication and modification within the framework erch [E_W02]	Active participation in a discussion		
specifically:				
qualitative and related resease paradigms and the student with the student win the student with the student with the student with the student	knows and understands the difference between and quantitative approaches to language- arch and will be able to critically evaluate both s well as the distinction itself understands the ideas behind mixed and methodological pragmatism knows the criteria to select the paradigm for their own PhD project			
In terms of skills: A person who has completed classes is able to:				

- use knowledge from various disciplines of science to creatively identify, formulate and innovatively solve complex research problems or perform advanced research tasks. In particular, he/she is able to: define the objectives and the subject of scientific research, formulate research hypotheses, develop research methods, techniques and tools and apply them creatively and effectively, draw conclusions on the basis of scientific evidence [E_U01];
- effectively retrieve information related to scientific activity from various sources, including from sources in foreign languages, and to properly select, critically analyse and interpret this information; furthermore, he/she is able to assess its relevance for scientific development [E U02]

specifically:

- the student is able to present and discuss examples of studies and researchers having successfully applied qualitative and/or quantitative methods (with respect to data collection, analytical procedures, etc.)
- the student is able to take decisions about the application of a research methodology for their own research project

In terms of social competences: A person who has completed classes is prepared for:

critical evaluation of the work in the field of the scientific discipline within which the education is provided and its own contribution to the development of this discipline [E_K01];

fulfilling social obligations as a researcher; initiating actions in favour of the public interest, *inter alia*, through appropriate dissemination of scientific achievements in society. Furthermore, he/she is ready to take actions leading to the development of civil society based on knowledge [E_K03];

continuous improvement of professional competence and personal development, in particular by tracking the latest developments in the represented scientific discipline [E_K05]

specifically:

- the student is able to take an informed stand in an academic debate on the qualitative—quantitative dilemma and critically evaluate the validity of the issue
- the student is able to discuss their own PhD project, particularly its methodology, in terms of the qualitative quantitative distinction
- the student is able to critically discuss the possibility of extending their research project by applying an alternative methodological approach

 the student is prepared to take informed methodological decisions in their own PhD project and to discuss these decisions in the final PhD exam

Literature

Basic reading resources:

Foster, Colin. 2024. Methodological pragmatism in educational research: from qualitative-quantitative to exploratory-confirmatory distinctions, International Journal of Research & Method in Education 47/1: 4-19.

Lowe, Robert J. & Marek Kiczkowiak. 2016. Native-speakerism and the complexity of personal experience: A duoethnographic study. Cogent Education 3/1.

https://doi.org/10.1080/2331186X.2016.1264171

McEnery, A., V. Brezina, D. Gablasova, & J. V. Banerjee. 2019. Corpus

Linguistics, learner corpora and SLA: employing technology to

analyze language use, Annual Review of Applied Linguistics 39: 74-92.

Sarangi, Srikant. 2017. "Editorial: En'gaze'ment with text and talk",

Text&Talk 37/1: 1-23.

Sarangi, Srikant. 2021. Methodological pragmatism in doing data: A rejoinder to 'Collecting qualitative data during a pandemic' by David Silverman. Communication and Medicine 17/2: 165-172. https://doi.org/10.1558/cam.20763

Scott, David. 2007. Resolving the quantitative—qualitative dilemma: a critical realist approach, International Journal of Research and Method in Education 30/1: 3-17.

Sunderland, Jane. 2012. "Brown Sugar': The textual construction of femininity in two 'tiny texts'", Gender and Language 6/1: 105-129.

Other relevant references:

Baker, Paul. 2010. Sociolinguistics and corpus linguistics. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Bamberg, Michael and Alexandra Georgakopoulou. 2008. "Small stories as a new perspective in narrative and identity analysis", Text & Talk 28(3): 377-396.

Brezina, Vaclav and Miriam Meyerhoff. 2014. "Significant or random? A critical review of sociolinguistic generalizations based on large corpora", International Journal of Corpus Linguistics 19: 1, 1-28.

Dörnyei, Zoltán. 2007. Research methods in applied linguistics.

Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methodologies. Oxford: OUP.

Guest, Greg, Kathleen M. MacQueen, Emily E. Namey. 2012. Applied thematic analysis. Los Angeles: Sage.

Johnson, Keith 2007. Quantitative methods in linguistics. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Litosseliti, Lia (ed.). 2019. Research methods in linguistics. (2nd edition.)

London: Bloomsbury. (Chp. 1-5)

Macaulay, Ronald K.S. 2009. Quantitative methods in sociolinguistics.

Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. (Chp.7)

Manderson, Lenore, Elizabeth Bennett and Sari Andajani-Sutjahjo. 2006.

"The social dynamics of the interview: Age, class, and gender",

Qualitative Health Research 16: 1317-1334.

Mason, Jennifer. 2002. Qualitative researching. Los Angeles: Sage.

Ochs, Elinor. 1979. "Transcription as theory", in: Adam Jaworski – Nikolas Coupland (eds.). 2006. The discourse reader. (2nd edition.). London:

Routledge. 166-178.

Tagliamonte, Sali A. 2006. Analysing sociolinguistic variation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Detailed information