

FERENČÍK MILAN – BEDNÁROVÁ-GIBOVÁ KLAUDIA, (2024). *A Handbook of Research Methods in Linguistics and Translation Studies*. Prešov: University Press, pp. 96

In their recent publication *A Handbook of Research Methods in Linguistics and Translation Studies*, Prof. Milan Ferencík and Assoc. Prof. Klaudia Bednárová-Gibová from the Institute of British and American Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Prešov drew on their vast pedagogical and scholarly experience in the fields of linguistics and translation studies to create this practical and useful handbook for university students ranging from those seeking to obtain their Bachelor's degree to those working on their Doctoral degree. The aim of this publication is to explain the research process, improve the students' critical thinking skills and inspire them to conduct high-quality and modern research themselves. Since this publication is supported by the projects KEGA 009PU-4/2023 *Increasing critical and analytical thinking skills of students of English studies through innovating the English pragmalinguistics course* and KEGA 004PU-4/2023 *Innovative Translation Theory and Practice Based on Blended Learning*, it describes not only foundational research methods in linguistics and translation studies, but also state-of-the-art approaches and recommendations for students wishing to contribute to the advancement of their respective fields. What sets this handbook apart from other titles with a similar aim is its specific focus on research in linguistics and translation studies, not just humanities research in general; thus it provides specific techniques and approaches which are most suitable for these fields.

The handbook consists of three chapters. The first chapter introduces the topic of research as a whole, delineating the differences between knowing and understanding, casual and scientific research. The link between science and philosophy is briefly explored and some key terms such as ontology and epistemology, methodology and methods are defined and explained. This is followed by an overview of the research process, what it involves and how it is structured. Some important distinctions for students to be aware of are explained in detail, such as the difference between quantitative, qualitative and mixed research, research question and hypothesis, and, crucially, reliability and validity. Finally, the chapter concludes with a discussion on ethical aspects of research. Throughout the chapter, additional resources (websites, tools, videos, literature) are provided in the footnotes and will no doubt be helpful for students wishing to develop a deeper understanding of what it means to be a researcher.

The second chapter is dedicated to research methods in linguistics. While research methods are indeed its main focus, the inclusion of a subchapter dedicated to describing three major research frameworks within linguistics (structuralist, formalist, and functionalist) together with a set of three criteria that aid the student in navigating the wide and diverse landscape of linguistics can be considered one of its highlights. From the perspective of a student choosing their thesis topic, having these frameworks listed side by side and explained in a concise manner is immensely helpful, aiding the student in making an informed decision regarding the path they wish to take in their research. Another subchapter is dedicated to understanding linguistic data, their types, sources and key aspects that need to be considered in their selection. Two subchapters are then dedicated to explaining and providing

examples of research methods for analysing quantitative data (corpus linguistics, content analysis, experimental methods, questionnaires and interviews) and qualitative data (discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis, conversation analysis, and discourse analysis in interdisciplinary research) accompanied by short sections from selected final theses of the students of University of Prešov to aid in understanding how these methods work in practice. The following subchapter details how and why quantitative and qualitative methods can be combined to achieve more reliable results. The conclusion to this chapter features a research quality checklist, which is another helpful tool for aspiring researchers.

The third and final chapter of this handbook comprises research methods in translation studies. From the outset, this chapter highlights the interdisciplinarity of translation studies and openly discusses the higher requirements placed on researchers as a result. The wide array of research topics in translation studies lends itself to a multitude of taxonomies and approaches. Research is thus first divided into conceptual and empirical, with a particular focus on empirical research, some of its commonly addressed topics and specific methods, before turning to Chesterman's thematic sets (textual, cognitive, sociological, and cultural approach) and quantitative versus qualitative research. As researchers know, it is important to ask the right hypothesis or research question, which is why there is an entire subchapter dedicated to discussing how these two concepts sit on a continuum, with four types of research hypotheses and research questions listed and explained in detail with examples. The following two subchapters focus on providing and describing specific examples of research from final theses of students of University of Prešov and explaining in detail what should be avoided in translation studies research. Of particular benefit are the reflection tasks appearing throughout the chapter, which introduce further concepts and ideas, especially relating to contemporary research in translation studies while asking relevant questions, prompting readers to think critically and thus to accustom themselves to their new role as researchers.

In conclusion, this handbook clearly and concisely presents up-to-date information regarding research methods in linguistics and translation studies in a manner that can be easily grasped by university students planning their final theses and academic articles. While this publication is particularly suited to students of English, it may be beneficial to students of other languages as well. With the aid of this handbook, it is hoped that students (and perhaps also scholars) will develop a greater passion for and understanding of their disciplines and research, leading to high-quality results. For the convenience of both students and teachers, this publication can be freely accessed online through the ELDOC catalogue of the University library of Prešov university.

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