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COACHING NOVICE RESEARCHERS ON TECHNIQUES FOR COMMUNICATING RESEARCH FINDINGS

Abstract:

Completing a thesis is probably the most demanding tasks for graduate students in all fields of study. This is particularly true of language students who conduct a research study in English. In a thesis supervisory role, I have witnessed challenges confronting novice researchers in all stages of thesis preparation, from initially proposing a research topic to finally reporting the results. In this presentation, I focus on the latter problem: how to properly report findings of a scientific study. This includes three broad suggestions of ensuring a comprehensive coverage of major outcomes, displaying findings in graphic forms, and highlighting the results. Graduate students need coaching on all aspects, firstly, how to present a complete picture, then how to transform findings into tables and figures, and how to sequence each piece of information. The guidelines will enormously upgrade the quality of overall thesis reporting as they not only improve comprehension and retention of the findings but also make the thesis clear, cohesive as well as coherent.

Keywords:

second language researchers, reporting research results, reporting techniques, writing a thesis