




Investigating the performance of Iraqi EFL researchers in writing quantitative and qualitative researches

Rusul Assim Abood ^{a1} , Assim Abood Zbar Alalwany ^b 

^a University of Babylon, Hillah, Babil, Iraq

^b Almustaqbal University College, 51001 Hillah, Babil, Iraq

APA Citation:

Abood, R.A., & Alalwany, A.A.Z. (2021). Investigating the performance of Iraqi EFL researchers in writing quantitative and qualitative researches. *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies*, 17(4), 1964-1972. Doi: 10.52462/jlls.142

Submission Date:29/06/2021

Acceptance Date:28/09/2021

Abstract

In this research, the researcher adopts a practical and the theoretical parts. First, is the practical part, it consists of the problem, the aim, the hypothesis, the procedures and the limits of the study. These will be in the first part. In part two which is the theoretical part, the researcher indicates two main types of researches which are quantitative and qualitative research. Then the research is dedicated to the description of methodology, the results and finally the conclusion. The study aims first to clarify the quantitative and qualitative researches and second to investigate the performance of Iraqi EFL researchers in writing quantitative and qualitative researches. The main tool that is used in this research is the questionnaire which was included personal information such as (bachelor of education) and teachers (master and doctorate) and different questions about quantitative or qualitative researches. It combined (30) participants, (20) as fourth stage researchers, and (10) for lecturer, it was designed to measure which of the researchers has knowledge about the two types of researches, and how can they distinguish between each one, what are the main different points between quantitative and qualitative research. We can see the results from their answers when we analyze the questionnaire.

Keywords: Quantitative; Qualitative; Researches; Study; Types, Questionnaire

1. Introduction

Most of EFL researchers face difficulties to distinguish the types of researches whether it is quantitative or qualitative. Therefore, this study aims to clarify the quantitative and qualitative researches.

According to Fielding & Schreier (2001) “the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods has become almost a commonplace in methodology textbooks in the social sciences”. In addition, Daniel (2016) claims that “paradigm is an approach about research or doing research. The authors identified qualitative, quantitative and mixed research as the three major paradigms in educational research”. On the other hand, Elkatawneh (2016) states that “qualitative research is inductive in nature, while quantitative research is usually deductive”.

Many researchers face a problem to distinguish the types of researches, they stand with confusion to understand these types and also many students in senior year when they try to write a research paper, they don't know the types of research when they start to write it, whether it is quantitative or qualitative.

¹ Corresponding author:

E-mail address: russul.asim@uobabylon.edu.iq

This study focuses on investigating the performance of Iraqi EFL researchers in writing quantitative and qualitative researches

The present study aims at:

1. It aims to clarify the quantitative and qualitative researches.
2. Investigating the Performance of Iraqi EFL Researchers in Writing Quantitative and Qualitative Researches (Omar et al, 2021)

It is Hypothesized that:

1. The researchers do not know all types of the researches.
2. They couldn't distinguish which type they write about.

2. Limitations

The sample of the study in which they submitted to the questionnaire was (12) teachers. They were from Najaf city in Iraq and (10) lecturers from the University of Kufa, College of Education, department of English.

3. Theoretical Background

Quantitative Research

A type of educational research in which the researcher decides what to study; ask specific, narrow questions, collect quantifiable data from participants, analyzes these number using statistics and conduct the inquiry in an unbiased manner. (Fischler, 2018)

Characteristics of Quantitative Research

1. An emphasis on collecting and analyzing information in the form of number.
2. An emphasis on collecting scores that measure distinct attributes of individuals and organization.
3. An emphasis on the procedures of comparing group or relating factors about individual or group in experiments correlational studies, and surveys. (ibid).

Quantitative Research Method

Quantitative research method is characterized by the collection of information which can be analyzed numerically, the results of which are typically presented using statistics tables and graphs (Park, 2012).

The aim of the quantitative research method is to test pre-determined hypothesis and produces generalizable results, using statistical method.

The result of the quantitative analysis can confirm or refute the hypothesis about the impact of a disaster and ensuring the need of the affected population. In other word, scientific measurement is the key of quantitative research (ibid).

4. Quantitative Research Methodology

Quantitative research inquires a collection of data which is numeric. (Williams, 2007). There are three broad classifications of quantitative research which are: descriptive, experimental, and casual comparative.

A: Descriptive research

This type bases on how to observe the situation of the case that the researcher study on.

B: Experimental research

Experimental research involves to measure the results of the study group and investigate the outcomes.

C: Casual Comparative research

It involves cause and effect relationship between the variables. The casual comparative research design to provide the researchers the opportunity to examine the interaction between independent and the influence on dependent variables.

Qualitative research

It depends on the quality of the material such as the type and the nature of the things. This type of research is focusing on the internal world of the participants (H.H, 2016).

Qualitative Research Methodology

There are several different methods for conducting a qualitative research, which are recommending the following: case study, grounded theory, ethnography, and phenomenological (Zemgales, 2010).

A: Case study

Case study focuses on the details of previous researches and the analysis of a limited number of events or condition and their relationship to clarify a complex issue.

B: Grounded theory

The phrase “grounded theory” refers to a theory that is developed inductively from a corpus of data. The grounded theory approach consists of a set of steps whose careful execution is thought to “guarantee” a good theory as the outcome. The basic idea of the grounded theory approach is to read a textual data base and discover or label variables called (categories, concepts, properties) and their interrelationship.

C: Phenomenology

Through phenomenology, it’s study of phenomena. It is away of describing something that exists as part of the world in which we live. Phenomena may be events, situations, experiences or concepts. Phenomenological research begins with the acknowledgement that there is a gap in our understanding and that clarification or illumination will be of benefit.

D: Ethnography

Ethnography is a form of research focusing on the sociology of meaning through close field observation of sociocultural phenomena, focus on community, this process is intended to reveal common cultural understanding related to the phenomena under study.

5. Methodology*Procedures*

1. Introducing a theoretical background about the quantitative and qualitative researches.
2. Submitting a random sample of researchers to the questionnaire including the questions to make simple way for researchers to understand the quantitative and qualitative researches.
3. Analyzing the results of the questionnaire.

Design

The study was designed to clarify the types of researches especially for students in senior year, when they try to write research, they don't know which type of research they will write about. Is it quantitative or qualitative?

The Pilot

The pilot conducted the questionnaire which was included personal information such as (bachelor of education) and teachers (master and doctorate) and different questions about quantitative or qualitative researches. It combined (30) participants, (20) as fourth stage researchers, and (10) for lecturer, it was designed to measure which of the researchers has knowledge about the two types of researches, and how can they distinguish between each one, what are the main different points between quantitative and qualitative research. We can see the results from their answers when we analyze the questionnaire.

Participants

Lecturers

The participants in this part consisted of ten Iraqi lecturers (college of Education, university of Kufa, Iraq), (males and females). The sample were asked to answer the questionnaire about the quantitative and qualitative researches. This point aimed to clarify the differences between the two types.

Researchers

The participants in this part was Bachelors (BA) of education represent a random sample of fourth stage Iraqi EFL students, which they are researchers as a project of graduation, the participants of this study consisted of (20) students (males and females) from University of Kufa, College of Education, English Department. They are (1) male and (19) females. They were asked some questions included in the questionnaire about the types of researches.

The Questionnaire

The basic aim was to give researchers an idea about quantitative and qualitative research. The questionnaire introduced (10) Iraqi lecturers and (20) students (males and females) in University of Kufa, College of Education, English Department. It consisted of four parts.

The first part indicates personal information about age, gender and academic degree.

The second part included questions about the research design. The number of participant in this questionnaire was (30) some of them gave correct answers and the others gave incorrect answers.

The third part included the main differences between quantitative and qualitative research. They were asked to select the correct answer from three choices.

In the fourth and last part included the questions about one type of research by giving the participants one characteristic then ask "which the type of research this characteristic includes: quantitative, qualitative, or both of them.

6. The Results of The Study

This subsection is about the discussion of the results of the questionnaire to prove the hypotheses that "1. The researchers do not know all types of the researches, 2. They couldn't distinguish which

type they write about.” so, the following tables show the results that analyzed by the researcher in each part of the questionnaire.

Table 1. Demographic Data

Category	Frequency(n30)	Percentage %
Gender		
Male	8	27 %
Female	22	73 %
Academic degree		
Bachelor	19	63 %
Master	8	27 %
Doctorate	3	10 %
Other	-	-
Age		
18-27	20	67 %
28-37	6	20 %
38-47	1	3 %
50 Or more	3	10 %

The above table is analyzed by the researcher

According to table (1) that the males participants were (27%) and (73%) females, most of the participants had B.A (63%), while (27%) had MA degree, and only (10%) had Ph.D. All of participants specialized in teaching English as a forging language. According to the age of the participants they were (20%) from (28- 37) and (3%) from (38- 47) while (50) or more were (10%).

According to the teaching experience from (1-10) years represents (68.2%) of participants. Otherwise (27.4%) of participant had (11-20) year of experience. Only one of the responses was about (35) years of teaching which refers to (4.5%) percentage.

Ten of the participants are working in university of Kufa as mentioned before in the limits, which indicates that (33%) are lecturers.

On the other hand, twenty of participants are working in secondary schools, the city of Al- Najaf in Iraq, which indicates that (67%) are EFL teachers.

The response indicates that most of participants do not know all types of the researches and they couldn't distinguish which type they write about.

Analysis of the responses of the questionnaire about the types of researches.

Table 2. Analysis of the responses of Question One

Items	Qualitative		Quantitative		Both Of them	
	Frequency (n30)	Percent %	Frequency (n30)	Percent %	Frequency (n30)	Percent %
Q1: Is researcher dealing with phenomena that is difficult or impossible to quantify mathematically, It's mentioned to investigate the way that how the decision is clarify the type of research.	7	23%	17	57%	6	20%

The above table is analyzed by the researcher

According to item one in table (2) responses were (23%) in which the participants chose the Qualitative type and (57%) of the responses were the Quantitative type, while (20%) of the responses were both types of researches. Here the researcher was dealing with phenomena that is difficult or impossible to quantify mathematically, so it is Qualitative research. Therefore, the correct choice was Qualitative type and scored the less percentage which means the that most of the researchers couldn't distinguish which type they write about.

Table 3. Analysis of the responses of Question Two

Items	Researches designed by developing hypothesis then they test using empirical data.		Researchers ignore past researches studies on their topic so that work can be original.		Research never attempts to replicate their findings in diverse social setting.		Researcher developing measurement tools during the data collection phase.	
	Frequency (n30)	Percent %	Frequency (n30)	Percent %	Frequency (n30)	Percent %	Frequency (n30)	Percent %
Q2: Which of the following characteristics of quantitative research design?	8	27%	6	20%	1	3%	15	50%

The above table is analyzed by the researcher

On the other hand the responses of item two table (3) were (27%) for the first choice and the responses for the second choice were (20%) while the responses for the third choice were (3%) and finally the responses for the last choice were (50%) in which this choice was the correct answer but mostly half of the responses were for other choices which were incorrect and prove that most of the researchers confused in using types of researches.

Table 4. Analysis of the responses of Question Three

Items	In quantitative we use it with numerical data , otherwise we use qualitative with non-numerical data		In qualitative we use to gain understanding the reason and motivation but in quantitative we use to quantify the data		In qualitative investigate the “why and how” of decision making but in quantitative doesn't interest in this case	
	Frequency (n30)	Percent %	Frequency (n30)	Percent %	Frequency (n30)	Percent %
Q3: In your opinion what is the difference point between quantitative and qualitative?	13	43%	5	17%	12	40%

The above table is analyzed by the researcher

Finally, table (4) includes the last item in which the responses of the first choice were (43%) and the responses for the second choice were (17%) while the responses for the third choice were (40%) The first choice was the correct answer which scored less than other choices and most of the responses were for them which were incorrect and prove that most of the researchers did not know all types of the researches.

7. Discussion of the Study

According to table (1) that the males participants were (27%) and (73%) females, most of the participants had B.A (63%), while (27%) had MA degree, and only (10%) had Ph.D. All of participants specialized in teaching English as a forging language. According to the age of the participants they were (20%) from (28- 37) and (3%) from (38- 47) while (50) or more were (10%).

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On the other hand, the responses of item two table (3) were (27%) for the first choice and the responses for the second choice were (20%) while the responses for the third choice were (3%) and finally the responses for the last choice were (50%) in which this choice was the correct answer but mostly half of the responses were for other choices which were incorrect and prove that most of the researchers confused in using types of researches.

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8. Conclusions

According to results in section four in which table (2) shown that responses of item one were (23%) that the participants chose the Qualitative type and (57%) of the responses were the Quantitative type, while (20%) of the responses were both types of researches. Here the researcher was dealing with phenomena that is difficult or impossible to quantify mathematically, so it is Qualitative research. Therefore, the correct choice was Qualitative type and scored the less percentage which means the that most of the researchers couldn't distinguish which type they write about.

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AUTHOR BIODATA

Rusul Assim Abood is presently an Assistant Professor at the College of Basic Education, Babylon University. She finished Master's Degree in Methods of teaching English as Foreign Language from the University of Babylon in 2009 and Ph.D. in Ain Shams university from Egypt in 2017. She has been teaching for eleven years. Her research interests include the two main types of researches which are quantitative and qualitative researches.

Assim Abood Zbar is presently professor at the Department of English and Literature at Almustaqbal University College. He finished his B.A degree at Baghdad University in 1978, his M.A degree in TEFL at Baghdad University in 1989, his Ph.D. in TEFL also at Baghdad University in 2000. His research interests include two main types of researches: quantitative and qualitative types

Appendix

The Questionnaire

1- What is your name?

2- What is your age?

a)18-27 b)28-37 c) 38-47 d)50 or more

3- What is your gender? A) Male B) Female

4- What is the highest academic degree you earned?

a) BA b) MA C) PHD or other

5- Q1: Is researcher dealing with phenomena that is difficult or impossible to quantify mathematically, It's mentioned to investigate the way that how the decision is clarify the type of research.

• Qualitative research a) true B) Not true C) no idea

• Quantitative research a) true B) Not true C) no idea

• Both of them a) true B) Not true C) no idea

6- Q2: Which of the following characteristics of quantitative research design?

A) Researches designed by developing hypothesis then they test using empirical data

B) Researchers ignore past researches studies on their topic so that work can be original.

C) Research never attempts to replicate their findings in diverse social setting.

D) Researcher developing measurement tools during the data collection phase.

7- Q3: In your opinion what is the difference point between quantitative and qualitative?

A) In quantitative we use it with numerical data, otherwise we use qualitative with non-numerical data

B) In qualitative we use to gain understanding the reason and motivation but in quantitative we use to quantify the data

C) In qualitative investigate the “why and how” of decision making but in quantitative doesn't interest in this case