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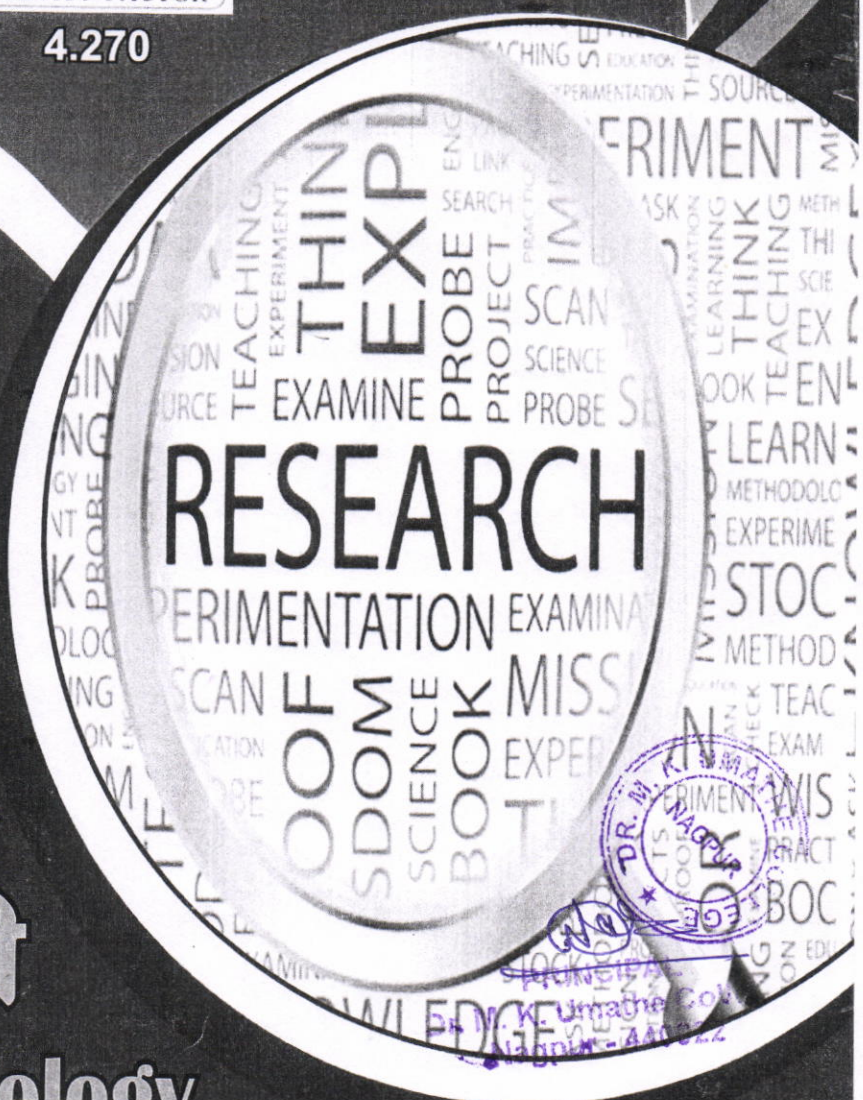

२६ जानेवारी २०२०
भारतीय प्रजासत्ताक दिनानिमित्त...

संशोधन पद्धती
Research Methodology

Editor : Dr. R.V. Bhole

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"संशोधन पद्धती" (Research Methodology)

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Research Methodology for Research in English : An Overview

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Dr. M. K. Umathe College, Nagpur

Abstract:

Research is an unending process which leads to creativity, opportunities and uniqueness. The basic desire of a man is to know the things around him. He confronts numerous problems every day for which he wants to find immediate solution. His efforts to find answers is the outcome of man's thirst for knowledge. This prompts him to find solution to problems and urges him to do something great. Traditionally research work is defined as the collection of data that helps to answer the questions about various aspects in the concerned subject. The research work may provide answers to questions of theoretical interest of the particular discipline which may have no interest to the society. In the present research paper the researcher has tried to give some idea about the meaning of research, objectives of research, types of research, research approaches, research methods and the process of research in English.

Keywords: Research, Researcher, Investigation, Literary Research, Objectives, Research Methodology, Research process

Introduction: Meaning of Research

There is a difference between skimming and reading. Skimming signifies hurried reading but reading refers to thorough detailed study. We usually skim a newspaper but read editorials and articles are read. We read novels and books. Research is more than study. The word search means to look thoroughly, to seek, to examine closely. The word research has been invented by adding prefix "re" to the word search which means remake, reunite, retell or re-organize but it has now become purely a technical term. It means a systematic investigation in a field of knowledge to discover or establish facts or principles. To know more about research let's see some definitions of research.

Definitions of Research:

1. According to the New Standard Encyclopedia, research is a systematic investigation for gaining new knowledge or verifying the existing knowledge. In a broad sense research is any study that leads to new knowledge for the person doing research.
2. Research is a search or investigation directed to the discovery of some facts by careful consideration or study of a subject, a course of critical or scientific inquiry. (Oxford English Dictionary)
3. David E. Menabb (2004:3) aptly says that research means gathering, processing and interpreting data. It also means intelligently and cogently communicating a result in a report that describes what was discovered from the research.
4. Kothari (2009: 1) presents the view: "Research" is an academic activity and as such the term should be used in a technical sense. The Advanced Learners' Dictionary of English Language (1952:1069) spelt out that research means, "a careful enquiry especially through search for new factor in any branch of knowledge."
5. E. S. Bogardus expresses his view: "Research is the investigation of the underlying processes operative in the lives of persons who are in association."
6. W. S. Monero aptly says that "Research may be defined as a method of studying problems whose solutions are to be derived partly or wholly from facts."

Features of Research:

On the basis of the above given definitions the term research may be defined as a systematic exploration/investigation/enquiry carried on for understanding the various important issues and

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problems confronting the people in the society. After the close and careful reading of these definitions we can draw a conclusion that research has following features:

1. Research is a systematic and critical investigation.
2. It aims at the discovery of new facts and their correct information.
3. It is also the revision of accepted laws or theories in the light of the discovery of new facts.
4. It can be the practical application of new or revised conclusions, theories or laws.

Literary Research:

The nature of research differs from subject to subject. Pure Science and natural science study natural phenomena whereas social sciences study man and his behavior. But man cannot be put in a laboratory to be experimented in the way natural objects can be. Literature is different from natural sciences and social sciences as it is the product of the creative writer. So it cannot be confined to either the literary text or the writer but it has to study both. Natural sciences and social sciences have two types of research - basic and applied. Literary research has four kinds of research due to the duality of the objects of study. They are bibliography and textual criticism, biographical, theoretical and interpretive research.

Objectives of Literary Research:

Literary research has four main objectives. They are as follows:

1. Acquiring advance knowledge and abilities
2. Broadening the mind and sharpening the critical insight of the researcher
3. Creation of a genuine and intelligent interest in literature
4. Inculcation of the sense that the researcher is a member of a collaborative community

Types of Literary Research:

Literature is different from natural sciences and social sciences. It has four types of research due to the duality of the objects. When its object of study is the creative writer, it applies the tools of social sciences and when its object of study is text, it applies the specific tools for it. These two aspects of literary research cannot be separated. While studying the text we cannot ignore its creator nor can we study an author isolating him from his literary works. We have to keep in mind the other important fact that the methods of analysis and evaluation of a literary text have autonomous as they have their own theories and principles which are constantly modified and revised. These four types of research are as follows:

1. Bibliography and Textual Criticism:

Textual research is concerned with the establishment of an authoritative text, correction of past editions, chronology, authenticity and attribution. No one can appreciate a text which is full of errors. The reader must know that the text he is reading is genuine. Critics have been misled by the printing errors or faulty texts. Similarly the author must be read as he had written and his work should be presented in a chronological order. It is very much essential to produce reliable texts. In modern times the author monitors and supervises the complete editions of his work but earlier it was not so. If we study the sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth century editions, we will certainly find the striking difference. This type of research has gained more importance in modern times and the readers also started to know the difference between the original work and pirated work.

2. Biographical Research:

This type of research is very important and helps the researcher in understanding the author's mind and art. The task of biographer is very difficult as he has to collect material from different sources, study author's published as well as unpublished works, meet and collect information from people close to the author, interview him frequently if he is alive, distinguish facts from the fiction and after that present the life story laying more emphasis on the literary sides by correlating the important events of his life and his works systematically, chronologically and interestingly.

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3. Theoretical Research:

The main aim of this kind of research is to profound the theory of literature or modify and improve the existing one. In the past, after Aristotle and Longinus, few researchers took literary criticism seriously. They often repeated the classical theory of literature. In England the theoretical criticism left to poets only. Coleridge and Wordsworth were the first to profound the theory of literature and Mathew Arnold followed them later. In recent time the development in anthropology, Psychology and linguistics and sociology changed peoples' perspective to look at the literature. The modern critics have defined their approach, method and technique and analyzed literary texts and evaluated creative writers on the basis of the theories they have formulated after deep and detailed study.

4. Interpretive Research:

This kind of research can be compared to the applied research in sciences. It analyzes, interprets and evaluates the literary text of an author by applying the principles of the particular theory. It may be a study of author's style, use of imagery or symbolism, exploration of myth, perception of social reality, expression of the inner soul, development of thoughts or the structure of his texts. The researcher has to modify his methods occasionally and revise the techniques he has adopted.

Research Approaches:

Methodology in the study of literature or literary criticism would refer to the particular approach or theory used when reading or analyzing a literary text. Potential approaches can be very broadly categorized as textual, sociological or psychological. In each case, the methodology simply boils down to the kinds of questions ask by the researcher while reading a text. If the approach is textual then the researcher may be looking for the literal meaning of the text, or studying its formal properties, asking how it achieves its unity of construction, or doing a close study of the figures of speech being used. If the approach is psychological he may focus on the psychology of the author, or the reader (called "reader response theory") or on the characters as if they were people and therefore had a psychological make-up. Here the approach might be phenomenological and study how the text or a character creates a view of reality. In the case of sociological research, the text should be studied in relation to society, its effect and importance, or the society that is portrayed in the text. Feminism, neo Marxism and reception theory are all sociological approaches—each dictating a different methodology.

Research Methods:

Various methods are used for the research in English literature. They are:

1. An Introduction
2. Archival research
3. Auto/biography
4. Oral History
5. Visual Methodologies
6. Discourse Analysis
7. Ethnographic Methods
8. Numbers and Words: Quantitative Methods
9. Textual Analysis
10. Interviewing
11. Creative Writing

Research Process:

There are number of steps pertaining to how the research is to be conducted. The research process typically includes five broad steps. Most often the researcher completes one step before

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moving onto the next. However, there may be times when he will need to return to a previous step or complete multiple steps simultaneously.

Formulation of Research problem:

Formulation of research problem is nothing but translating and transforming the selected problem into a scientific research question. A thesis needs to be "original and a genuine contribution of knowledge." It may be a fresh interpretation of the known facts or discovery of new facts. Two steps are involved here-understanding the problem thoroughly and rephrasing it in a meaningful way. The researcher has to follow the following steps one by one. They are developing a title, working out conceptual model, defining the objectives, limiting the scope, formulation of hypothesis and operational definition of concepts.

Review of Literature:

A literature review helps the researcher to identify useful research in specific area of study. In a literature review, researchers systematically read and analyze a large number of articles on a topic to draw some larger connections or conclusions about the topic. Researchers will describe their review method and criteria and will discuss the articles in-depth.

Formulation of Hypothesis:

Hypothesis is a proposition or principal which is assumed in order to draw logical conclusions. It is also a provisional idea based on limited amount of evidence. Once a hypothesis is tested with the help of evidence, it becomes a thesis as it gives direction to research.

Research Design:

Research design is the blue print of the proposed study. It represents the overall scheme of the study. It should contain title of the study, introduction, statement of the problem, literature review, Scope, objectives, hypothesis, methodology, research report.

Conclusion:

In this research paper I tried to give a brief introduction of the research methodology used for research of English.

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