



Science and Arts University

The Department of English Language

HOW TO WRITE A THESIS PROPOSAL FOR MA TEFL STUDENTS page:1

[**Note 1:** The whole proposal must be written following these statistics: Times New Roman 12; Line Spacing 1.5; Margins 1 inch (2.54 cm) all sides; Paragraphs in 'Justify' mode.]

[**Note 2:** The term 'proposal' implies a research-plan designed to be carried out in the future. Thus, the verb tenses used in your research proposal must be either *present simple* (for general facts about SLA) or *future-based*, including 'will', 'going to', etc. for what you intend to do later on. You may also need to use *past simple* for reviewing the existing literature.]

Title:

[The title should be concise and to the point; it should not be very general. A good research title is the one that includes the independent and dependent variables of the study, and how they are inter-related]

Keywords:

[There should be at least 3 to ideally 5 keywords that represent the main axis of your study. List them vertically in numbers. Give a reasonably summarized definition for each keyword.]

[*Start a new page from here*]

1. Introduction

[This section is an introduction to your main area of research. In fact, your title is expanded here to give some extra information for which there was not enough space in the title. The introduction should be at most one page.]



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2. Statement of the Problem

[What you introduced in the previous section should gradually be narrowed down to the main problem that made you come up with the current research topic. You need to deductively problematize the issue and clarify what you are going to conduct. This section should be around one page.]

3. Literature Review

[This section is to give a theoretical as well as practical background to your research. In particular, you should spotlight the variables of your study (both independent and dependent) and elaborate on them by referring to the existing body of knowledge. Any model, theory, framework, etc. that support your work should be included here. You are supposed to back up your research-plan, reviewing preferably 10 recent (not older than 2010) reliable and valid scientific papers. At the end of this section, it is recommended that you highlight the gap(s) in the current literature; what your study is going to fill. This section should be between 2 and 4 pages.]

4. Significance of the Study

[This section, which is usually not more than one page, supports the potential outcomes of your research: What you hope to conclude so as to shed more light on the issue at hand. In fact, you should justify why this study is required and how it is worth-conducting in the first place.]

5. Purpose of the Study

[This section is believed to present the aims/goals of the research. Usually, two or more goals are required to be mentioned by the researcher. You should first describe and/or explain the goals you are going to fulfil in your study. Notice that the aims should corroborate the main



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problem you introduced in the Statement of the Problem section. Having highlighted the aims, you may want to enlist them in numbers separately. This section should be at most one page.]

6. Research Questions and Hypotheses

[In line with the objectives you enlisted in the previous section, you should formulate two or more research questions listed as RQ1, RQ2, etc. Usually, each aim listed above is converted into an RQ. The RQs can then be converted into Research Hypotheses, which predict the potential answers to the research questions.]

7. Methodology

[This section altogether should be between 2 and 3 pages]

7.1. Design of the Study

[Describe the main design of your study based on the nature of your variables, number of groups and/or data-collection stages, and research questions. You need to first explain and then validate your selected research-design by referring to two or more SLA research books]

7.2. Participants / Sample

[In one paragraph, describe your intended sample of participants, from whom the data are to be collected, and the sampling method, and then justify why this method was adopted. You are supposed to give reference to two or more famous authors in that relation.]

7.3. Instruments

[Describe and clarify what data-collection/manipulation instruments (e.g., questionnaire, test, interview, etc.) you are going to deploy to collect your required data. It is essential that the validity and reliability of the instruments be discussed here.]



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7.4. Procedure

[This section is to describe the step-by-step development of the study, explicitly from participants selection and participants grouping to pretesting, piloting, giving the treatment, post-testing, and else. In particular, you should describe in detail how your treatment (intervention or experiment) will be given to the experimental group.]

7.5. Data Analysis

[Shortly, describe and justify the statistical techniques (or coding approach and pattern-detection protocol in qualitative research) that are intended to be applied for the purpose of analyzing the data and addressing the RQs. You should give reference to one or two leading authors to validate the selected techniques.]

8. Implications

[The Implications must be in full agreement with the Significance of the study you presented above. You should spotlight at least two or even more possible outcomes of your study that can enrich the field. You may want to pinpoint how your research proposal is going to help second language teachers, learners, materials developers, testers, researchers, etc. improve their work. Implications are to emphasize how the investigation can solve the problem you stated earlier. In short, implications represent the ‘take-away’ of your research.]

9. References

[Following the APA Style 7th edition, alphabetically list here all the works you referred to in the body of your proposal. If available, give the DOI of the published papers at the end of each end-text citation.]