Abstract

The chapter reviewed titled “Developing Research Question: A Guide for Social Scientist” by Patrick White. The researcher highlighted the importance of Developing a Research Question and emphasised on the step to follow when developing the question as identify the area of interest, define the research problem, identify the gap left by other researchers, developing of research question and emphasised more on ethics to be considered avoid falling in the pitfalls of other researchers.

The researcher stated that the research question should be related to the topic under study. In addition, the researcher saluted the common mistakes that researchers are likely to do as differentiate between the question and statement and avoid questions that will offend repentant ad repeating the question.

The review of the chapter entitled “Developing Research question: A Guide for Social Scientists” (Patrick White, 2009). The primary audience is British people, American and students. The researcher started off by highlighting practical methods of developing research questions and how they should relate to ideas, theories, hypotheses, methods and conclusions. The writer’s purpose is writing the article is to offer practical guidance on developing research questions and to highlight how questions influence stages involved in carrying out social science research projects. In relation to other researchers, they both highlight the need for the research topic to be of interest to the research community by finding answers that intrigue investigators, peers and community. Both works also placed an importance on the research topic to aim to fill the gap left by previous researchers and methods used by using research design and techniques that generate new answers. Both works also emphasized on research ethics procedures and how it needs to meet institutional review board standards. Research topics need to be relevant to future research and to scientific knowledge (Farrugia et al, 2010; Patino, & Ferreira, 2016; Robson, & McCartan, 2016).

In support of the report, the article reviewed highlighted the criteria for developing research questions as identification of research problem, identify the gap that the research topic will try to fill. The research questions should be feasible, the research should be interesting and should meet a certain level of ethical standard. He further stated the most common mistake that researchers carry out which are differentiating between the questions and statement, asking similar questions, assuming that respondents understand research questions clearly. He also emphasized on the researcher’s need to differentiate their research from previous researchers and the questioners should not be offending to the respondents. However the researcher did not point out some of the important criteria on developing research questions such as the population of interest, the researcher focused more on new research and failed to explain that previous research or knowledge can be extended or refuted. In addition to that timing of assessment of outcome was clearly defined in the article reviewed. The arrangement of ideas on the article reviewed are logically arranged however the language used is not understandable because of the difficult terminologies used in the article. White (2009) stated that "the focus on questions is innovative because it fills the gap left open by many researchers". He also illustrated that it is important to be interested in the topic research. He went on further to state that “designing questions that are impartial and that have the potential to generate the answers that are
unexpected and considers the research ability questions” he also identified the number of problems related to the way questions are structured. He warns that some questions, for instance, those that are metaphysical or normative cannot be answered with social science methods because they cannot be adequately examined with empirical evidence.

In conclusion, the main idea of the reviewed article is outlining the common pitfalls for researchers to avoid when developing research questions. The article also emphasised on the criteria of developing research questions and differentiating research questions and statements. The article also stressed on the ethical elements to be considered during the formulation of research questions.
References


