Research Design for Language Studies

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INTRODUCTION

The implementation of qualitative research methodology allows language researchers to explore into questions of meaning, social practices and processes and discover the outcome of interventions in language studies. Thus, choosing the best methodology in research endeavours is a vital process especially for neophyte researcher, to ensure that the research paradigm is congruent with their beliefs about the nature of reality. Research methodology should reflect the objectives of the study and provides guidance in data collection and strategies for analysing data. The qualitative research paradigm is usually selected to obtain deeper understanding, to gain insight, explore the depth, richness, and complexity inherent in a phenomenon.

One of the commonly used qualitative traditions is grounded theory. Grounded theory is a systematic methodology involving the construction of theory through methodical gathering and analysis of data. Grounded theory approach was proposed by sociologists in symbolic interactionism, Glaser and Strauss in 1967, as a reaction against the extreme positivism (Starks & Trinidad 2007; Suddaby 2006). Glaser and Strauss (1967) adopted a method that involves continuous comparative analysis of gathered data to understand the interaction between phenomenons under study with other factors in social processes (Jeon 2004; Starks & Trinidad 2007). The theory obtained from this methodology is truly grounded in the data, thus they called it as “grounded theory” (Glaser & Strauss 1967). Grounded theory
The specialty of the teaching and learning process.

The intricacies of the teaching and learning process make it difficult for teachers and learners to identify and develop the qualities of sound teaching. This is because the process involves a complex interplay of factors that are not always clearly defined or understood. However, by engaging grounded theory and the process of action research, educators can develop a deeper understanding of how teaching and learning actually occurs.

The action of grounded theory is to explore social processes in which

Figure 2: Categorization of Grounded Theory (based on: 17)

- Grounded Theory
- Constructivist Grounded Theory
- Interactionist Grounded Theory
- Stages of Grounded Theory

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