

BNY-DK-162A

*Pázmány Doctoral
School of Linguistics*

Research methods 2 (quantitative)

Autumn 2024

Communication

Course location: D 505

Instructor: **Dr Balázs Fajt** fajt.balazs@yahoo.com

Time: Monday 16:15-17:45

Course objectives and requirements

This course offers an insight into how various research in applied linguistics can employ methods and techniques in quantitative data collection and data analysis. We will overview some relevant theoretical/philosophical issues, followed by the discussion of methods and considerations in data collection, including the collection of text, questionnaire and interview data, observation and experiment data. Afterwards, some of the most relevant data analysis methods and considerations will be discussed, among them data reduction, reliability analysis, the generalizability of data, data group comparison techniques, various variance analysis techniques and one latent variable analysis method. Apart from quantitative research, mixed methods research will get some attention. Every class some time will be spent on what statistics can offer in understanding issues in the related field discussed in that class – only the most frequently used statistical tests will be covered, from the aspect of practical use (no mathematical apparatus will be included). Several classes are planned to provide practice in the use of the Statistical Package in the Social Sciences (SPSS). Participants are required to attend classes and be active, read the assigned readings and solve the homework tasks. Every participant will give a 20 minute presentation on the basis of a research article – the topic will be picked after negotiating the relevance of the source for both course content and the student’s research topic. At the end of the course, a short paper chapter (1,500-2,500 words) on a quantitative data collection or analysis method relatable to your dissertation is expected, after negotiating the choice of the topic. Avoid being absent from classes more than three times. The grade will be given on the basis of class attendance and activity, the presentation, the average achievement in the homework tasks (50%) and the written chapter (50%).

Course credit value: 8 credits

Grade type: Seminar grade (three grades: excellent – pass – fail)

Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Statistics	Readings, tasks
1	13 Sept	Introduction		
2	20 Sept	Philosophical issues; qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods research, triangulation		Ch. 1.3-2 in Dörnyei 2007 + task
3	27 Sept	Quality criteria; research ethics; research questions		Ch. 3-4 in Dörnyei 2007 + task
4	4 Oct	Data collection: questionnaires and experiments; sampling 1; data analysis practice (SPSS)	Descriptive statistics	Ch. 5 in Dörnyei 2007 + task
5	11 Oct	Sampling 2; reliability analysis; data analysis practice (SPSS)	Cronbach’s alpha	Ch. 9.1-9.5 in Dörnyei 2007 + task
6	18 Oct	Data analysis practice (SPSS)	t-tests	Ch. 9.6 in Dörnyei 2007 + task
7	28 Oct	Quantitative data types, data type transformation 1; data analysis practice (SPSS)	ANOVA	Ch. 9.7 in Dörnyei 2007 + task
	1 Nov	No class		
8	8 Nov	Quantitative data types, data type transformation 2; data analysis practice (SPSS)	correlation	Ch. 9.8 in Dörnyei 2007 + task
9	15 Nov	Data analysis: preparing the data; data analysis practice (SPSS)	linear regression	Ch. 9.10 in Dörnyei 2007 + task
10	22 Nov	Data analysis: preparing the data 2; data analysis practice (SPSS)		Ch. 9.10 in Dörnyei 2007 + task
11	29 Nov	Writing up quantitative research		Ch. 12 in Dörnyei 2007 + task
12	6 Dec	SPSS Practice + individual consultation		
13	13 Dec	Conclusion		Ch. 14 in Dörnyei 2007 + task

Readings for the course

Textbook for the course:

Dörnyei, Z. (2007). *Research methods in applied linguistics: Quantitative, qualitative and mixed methodologies*. Oxford University Press.

Other recommended books:

Brezina, V. (2018). *Statistics in corpus linguistics: A practical guide*. Cambridge University Press.

Mackey, A., & Gass, S. M. (2012). *Research methods in second language acquisition: A practical guide*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Podesva, R., & Sharma, D. (2013). *Research methods in linguistics*. Cambridge University Press.

Woods, A., Fletcher P., & Hughes A. (1986). *Statistics in language studies*. Cambridge University Press.

Bring your notes, comments and questions on the assigned readings to class.