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The UPSKILLS research report template

This research report template is adapted from the one created by Tanja Samardžić, Maja Miličević Petrović and Genoveva Puskas within the course “Introduction to research in linguistics: theory, logic, method”¹.

1. Introduction

- a brief definition/description of the phenomenon
- formulation of a) the research problem (a gap in the literature): what the other studies got wrong or missed or can't agree on about the phenomenon and your study will fix/find out, or b) the engineering problem - something that should work, but it doesn't
- significance of your study: why does the world (or at least your research community) need to know about your study, why is it important

2. The goal/aim

- a clear and precise statement of what you wish to achieve in your study
- what is the challenge and what is the significance of your contribution in the narrow light of the research problem

3. State of the art

- theoretical background (relevant theories and concepts)
- a critical review of previous relevant research (what is already known about the phenomenon and in what way the previous studies are limited)
- further elaboration of the research problem (a gap in the literature): a detailed description of what the other studies got wrong or missed or can't agree on and your study will fix/find out

4. Present approach, or the proposed solution for the engineering problem

- your research question(s): what do you want to find out about the phenomenon
- expected or possible answers (hypotheses), i.e. rationale behind the proposal for the engineering problems

5. Data and methods

- what information (=data) you collect

¹ The course is available at <https://elearn.mnf.uzh.ch/courses/course-v1:PHIL+Movetia101+2022/about>

- where from or from whom you collect it
- how you collect it
- how you organise the collected data
- what analyses you apply
- what tools you use to perform the analyses

6. Findings

- counts, percentages, outcomes of statistical tests, often given in tables or graphs
- descriptions of these tables and graphs
- and/or clear statements containing new facts established in your study

7. Interpretation

- relating the findings to the starting expectations/hypotheses and/or research question(s)
- how your findings improve the knowledge about the phenomenon you studied

8. Discussion

- relating your findings to the relevant theories and previous empirical findings (pointing to similarities and differences between the two sets of findings)
- obstacles encountered
- alternative explanations - speculations
- limitations of your study
- directions for future research
- broader relevance - theoretical and practical implications of the findings

9. Conclusion

- synthesis, the main message of your study

10. References