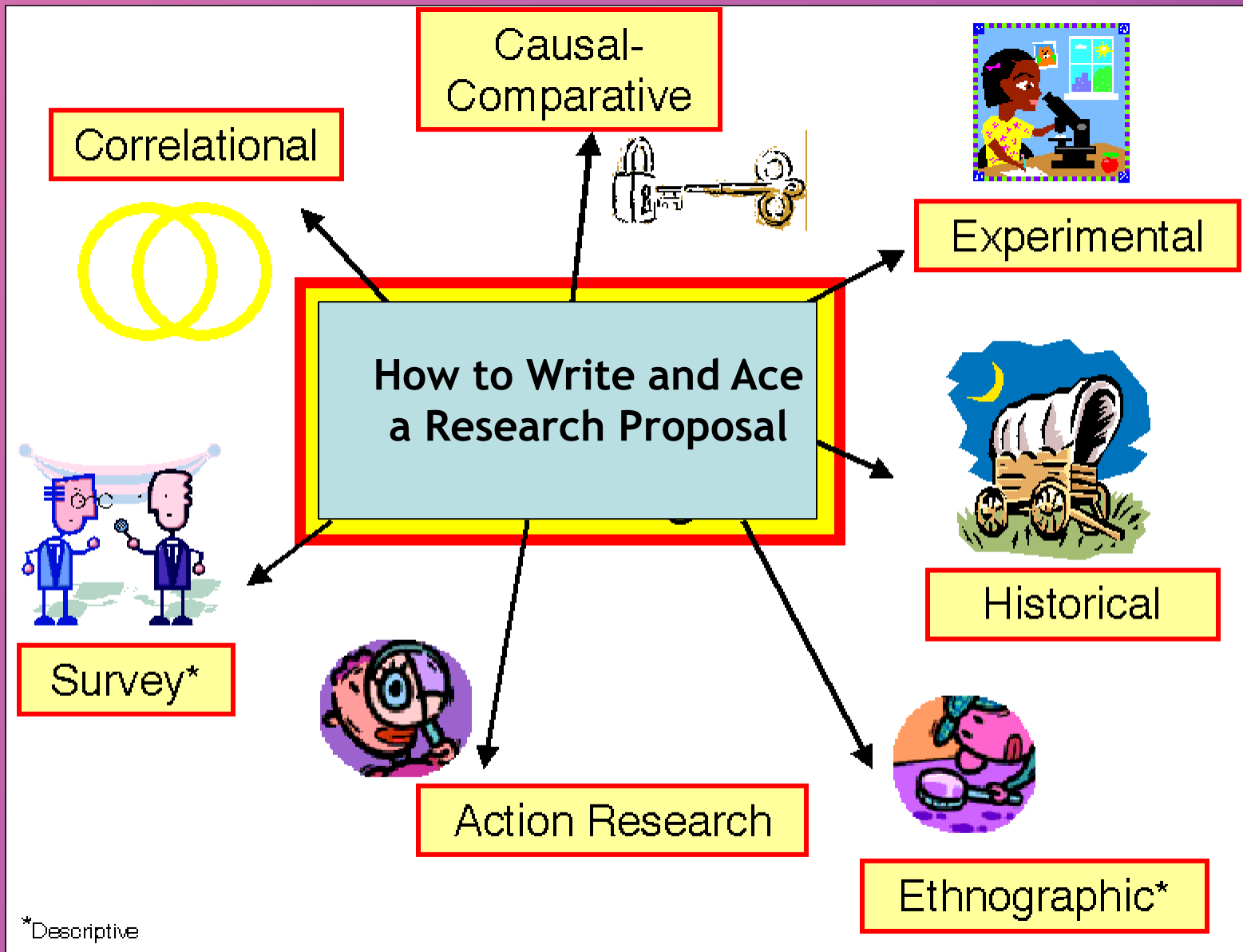


# How to Write and Ace a Research Proposal



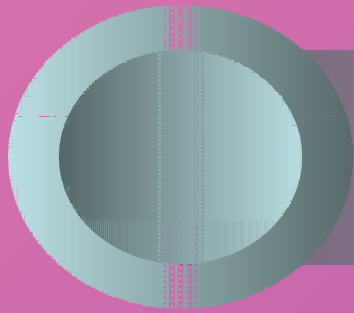
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Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR),  
Sungai Long



\*Descriptive

# Workshop Objectives

1. To help all of you to know the elements of a good research proposal
2. To ensure that all of you are able to write well in each section
3. To guide all of you about the correct way in presenting your research proposal well



# Steps in Developing Research Proposal

1. Title page & table of contents
2. Introduction
3. Statement of the problem
4. Scope of the study
5. Objectives of the study
6. Hypotheses or research questions
7. Literature review
8. Methodology
9. Limitation and delimitation of the study
10. Bibliography



# What is a Proposal?

- A plan of action
- A prerequisite for research investigation



# What is a Proposal?

- It communicates the researcher's intentions, makes clear the purpose of intended study and its justification, as well as provides a step-by-step plan in conducting the study.





# Introduction of the Research Proposal

Introduction should provide the background of the research study.

- ✓ Introduction may include a few subsections.
- ✓ Introduction should be clear.



## Purpose of the Study

- The purpose states succinctly what the researcher proposes to investigate.
- The purpose should be a concise statement, providing a framework to which details are added later.

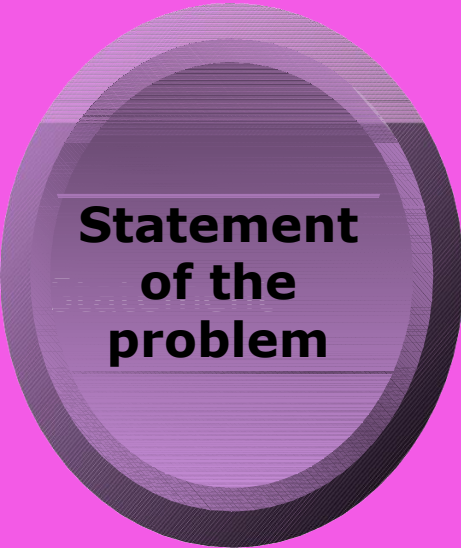


# Justification for the Study

- Key questions to ask yourself at this point:
- Have I identified the specific research problem I wish to investigate?
- Have I indicated what I intend to do about this problem?
- Have I put forth an argument as to why this problem is worthy of investigation?
- Have I made my assumption explicit?



# Problem to be Investigated



**Statement  
of the  
problem**



**Significance  
of the study**



**Research  
questions  
or  
hypotheses**



**Definition of  
terms**





# Statement of the Problem

- “A problem might be defined as the issue that exists in the literature, theory, or practice that leads to a need for the study” (Creswell, 1994, p. 50).
- Effective problem statements answer the question “Why does this research need to be conducted?”



# Scope of the Study

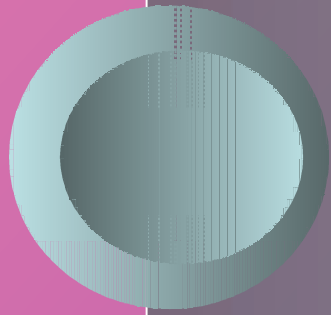
Significance of the study contains three paragraphs based on three questions:

- Why the study is important?
- How the study is important?
- For whom the study is important?



# Objectives of the Study

- Objectives should be clearly stated and specific in nature.
- Each sub-objective should delineate only one issue.
- Action oriented words such as, “to determine”, “to analyse” and “to ascertain” in formulating sub-objectives, which should be numerically stated.
- Objectives should be attainable, measurable, achievable, and testable.



# Research Questions or Hypotheses

- Questions are relevant to normative or census type of research.
- Questions are most often used in qualitative inquiry.
- Hypotheses are relevant to theoretical research and are typically used in quantitative inquiry.



## Definitions

- All key terms should be defined.
- In a hypothesis testing study, these are primarily the terms that describe the variables of the study.
- The researcher's task is to make his/her definitions as clear as possible.



# Literature Review

- It shows that you are aware of the literature study that is required in your research area.
- You review a substantial amount of reading materials before writing your proposal.
- It shows that you have the theoretical knowledge in your chosen research area.





# Literature Review

- By reviewing related literature at this stage, it will make you:
  - aware of other similar work which has been done
  - expose methodologies that have been adopted and which you may use or adapt
  - provide sources of information that you do not have yet



# Literature Review

- By reviewing related literature at this stage, it will inform you:
  - if a chosen area has already been researched extensively
  - approaches that you do not know of before



# Methodology

- Describe data that you will use in the research, the methodology to be adopted or adapted and justify your choice of methodology
- Inform readers
  - types of data going to be collected
  - research procedure (interviews? observations? questionnaires?)



# Methodology

- If outside organisations are involved, explain how you are going to get hold of the data.
- This chapter indicates why the methodology is used.
- If existing methodology is not to be used, explain why you need to use an adopted or adapted methodology.

