

Cambridge University Press 978-0-521-42968-9 - Research Methods in Language Learning David Nunan Table of Contents More information

Contents

.	
Pref	ace xi
1	An introduction to research methods and traditions 1
	Research traditions in applied linguistics 1 The status of knowledge 10 Some key concepts in research 12 Action research 17 Conclusion 20 Questions and tasks 21 Further reading 23
2	The experimental method 24
	The context of experimentation 24 The logic of statistical inference 28 Additional statistical tools 37 Types of experiments 40 The psychometric study: an example 41 Conclusion 47 Questions and tasks 48 Further reading 51
3	Ethnography 52
	Principles of ethnographic research 53 The reliability and validity of ethnography 58 The importance of context in ethnographic inquiry Contrasting psychometry and ethnography 68 Conclusion 71 Questions and tasks 71 Further reading 73
4	Case study 74
	Defining case studies 74 Reliability and validity of case study research 79 Single case research 81

vii



Cambridge University Press 978-0-521-42968-9 - Research Methods in Language Learning David Nunan Table of Contents More information

Contents

The case study: an example 83
Conclusion 88
Questions and tasks 89
Further reading 90

5 Classroom observation and research 91

Methods of classroom observation and research
A review of research 102
Classroom research: sample studies 105
Conclusion 109
Questions and tasks 110
Further reading 114

6 Introspective methods 115

Some early introspective methods
Diary studies 118
Retrospection 124
A sample study using introspection 129
Conclusion 132
Questions and tasks 132
Further reading 135

7 Elicitation techniques 136

Production tasks 136 Surveys 140 Questionnaires 143 149 Interviews A sample study 153 Conclusion 156 Questions and tasks 157 158 Further reading

8 Interaction analysis 159

Comparing discourse analysis, interaction analysis, and conversation analysis 159 Child-adult interaction 162 Adult-adult interaction: interpersonal encounters 168 Adult-adult interaction: transactional encounters 170 Interaction analysis in a cross-cultural context 174 Conclusion 177 Questions and tasks 178 Further reading 183

viii



Cambridge University Press 978-0-521-42968-9 - Research Methods in Language Learning David Nunan Table of Contents More information

Contents

9 Program evaluation 184

Defining evaluation 184

The relationship between assessment and evaluation 185
The importance of process data in program evaluation 189

Points of focus for program evaluation 190

Evaluation and research 193

Elements in the design of an evaluation study 196

Doing evaluation: a case study 201

Conclusion 208

Questions and tasks 209

Further reading 210

10 Doing research 211

Developing a research question 211

The literature review 216

Implementing the research project 218

Presenting the research 220

Conclusion 226

Questions and tasks 227

Further reading 228

Glossary of key terms in research 229

References 234

Index 245