

**ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD**  
**(Department of English Language & Applied Linguistics)**

**WARNING**

- 1. PLAGIARISM OR HIRING OF GHOST WRITER(S) FOR SOLVING THE ASSIGNMENT(S) WILL DEBAR THE STUDENT FROM AWARD OF DEGREE/CERTIFICATE, IF FOUND AT ANY STAGE.**
- 2. SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS BORROWED OR STOLEN FROM OTHER(S) AS ONE'S OWN WILL BE PENALIZED AS DEFINED IN "AIOU PLAGIARISM POLICY".**

**Course: Research Methodology (5669)**

**Level: MA TEFL**

**Semester: Spring, 2014**

**Total Marks: 100**

**Pass Marks: 40**

**ASSIGNMENT No. 1**

- Q.1 What is the significance of 'educational research'? What kind of research problems might be investigated by an educational researcher? Critically evaluate the current practices of educational research in our country. **(15)**
- Q.2 What is the difference between a research question and a research hypothesis? Distinguish between researchable and non-researchable questions with a few examples. **(10)**
- Q.3 What are the indicators of high quality research? Explain any five of them with relevant examples. **(10)**
- Q.4 What is research paradigm? Discuss in detail the difference between positivist and post positivist research paradigms. **(10)**
- Q.5 Discuss in detail the significance Literature Review in any kind of research. How is it helpful in developing the theoretical and methodological frameworks for a research study? **(15)**
- Q.6 What is the difference between participant and non participant observation? Explain some of the important principles of preparing an observation sheet / checklist? **(10)**
- Q.7 Define and differentiate between different kinds of variables. Explain what kinds of variables a researcher needs to control in an experimental study. **(10)**

- Q.8 What is sampling framework? What is the significance of drawing a sample in a research study? Explain some of the techniques of probability and non probability sampling with the help of examples. (10)
- Q.9 What are the instruments of data collection? Discuss the salient features and significance of structured, semi structured and unstructured interviews. (10)

## **ASSIGNMENT No. 2**

**Total Marks: 40 +60 = 100**

This assignment is based on research oriented activity. The students are required to conduct a research study and prepare a brief report on their findings in one of the areas given below. They will submit the report to the tutor within the scheduled period. Then, they will have to present the same in the course/ assignment presentation workshop (the schedule of the course/assignment presentation workshop will be intimated by the tutor concerned or the relevant Regional office). The assignment carries 40 marks for the written report / assignment and 60 for the presentation. **You will be given approximately 15 to 20 minutes for presentation. You are advised to consult literature to find out the mechanics of writing a formal research report; in case of any difficulty you must ask your concerned tutor to clarify your concepts.**

These are the few guidelines for writing and presenting the report:

- a. The written report should be written in clear, concise and correct English.
- b. It should be 5-8 double spaced typed/handwritten pages.
- c. The presentation will be assessed and evaluated mainly in:
  - i. Contents of the assignment/report
  - ii. Communication skills
  - iii. Language accuracy
  - iv. Language fluency
  - v. Presentation style
- d. You may use transparencies, charts or any other material for good presentation with the permission of your tutor (if possible).
- e. You have to follow either APA or MLA guidelines for research mechanics and citation, do not forget to consult thesis handbook which is provided to you with your study material.
- f. The following headings should be incorporated in the research report.
  - i. Introduction to the study
  - ii. Statement of the problem
  - iii. Significance of the study
  - iv. Objectives of the study
  - v. Population/sample
  - vi. Delimitations of the study

- vii. Review of related literature
- viii. Research design
- ix. Data collection
- x. Data analysis
- xi. Findings
- xii. Conclusion
- xiii. Recommendations
- xiv. Bibliography

**You will prepare your project on any one of the following topics. Your tutor will assign different topics to different students during your classes. For example, if the number of students in your class is twenty, same topic may not be assigned to more than four students.**

1. The language used to E media is considered to be strikingly different from standard variety of English in various respects like semantic, syntactic, orthographic and pragmatic usage. Conduct a research study to find out the nature, frequency and patterns of differential features of the language of electronic media. You can randomly select your sample from online chat rooms, Facebook, Skype, Twitter, E-mails and SMS, etc. After the collection of data, analyze it qualitatively as well as quantitatively to draw inferences and conclusions.
2. The advertising discourse is said to be powerful, potent and persuasive because of its unique characteristic feature, it constructs, deconstructs and reconstructs the stereotypical gender image. Conduct a research study to find out whether the advertising discourse of Pakistani English newspapers/ magazines exhibits the same characteristic features and constructs the gender image in stereotypical way or is there any kind of departure from traditional depiction of masculinity and femininity.
3. Conduct a research study to find out the relationship between the use of positive reinforcement techniques and the students' mean scores in the subject of English language. Formulate your Null hypothesis clearly to establish the relationship between independent and dependent variables. You can make use of experimental research design or nay other suitable research method like class observation. If you aim at observing a classroom to find out the impact of positive reinforcement techniques on learners' performance, then do prepare a proper observation sheet or checklist in advance.