

Developing a discourse analysis project Many issues need to be considered while planning and carrying out a discourse analysis project. The most important is research question. Cameron 2001 has suggested that one important characteristic of a good research project is that it has a good idea. Criteria Johnstone

(2000) 1– A well-focused idea about spoken and written discourse 2– An understanding of how

discourse analytic techniques can be used to answer the research question(s) you are asking 3– An

understanding of why your question(s) about spoken or written discourse are important in a wider context; that is, why answering the question(s) will have practical value and/or be of interest to the world at large; Criteria 4– Familiarity with and access to the location where your discourse analysis project will

be carried out; 5– Ability to get the discourse data that is needed for the research project; 6– The time it

will realistically take to carry out the discourse analysis project, analyse the results and write up the

results of the project; 7– Being comfortable with and competent in the ways of collecting the discourse data required by the project; 8– Being competent in the method(s) of analysis required for the project.

1. Choosing a research question Cameron says good ideas for research “ don’t just spring up from the researchers imagination, they are suggested by previous research” Reading the area of interest. 2.

Focusing a research topic Stevens and Asmar (1999: 15) suggest that ‘wiser heads ‘ know that a good research project is ‘narrow and deep’ 3. Turning the topic into a research question At this stage we

should strike the balance between a value of the question and the ability to develop a discourse analysis project are capable of carrying out i.e the project you have the background, expertise, resources and

access to data that are needed for the project. Kinds of Discourse Analysis Projects The author

underlines many kinds of discourse analysis projects which are as under: A. Replication of Previous

discourse Studies. B. Using Different Discourse Data but the same methodology C. Analyzing Existing

Data from a Discourse Analysis Perspective D. Analyzing Discourse data from Different perspective E.

Considering the validity of a previous Claim F. Focusing on unanalyzed Genres G. Mixed– Method

Discourse Studies Two Sample Discourse Studies Group presentations (A+B) vCombining perspectives

strengthen the study. Evaluating a Discourse Analysis Project Tailor considers two key issues: 1.

Reliability It means the consistency of the result obtained in the project. There are two of its kinds i.e. internal and external reliability. 2. Validity Investigate the truth or the accuracy of the generalization being

.made by the researcher