

Course Code: ENG-525 (Fall-2025)

Assignment: 01

Assignment: Research Synopsis **Guidelines**

This assignment aims to develop students' foundational research skills in applied linguistics. It guides them through each stage of creating a research synopsis from selecting a focused topic and formulating research objectives and questions to reviewing relevant literature and aligning appropriate research methodology. The task strengthens students' analytical, critical, and academic writing abilities necessary for designing a coherent, practical, and ethically sound research proposal.

Assignment Learning Outcomes (LOs)

LO1: Students will be able to formulate a clear, focused, and researchable topic with an appropriate and academically aligned title.
LO2: Students will be able to construct relevant and measurable research objectives (ROs) and research questions (RQs) aligned with the identified topic.
LO3: Students will be able to analyze and synthesize relevant literature to establish the theoretical foundation and identify research gaps.
LO4: Students will be able to design an appropriate research methodology by matching the research problem with suitable design, methods, sampling, and ethical considerations.

1. Title

The title should clearly and precisely represent what your research is about. It usually contains four parts: **Action/Phenomenon**, **Variables**, **Subjects**, and **Population**.

Word Limit: Maximum 20 words.

Component	Description & Examples
Action/Phenomenon	What are you studying? Examples: Effect of..., Role of..., Impact of..., Analysis of..., Stylistic Study of...
Variables	What will you measure or analyze? Examples: Grammar errors, Themes in literature, Teaching approaches, Learner motivation.
Subjects	Who or what will be studied? Examples: ESL students, English teachers, Poets, Novels or poems.

Component	Description & Examples
Population	Where or in what context does the study apply? Examples: BS English students, Rural learners in Punjab, British poetry.
Example	The Impact of Linguistic Errors on Fluency Among ESL Learners.

2. Research Objectives

Research objectives describe what your study aims to achieve. Each objective should begin with an **action verb** and clearly state the **focus**, **aspect**, and **target population**.

Word Limit: Write 1-2 objectives, each 15–20 words.

Component	Description & Examples
Action Verb	Shows the purpose of the research. Examples: To analyze, To investigate, To evaluate, To identify.
Object of Study	The main element or theme studied. Examples: Themes of alienation, Role of motivation, Effectiveness of teaching methods.
Aspect/Variable	The specific dimension or condition involved. Examples: In postcolonial novels, On fluency, In pronunciation.
Target Population/Context	The group or setting where the research applies. Examples: Among BS English students, In ESL classrooms.
Example	To investigate the impact of linguistic errors on fluency among ESL learners.

3. Research Questions

Research questions guide the direction of your study. They should be specific, research-able, and focused on the relationship between variables.

Word Limit: Write 1-2 clear, concise questions (each 15–20 words).

Component	Description & Examples
Question Word	Begins with: What, How, Why, To what extent.
Independent Variable	The factor studied or manipulated. Examples: Syntactic errors, Motivation, Teaching strategy.

Component	Description & Examples
Dependent Variable	The outcome affected by the independent variable. Examples: Communicative competence, Writing accuracy, Fluency.
Context/Population	Where or among whom the study is conducted. Examples: Among ESL learners, In Pakistani universities.
Example	What is the impact of syntactic errors on communicative competence of ESL learners?

4. Literature Review

The literature review summarizes existing research and identifies what has already been discovered, what is missing, and how your study will fill that gap.

Word Limit: 150–200 words (summarizing 05 relevant studies).

Component	Description & Examples
Summarize Previous Studies	Review 05 relevant studies and highlight findings. Example: Rahman (2020) found that rural ESL learners face speaking challenges.
Identify the Research Gap	Highlight what earlier studies ignored. Example: Limited research on improving speaking skills among rural ESL learners in Pakistan.
Purpose	To link your study to existing research and justify its significance.

5. Methodology

The methodology section explains how your research will be conducted from design and sampling to data collection and ethics.

Word Limit: 200–250 words.

Component	Description & Examples
Research Design & Approach	Choose Qualitative, Quantitative, or Mixed-method design.
Research Method	Specify the method: Survey, Interview, Experiment, Content Analysis.
Population & Sampling	Define who will be studied and how they'll be chosen. Examples: Purposive, Convenience, Random sampling.

Component	Description & Examples
Sample Size	State how many participants or texts will be analyzed.
Data Analysis Techniques	Explain how data will be processed. Examples: SPSS analysis, Thematic coding, N Vivo software.
Ethical Considerations	Mention informed consent, confidentiality, ethical approval.
Example 1	Error Analysis of ESL Students' Writing Qualitative design, 25 students, Surface Strategy Taxonomy, ethical approval.
Example 2	Thematic Analysis of Modern English Poetry Content analysis, 10 poems, N Vivo coding, citation ethics maintained.

6. Expected Outcome

Description:

Expected outcomes summarize what you anticipate finding or demonstrating through your research.

Word Limit: 50–70 words.

Component	Description & Examples
Purpose	Describes what you expect to prove or discover.
Example	Frequent linguistic errors are likely to reduce learners' fluency and communication effectiveness.

7. References

Description:

This section lists all the works you have cited in your synopsis. References must strictly follow the **APA 7th Edition** format to ensure academic credibility and consistency.

(Word limit: As required include only cited sources.)

Component	Explanation	Example (APA 7 Format)
Books	Italicize the book title. Include edition if applicable.	Brown, H. D. (2020). <i>Principles of language learning and teaching</i> (7th ed.). Pearson.
Journal Articles	Italicize journal title and volume number. Add DOI if available.	Ali, S., & Rahman, T. (2022). The impact of L1 on English writing among Pakistani students. <i>Journal of Language Education</i> , 15(3), 45–58. https://doi.org/10.1234/jle.2022.03
Websites	Mention author or organization, publication year, italicized title, and URL.	American Psychological Association. (2020). <i>Publication manual of the American Psychological Association</i> (7th ed.). https://apastyle.apa.org
General Tips	Be consistent in punctuation, capitalization, and italics. Verify all sources are cited in text.	
Formatting	Use double spacing, hanging indent (0.5 inch), and alphabetical order by authors' last names.	

Examples:

Ali, S., & Rahman, T. (2022). The impact of L1 on English writing among Pakistani students. *Journal of Language Education*, 15(3), 45–58.

<https://doi.org/10.1234/jle.2022.03>

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://apastyle.apa.org>

Brown, H. D. (2020). *Principles of language learning and teaching* (7th ed.). Pearson.

