

## RESEARCH DYNAMICS: PHILOSOPHY BEHIND ARTICLE ACCEPTABILITY OR REJECTION IN ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES' RESEARCH

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### ABSTRACT

Scores of papers are rejected and more postgraduate candidates (Masters and PhD) are dropping out of their programs, particularly Economics and other Social Science disciplines. The understanding of research methodology and research method has an illusory vision in publishing finance and economics articles. This paper explores the literature to identify the philosophy behind conducting a research worthwhile for publication and or conduct a certified postgraduate research thesis. Specifically, it provides philosophical considerations of research design, research methodology and research method. It applies the exploratory method in determining the wisdom behind economic and social research. From various arguments, the fresh researchers would be familiar with philosophy of research design and see where a specific research philosophy would be applicable in education, finance, economics, political science, social studies and other disciplines. The paper argues that no research design is superior to each other. Though not all indicators of research article rejection are discussed in this write-up, the paper presents a ten-point checklist of research design as a guide for conducting and presenting a research article for publication or the writing of a certified research thesis.

**KEYWORDS:** Economics, Social Sciences, Research Design, Research Methodology, Research Method, Epistemology, Ontology, Constructivist, Research Design

### INTRODUCTION

After considerable efforts put on a paper, many articles submitted to the high impact journals, such as Institute of Scientific Information (ISI) and Scopus were found non-publishable- particularly articles in economics and social science disciplines. Likewise, many postgraduate candidates in these fields had dropped out of either Masters or PhD programs. Some Masters and PhD candidates do spend 8 to 12 academic years in their program, while some had abandoned the program across all tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Phobia of writing and publishing becomes issues among fresh researchers and PhD candidates. Clearly, Thrower (2012) pointed eight reasons for rejecting a paper. Aside from the technical framework of a paper, the central argument is that papers are rejected if the procedure of the paper or method of data analysis is unclear. This boils down to philosophy of achieving acceptability of a research article. Likewise, the rate of PhD student's failure to grab the PhD certificate could be rooted from the failure of understanding the philosophical procedure of research. Hence, the paper rejection and postgraduate dropout are strong issues in research, development and scientific research, particularly for the incoming fresh researchers in Economics and Social Science disciplines.

Everyone has ideas, but the ability to understand the philosophy of research in economics and finance is somewhat captured. Sometimes, authors may think that journal editors are guiding the identity of the journal in terms of

impact, but the broad reason could be to enable the paper make a worthwhile contribution to the body of knowledge and improve societal values. Despite several publications on research, to achieve publishable research paper is quite tasking and devastating, particularly demand to publish as a basic requirement for academic staff, PhD candidate and fresh researchers in high-tech Universities. This paper explores the literature to identify the philosophy behind conducting a publishable paper and wisdom behind completing a postgraduate research thesis. To enhance the capability of economics and social researchers, specifically, the paper considers the philosophical dynamics of a research design and find levels of difference between research method and research methodology. The paper is divided into five sections and subsections. Section two addresses the philosophical underpinning research design. Section three discusses frameworks for research design while section four provides an understanding of the dynamics of research. Section five is the concluding part of the paper.

### **Theoretical Considerations**

Let me start with a brief illustration using 'Truth' as moving personality. Truth is the utmost goal for society orderliness and economic growth (Crossman, 2016). Sometimes Truth gets lost or hides it. The friends of the Truth begin to ask: where is the Truth? What has happened to the Truth? What made him to disappear? Why did Truth disappear? How did Truth disappear without our knowledge? These are rhetorical questions that could border the friends of the Truth. With curiosity, the search of the Truth begins. Why? The friends of the Truth are looking for it to sustain order and the growth of the society. To know where truth is, search systematic framework of movement to discover the location of the Truth is drawn. Thus, research is a scientific and systematic process of identifying, confirming and detecting where the Truth is, why he disappeared, how it disappeared and what made it to disappear. Research is finding the fundamental truth about the societal problems. For example, a researcher in economics may attempt to examine the cause-effect relationship of world financial crisis of 2008/2009. As well, they may want to observe the effects of growth on people's welfare. Since research is a process, the process has been validated by previous scholars to ensure that the actual characteristics of Truth about a phenomenon are discovered and or confirmed (Kumar, 2011). The process is based on different philosophies because of the dynamism of the society. Let us understand the basic philosophical ideologies in a research process, as it may be applicable in Economics and Social Science disciplines.

### **Epistemological Argument**

Epistemology has its root with empiricism, which gave birth to positivist philosophy (Darlaston-Jones, 2007). It studies the nature, breadth and length of knowledge and provides reasons for such belief. It answers the question like 'How do we discover the reality?' (Radford, 2015; Tennis, 2008). The advocates of epistemology contest the subjective explanation of construction of what reality is (Darlaston-Jones, 2007). Instead, truth is discovered through objectivity, universality and quantitatively. In the process of how we 'know', the epistemologist argued that history and culture of the society play cardinal roles in discovering the reality. In this sense, science has gone to understand reality through the ideology of empiricists, which is an embodiment of the history and culture of the society (Piaget & Garcia, 1989; Radford, 2015). The scientist developed mathematically or quantitatively, a phenomenon based on epistemological philosophy. In the same vein, economics emerged from the historical and behavioral pattern of the society. Hence, the social scientists such as financial researchers and economists follow empiricists or the positivist's research process of confirming the theory. Interestingly, political scientists have embarked on empiricist's research procedure. However, the historical

perception was contested by Radford (2015) **that** the mechanism of knowledge is everywhere, irrespective of geography and location of the source of knowledge. Instead, he argued that the process of knowledge construction is rather being “ahistorical and acontextual” (P. 2) (Radford, 2015; Radford, Boero, & Vasco, 2000). As such, he considered history as non-influence to the discovery of reality.

### **Ontological Argument**

Philosophically, ontology studies the kind of things that exist (Chandrasekaran, Josephson, & Benjamins, 1999). It is a “systematic account of existence” (Gruber, 1993)p.200). In clear terms, Gruber(1993) defines ontology as “definitions of classes, relations, functions, and other objects” (p.200). It implies conceptualization of knowledge of reality. The ontological philosophical argument emphasizes that a complex system of knowledge should be conceptualized. Without ontologies, what constitutes the body of knowledge would rather not exist (Chandrasekaran et al., 1999). However, conceptualizing the knowledge received opposition on two grounds. First, what ‘we know’ live in our minds. We have knowledge of reality, not based on how it is but how we conceptualize the knowledge of reality (Smith, 2004). Second, errors ‘we know’ now were previous knowledge of reality. Meanwhile, Smith (2004), further argued that time indicates and that we cannot dismiss that knowledge acquired previously on erroneous belief is no longer knowledge. From these debates, we capture that conceptualizing a system enhances better results in the process of knowledge of reality. Hence, to capture a complex system by conceptualization, the hideout of the Truth is quickly detected. Those researchers in business and finance are found by using structural equation modelling (SEM) for a method of data analysis. The informed usage of the SEM method is the ability of the conceptualization of a complex system and the connectivity. Business, Finance, and Development oriented departments, the need should be to understand the process or philosophy of ontology to become skillful in handling complex system. For example, studying poverty using money metric approach of \$1.25 a day had been replaced with multidimensional approach. A household that has car building, water and electricity may fall below the poverty line of \$1.25. In this instance, the situation is complex that require conceptualization to capture idiosyncratic elements of the household. In consequence, this will account for true understanding of economic and financial parameters to enhance the good policy formulation.

### **Constructivist Argument**

The school of thought on the theory of constructivism argued ‘how’ a researcher or learner is able to know. The focus of the constructivism is to describe ‘how’ reality is achieved, developed and the application of the knowledge acquired. Basically, the model of the constructivist is descriptive (Airasian & Walsh, 1997). Be as it may, the position of constructivists is in knowledge construction. The process of constructivist philosophy is: the researcher builds up knowledge from external realities of the environment → construct the knowledge from human internalization<sup>1</sup> → through social interactions, knowledge is best constructed. The later involves discussion, sharing ideas, comparing events and situations among the peers, thereby knowledge is constructed (Moshman, 1982). Applefield, Huber, & Moallem (2000) called the process as exogenous, endogenous and social constructivism. In Economics, the trend of economic and financial events could be determined by knowledge of the society over time. In consequence of the argument, the constructivists disassociate themselves from the philosophy of transmitting knowledge. Rather, they propagated that knowledge is built up and transformed (Applefield, Huber, & Moallem, 2000). Hence, models are built up for the

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<sup>1</sup>Read more about the argument of internalization of knowledge-built

relationship. From the foregoing arguments, we posit that reality can be determined or Truth can be detected through explorative approach, but can migrate from explorative to descriptive which is determined by endogenous, exogenous and social interaction.

## **RESEARCH DESIGN**

Having the basic philosophical ideologies of research, the process of discovering the Truth or determine the reality centers on designing the process. Design is a plan to achieve an objective, particularly in economic problems. The outcome of such plan usually increases the chance of believability and acceptability of the model results and policy formulated afterward (Hooper, Coughlan, & Mullen, 2008). This implies that the designs of the processes of an article or research PhD thesis are expected to be clear and give right direction of the study. Hence, design helps to give shapes, structures, beauty that would allow for good ‘picturization’ of the research problem resulting to believability (Hooper et al., 2008). It will make the work appealing and acceptable to the editors, supervisors and readers of the research report. As a researcher, you should understand that each research work is dynamic and has its own philosophical design that makes it acceptable to the research community. In the pure and social sciences, though may be applicable to other disciplines, the research process is distinctly classified into two philosophical domains: confirmatory and detective research design. In fairness, research can be designed to be exploratory or descriptive, inductive or deductive; objective or subjective (Piaw, 2013; Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2007). These we discuss in the next subsections.

### **Confirmatory Research Design (CRD)**

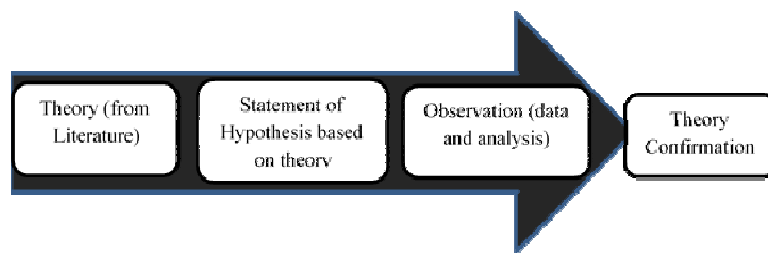
The confirmatory research design (CRD), from different perspectives, and in the interest of understanding applicability in economic research process, researchers have renamed it as descriptive, deductive or positivist research design (Bhattacharjee, 2012; Piaw, 2012). Confirmatory research is designed to confirm whether previous theories are still consistent or inconsistent. For example, the theory of demand stipulates an inverse relationship of price and quantity. In business oriented research, your output of price and quantity relationship is expected to confirm an inverse relationship otherwise, the hypothesis would be rejected. Substantial number of research projects in Economics and other social sciences are undergoing confirmatory research design.

Firstly, in a descriptive research design, the researchers lay importance on describing factual phenomenon. It mentions ‘what’ it is like and not ‘how’ it is. To get out the best form of a descriptive research, explanation and evaluation should be left out for the reader (Bhattacharjee, 2012; Jong & van der Voordt, 2002). No serious explanation required about the subject under study from you as the researcher. Descriptive research has the focus to address “what, where, and when” in relation to the problem(s) identified at the onset, with the use of quantitative data (Bhattacharjee, 2012). It works closely to provide descriptive analysis of the characteristics stated in a good research question. The researcher works from theory to confirmatory level of the study

Secondly, the school of thought that uses deductive research design argued that the researcher starts his work from the generalization to particularization. Theories are examined by stating hypothesis that emerged from the theory. In the process, the hypothesis is reduced into more specific hypotheses which would form observations or variables for data collection and analysis (Bhattacharjee, 2012).

Thirdly, the positivist schools of thought are interested in the accuracy of the outcome of the research. Emphasis

is placed on identification, measurement and accuracy existing in the relationship between the dependent and the independent variables (Piaw, 2012). All the research design labels by scholars, invariably, follow the same process and use data to explain the extent of the independent variables' behavior on the dependent variable. This demonstrates a compatibility of the schools of thought using descriptive, deductive and positivist research design labels. They revolve around the same confirmatory philosophy of research design. Following the argument, the characteristics of descriptive, deductive and positivist research design are summarised and presented in Figure 1 below.



**Figure 1: Confirmatory Research Design**

**Source: Author**

### **Detective Research Design**

In social sciences research, some situations often arise where the researcher would find it extremely difficult to have knowledge of the population and its characteristics. The little information about the characteristics of the subject being studied and the population may not allow for quantitative study. In that wise, the detective research design is a good approach. The detective design is the ability of the framework, that researcher uses to detect the theory. It is a philosophy that emerged from grounded theory, which was developed by Glasser and Strauss (1967). It works from particularization to generalization. The detective research design has been used with different labels by scholars. This includes exploratory, inductive and interpretative research design.

Firstly, exploratory research design argument is that it helps to detect new things and assess a given phenomenon in order to create new perception to the reader (Jong & van der Voordt, 2002). The researcher act or assume the role of a detector. Consultation to literature, consultation with focused group and consultation with the experts in that field of study are the basic methods of exploratory research design (Saunders et al., 2007). As a researcher intending to propound a theory, exploratory philosophy is sufficient for you.

Further, Burns and Bush (2003) added case analysis and projective methods to the three methods (Saunders et al., 2007). From their discussion, the case analysis method is to obtain information from similar phenomenon to make the study problem clearer. The projective method explores the intuition of the respondents to put them into a circumstance and respond to the researcher questions thereafter. For example, “if you are the governor of your state, will you be corrupt?” “Put yourself in the position of the President of this country, is fighting corruption worthwhile?” “Will you allow Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) work as independent institution?”. This method looks deficient for policy formulation. The response might be far from the truth of the phenomenon due to the dynamism of human behavior either from personal influence or socio-economic distractions. The researcher using this technique must be careful of such assumption, where policy or critical managerial decision is to be drawn at the conclusion, otherwise not suitable. Critically, the case analysis method may be appropriate method of instrument where it is available. It can also be argued that previous

experience of 10 percent similarity of a phenomenon might be negligible and acceptable. At below 10 percent level, we posit that no clear explanation of the problem could be ascertained. However, when previous experience is higher than 10 percent, there may be associations of events that could make the problem (population and its characteristics) clearer such that the study migrates from detective (exploratory) to confirmatory (descriptive) research design. In a nutshell, exploratory establishes how? and why? a phenomenon occurred (Bhattacharjee, 2012), which makes a difference from descriptive research design.

Secondly, the inductive school of thought explains that a researcher needs to commence his study from observation through detecting the theory. It is an inverse explanation to deductive research design. It allows for open-ended style of observation. Qualitative requires exploration from the beginning of the research project. Some scholars usually named it as “bottom up” method of research design (Piaw, 2012).

Thirdly, the interpretative research design is argued as part of the detective research design. It focuses on the use of verbal descriptive data, though sometimes resulting to dummy variable (Piaw, 2012). It does not emphasize and require numerical estimation. The study targets small sample of the population to see how independent variable ( $X$ ) influences dependent variable ( $Y$ ) without rigorous empirical analysis. For example, the relationship of housemaids, who had excellently performed in the household chores in relation to poverty alleviation programme requires small sample. In this instance, qualitative data (interview) and analysis are sufficient (Piaw, 2012). So, in the philosophy of detective research design, it is characterized with similar argument - exploring, inductive and interpretative follows the process of bottom-up method. These characteristics are illustrated in Figure 2 below.



**Figure 2: Detective Research Design**

**Source: Author**

Clearly, both confirmatory and detective research design are popular across researchers. The researcher is expected to select as applicable to the dynamism of his research problem(s). For example, a researcher might use deductive or descriptive research design, *ceteris paribus*, either of the two cited, follows the argument of confirming the existing theory. In this paper, the distinction and clarification of these methods are integrated into a single model named as Detect-Confirm Research Design (DCRD) (see Figure).

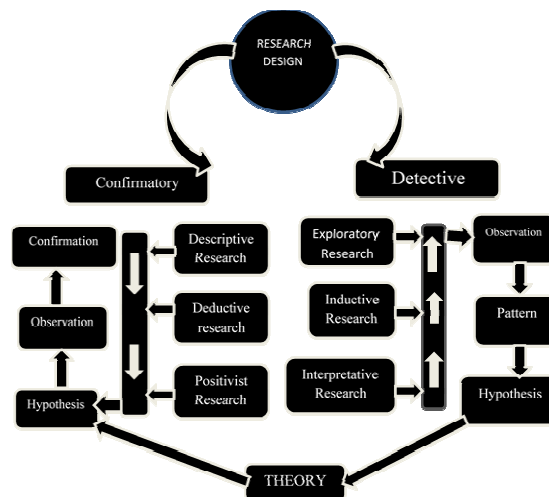


Figure 3: Detect-Confirm Research Design

The dynamism of research is found in the recent arguments that researchers could employ mixed method research design. The mixed method philosophers argued that both quantitative and qualitative research designs are important to obtain satisfactory results in a research project. In order to select appropriate research design for a given study, we first discuss the dynamics of research in the following section.

### DYNAMICS OF RESEARCH

There are three research dynamics as philosophically pointed out, to assist fresh researchers and postgraduate candidates. The dynamics optimization in designing a research framework has the purview to obtain undisputable outcome. These dynamics are quantitative, qualitative and mixed method (MM). As a fresh researcher, understanding what it takes to choose the right research design is an opportunity cost to acceptability of research article and or certification of PhD Thesis in Economics and other Social Sciences.

#### Quantitative Research

The quantitative research follows the philosophical ideas of the positivist. It employs descriptive research wherein it generates large statistical data through questionnaire (Dawson, 2002). In this paper, it goes with confirmatory research design. Due to sufficient data gathered, it is helpful to obtain actual direction of the hypothesis for testing and based on the proposition of prior knowledge of the problem and the population (Soiferman, 2010). The general changes within the population is easily identified and as well, the individual participants are independent of each other (Piaw, 2012; Soiferman, 2010). With that, sample is easily determined through random sampling, (Hanson, Creswell, Clark, Petska, & Creswell, 2005; Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2004; Piaw, 2012; Soiferman, 2010). Researcher in pure and social sciences often apply quantitative research particularly in experimental and non-experimental designs (Soiferman, 2010). The fresh researchers in economics and social behaviours should understand that quantitative research is to confirm the existing theories in his field of interest using descriptive approach. Data required for the study should be greater or equal to thirty. The type of data available for quantitative analysis are time series, cross sectional survey, panel data etc. The time series financial and economic data could be sourced from Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Statistical Bulletin and World Bank while the cross sectional data are got randomly from the population sample. STATA, SPSS, Eview, Minitab are statistical software required to learn.



## Qualitative Research

The qualitative research follows the interpretivist philosophy of research design (Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2004). The central theorem of the method is the intensive use of people's experiences, attitudes and social behavior with the use of interview guide, literature exploration, focus group, and consultation with the experts (Dawson, 2002; Piaw 2012; Saunders et al., 2007). This does not attract intensive use of data because the researcher has little or no knowledge about the phenomenon or the population (Piaw, 2012). In Johnson and Onwuegbuzie (2004) argument, qualitative approach helps to understand the concept of humanism, idealism, constructivism, and relativism. As a result, the interpretivist employs this approach to achieve the explorative objective. The researcher should not make error of observing the phenomenon as cause-effect relationship. Unlike the quantitative research, the interpretivist argued that cause and effect should not be separated. The respondent interviewed is the origin of the truth that provides direct information about the problem. From the direct information obtained, theory is thereafter detected. Another feature of the qualitative is that the report is comprehensive unlike the passive report of the positivists. Summarily, the fresh researchers should note that qualitative research approach is primarily to detect theory and does attracts the use of small sample size. This typically rooted from grounded theory (Dawson, 2002). To analyse data obtained from the respondents, researchers had been using qualitative software such as NVIVO.

## Mixed Method: A Recent Research Development

The word 'mixed' implies 'combined', as in combination of two or more objects or colour. Hence, the mixed method is an approach that combines the quantitative and qualitative characteristics, to solve social problem in a research project. It is a form of inquiry that collects qualitative and quantitative data, synthesizes, organizes and analyses such data based on theories and philosophical assumptions. The core philosophical assumption is the proposition that the combined designs helps to understand the research problem clearly (Creswell, 2014, Dawson, 2002; Harrison, 2011; Onwuegbuzie & Teddlie, 2003; Soiferman, 2010). It is "pragmatic worldview" of research (Creswell, 2014, p.39). The pragmatism of the mixed mode approach is the use of all approaches accessible to the researcher, to fully understand the research problem (Creswell, 2014; Harrison, 2011). Observing the benefit of mixed mode, the positivist researchers in the pure and social sciences have integrated interpretivist approach to examine a research problem simultaneously to detect and confirm theory (Small, 2011; Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2004). The challenge of the approach is the capability of the researcher to handle the research problems with scientific research lens. Otherwise, the philosophical assumptions would be faulted due to confusion arising from the method and poor justification of the process of the combination (Small, 2011).

## Research Methodology Versus Research Method

Often, researchers find selection of research design and method of analysis to use very difficult in their research project. This could be attributed to misunderstanding of research methodology and research method. This section presents a clear distinction between the concepts.

## Research Methodology

The word 'Methodology' is derived from method + Ology where Ology is a branch of knowledge or branch of learning. Hence, learning + method would technically imply learning of method (Singh, 2016). At the onset of the research project, the researcher should understand the wisdom behind the intended research about to start. Hence, Dawson, (2002)



saw research methodology as the philosophy or general framework that protects and preserve the research outcome with effect to make useful contribution to existing knowledge. In other words, it is a systematic and pragmatic worldview procedure to solve a research problem. It tells us the principle of how knowledge is accumulated in a study. It is a framework designed by the researcher, which will explain the constraints, ethical issues related to the study and the predicament to be encountered. In designing the framework, you need to make some choices. This include making choices about what information and data to gather, empiricist philosophy or interpretivist philosophy, descriptive or explorative research design. Also, how to estimate the data that you gathered from the field and the software intend to use are other critical choices to make. In that case, each research project should have a designed procedure/framework at the onset of the research project. It will guide the process for discovering the truth and give appropriate direction of the methods to adopt in the study. For example, suppose you chose quantitative method. The research methodology would provide a framework of justification on why you chose quantitative method rather than qualitative method. Part of the justification is the assumption that there is opportunity to use large sample and the generalization of the result on the population.

**Research Method**

The research method refers to the research instruments that the researcher used to collect his data from the sample area (Dawson, 2002). In other words, what did the researcher used to obtain his data? What strategies did he employ in the data collection? In social sciences' research, the ability to give a report of survey, questionnaires, observation and interview' methods used to collect the data is indicating that the researcher is reporting the research method (Singh, 2016; Dawson, 2002, Creswell, 2014). Where primary data is required, the questionnaire could be constructed using RASCH model. Thus, the research method of your study comes at advance stage of the research. Do not account for it when the research project is just started. It should be left until the research methodology is made clear, as well as hypothesis and objectives are well stated. From the research methods explained, it generates into the specification of the model, apply appropriate technique of analysis (parametric and nonparametric estimations) and use appropriate statistical software (Eview, STATA, NVIVO, R, SPSS, SmartPLS, WarpPLS, AmosSPSS etc).The distinction of the two concepts are presented in Table 1 below

**Table 1: Research Methodology and Research Method**

	<b>Research Methodology</b>	<b>Research Method</b>
<b>Meaning</b>	It is the philosophy or general framework that protects each research project.	It is the research instrument(s) that the researcher uses to collect his data from the sample area e.g. survey.
<b>Characteristics</b>	It comes at the beginning of the research project.Design the framework for the study and study the methods. The target is the use of the correct procedure to find the Truth. It uses the framework as guide in the process to preserve the future result of the research.	It comes at the advanced stage of the research.Focus on the use of survey, questionnaire, interview etc The target is to proffer solution to the research queries/questions. It concerns with modelling of the phenomenon, the use of statistical instrument and generate result for theory and policy implication.

Source: Author

**Making Choice of Appropriate Research Design**

There are three equal alternative approaches available to a researcher in solving a research problem - the quantitative, qualitative and mixed method. As a researcher, never think that one approach is superior to the other because

positivists and interpretivist philosophies have both strengths and weaknesses. Instead, consider the checklist for making appropriate choice of research design in the next subsection.

### Research Design Checklist

- Check whether the research question starts with what? when? does? where? If yes, you are into descriptive research. It implies that you are to choose quantitative research design, with positivist characteristics. (Bhattacharjee, 2012),
- Check whether your research is tailored toward feminist research. If so, you are likely choosing mixed method rather than selecting from either qualitative or quantitative method. This is because the feminist researchers argued that researches in feminine is dynamic and should be treated as such while making choice of research (Dawson 2002).
- Check if your work is into ethnography or anthropology. If so, then you are to choose qualitative. This is because the anthropologists or ethnography primary research is “describing and interpreting cultural behavior” (Creswell, 2014; Dawson, 2002).
- Check if your research problem is to look at cause-effect, effect, impact, examine and determine. If so, then you are likely to choose quantitative method (Dawson, 2002).
- Check if your research is not committed to any type of philosophical ideologies and assumptions. If so, you will choose mixed method (Creswell, 2014).
- Check if the sample size required is less than thirty ( $n < 30$ ). If so, you will likely choose qualitative method. For example, if you are investigating the behavior of housemaid, the sample would be small because the number of female into the profession is few (Dawson, 2002; Piaw, 2012). In quantitative research, it is expected that  $n \geq 30$ .
- Suppose your research question begins with How? Why? Then, you are into qualitative research. This is because the phenomenon is not clear. No understanding of the population parameters (Bhattacharjee, 2012; Creswell, 2014).
- Check whether your research is action research. If so, you need to choose qualitative research (Dawson, 2002).
- Check from your literature review whether you will need triangulation. If so, you would choose mixed method (Dawson, 2002).
- Check whether your study would tend to be narrative. If so, choose qualitative method (Creswell 2014).
- However, Dawson, (2002) argued that other lists may arise from the researcher’s intuition and choice of words. If you pay close attention into choosing appropriate research design, then you are in the right way to complete your thesis with ease or your research paper is in half-way to be accepted for publication.

### CONCLUSIONS

The paper explored literature that gives synopsis of the philosophical requirements behind conducting acceptable

researched article for publication in high impact journals and PhD thesis. It specifically presents argument on research design available to the researcher to write within the research procedures and analysis of data. The argument of the paper provides a clear understanding to the Thrower (2012) argument that papers are rejected due to unclear research procedure and method of data analysis. Various arguments show that there is no superiority among the research designs. The choice of a research design depends on the nature of the framework put up at the onset of the research by the researcher. Thus, the paper presents ten checklist points and justification as guide for research design selection, which in turn is our contribution to social science research literature. However, the synopsis of other issues leading to article rejection and poor PhD thesis, such as technicalities and scope could be explored in a future article. This paper concludes that a research article and PhD thesis could achieve publication and certification respectively if the researcher of Economics and other Social Sciences defines a framework clearly and attempt to make rational selection from the research design checklist.

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