

The literature review



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Using some slides from Vanessa Van der Haam's presentation on literature reviews
-Albany Campus

What is a literature review?

- Focuses on what has been researched before on the topic
 - Areas of agreement/disagreement
 - Contributions of the research
 - Limitations
 - Gaps in the research

(Davidson & Tolich, 1999, p. 94)

*You're constructing **an argument** about previous research on the topic*



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Purpose: To inform and persuade


Literature review




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Different uses of literature review

- Review leading to research questions/ hypotheses
- Review leading to conclusions on the topic (and recommendations)
- Review leading to new or adapted theoretical model or framework for new model




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An examination of the key research on a topic

Involves:

- The **selection** of available documents on the topic, which contain ideas, data and evidence
- The **synthesis** of information into a coherent “story” of knowledge on the topic
- The **effective evaluation** of these documents in relation to [your research]

(Hart, 1998; Davidson & Tolich, 1999)




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Some important considerations

- How can the literature review be used to justify the topic?
- What format is useful for arranging the review?
- What is meant by criticism?
- How do you start?

(Hart, 1998)



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How is a literature review organised?

- by key themes or findings
- arranged in headings and sub-headings
- as an **argument** that *flows*
 information from various sources is *synthesised* to form a coherent argument
- Try to ensure each part justifies your research

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Research history forms the starting point for your research

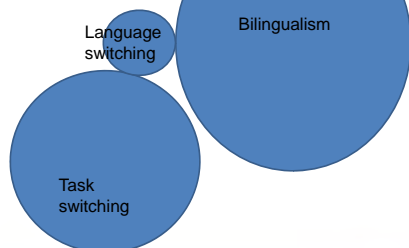
- All research has a history
- It is this history that provides the precedent for further work
- It is what forms the starting point for your research.

(Hart, 1998, p.175)

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A study of language switching costs



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- Task switching
 - Theories of the origins of switching costs
- Language switching in speech production
- Bilingualism
 - Defining
 - Language selection
- Bilingual models of speech production

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This chapter begins with theories of the origins of switching costs from the task switching literature as a framework from which to proceed. The main controversy is

This is followed by a review of task switching studies that involve shifting between languages. This provides the basis for a more in-depth review of bilingual issues starting with a definition of ..

According to X find themselves in different language modes along a continuum ..This sets the scene for how the bilingual deals with a changing language environment..

A series of language interference studies are then described which provide evidence for this changing activation level of ...

The review then focuses on the actual languages and how they are organised.

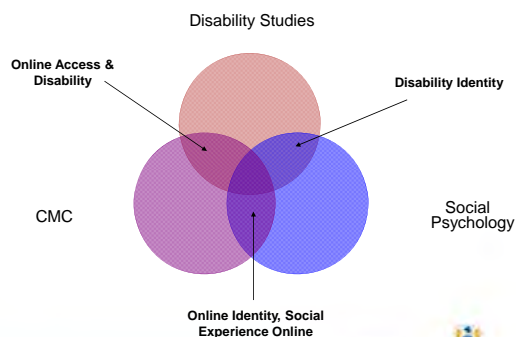
Moving from structure to process, a review of models of speech production ...

As such language switching can be seen as a special case of task switching sharing certain control mechanisms with non-linguistic tasks but at the same time having to resolve language specific conflicts

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"What it means to be online for people with disabilities"



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Knowledge based elements

- A description of previous work
- The ways in which these were developed and operationalised as solutions to previous work
- Identify other matters researchers have considered important

(Hart, 1998)

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Argument based elements

- What you find wrong in previous approaches
- A proposal for action to solve the problem
- The benefits from adopting the proposal
- A refutation of objections to the proposal

(Hart, 1998)

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Teacher Burnout: A Study of Occupational Stress and Burnout in New Zealand Schools

- 2.1. The Nature of Stress
- 2.2. History of the Stress Concept
- 2.3. Main Approaches to Definitions of Stress
- 2.4. The Stimulus Based Definition
- 2.5. The Response Based Definition
- 2.6. Summary of Response and Stimulus Approaches
- 2.7. The Transactional or Interactional Definition of Stress
- 2.8. The Burnout Concept
- 2.9. Defining Burnout
- 2.10. Cherniss's Model of Burnout
- 2.11. Golebiewski's Model of Burnout
- 2.12. Conservation of Resources (COR) Theory
- 2.13. Conceptual Framework
- 2.14. Measurement of Burnout
- 2.15. Correlates of Burnout
- 2.16. Studies on Teacher Stress and Burnout
- 2.17. Conclusion

Stress

Burnout

Stress and Burnout

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Topic: What are the most effective measures to prevent smoking onset amongst adolescents?

Restrictions on tobacco advertising

- Tobacco advertising and smoking initiation
- Effectiveness of banning advertising
- Alternative forms of tobacco promotion

Themes/issues
that emerge in the
literature

Restrictions on sales to adolescents

- Age limits
- Restricting sales to tobacconists only

Set out under headings
and sub-headings

Product regulation

- Labelling
- Ban on small packaging

Synthesis of research
on topic

Price increase of tobacco products

Health education

- Mass-media campaigns targeted at youth
- Smoking prevention programmes in schools

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(Source: Roberts & Dettigrew, 2007)

Which gap in the literature will your research fill?

Example topic: Developing natural treatments to replace antibiotic use in pig farming

"Antibiotics are used to cure diseases in pigs and increase performance. Their use, however, has come under attack by consumers and political groups due to allergies and bacterial resistance in pork consumers. Since antibiotics increase performance, the ban [on antibiotics] would increase mortality and reduce performance in pigs. To avoid a decrease in performance, there is a need to develop natural treatments to replace antibiotic use" (Nkamba, 2006).

1. Antibiotic use in curing pig diseases

- Studies supporting this
- Increases pig's performance – growth rate

However, concerns raised by consumers and political groups have drawn attention to the problems of antibiotic use.

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2. Health problems with antibiotic use

- Health - allergies, bacterial resistance in pork consumers
- Political concerns
- Banning antibiotics



3. Consequences of banning antibiotics

- Mortality increase, reduced pig performance, growth rate

4. Developing natural treatments to replace antibiotics

- Different treatments
 - Benefits
 - Disadvantages
 - End with closest resembling treatment to your study and / or technique used in your study

All this justifies the validity & value of your research question.

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Recommended sources

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