

Conceptual frame work in modern research

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ABSTRACT

The primary objective of this research paper is to introduce a conceptual framework that can serve as a guide for research development in the Field of languages and applied linguistics, particularly in the context of teaching at higher education. This conceptual framework was devised by doctoral students during the early stages of their research. One of the key aims of the conceptual framework is to help Doctorate students grasp the significance of having a well-defined conceptual framework in research. It enables them to understand how a conceptual framework serves as a foundation for their studies and helps them organize and structure their research effectively. Furthermore, the research paper emphasizes the importance of critically evaluating existing conceptual frameworks in modern research. By engaging in this critical analysis, Doctorate students can identify the strengths and weaknesses of different frameworks and gain insights into how to develop a more comprehensive and dynamic conceptual framework. Another crucial aspect covered in the research paper is the assessment of the impact of a conceptual framework on research outcomes. This text highlights the importance of understanding how a conceptual framework affects research and its outcomes. It states that a research paper aims to provide guidelines for creating and utilizing a conceptual framework, specifically for Doctorate students. The paper includes explanatory texts that explain the theory behind the framework, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of its principles and concepts. Overall, the text presents a conceptual framework for research development in languages and applied linguistics, particularly in the context of teaching at a Higher education.

KEYWORDS

Conceptual framework, Research, Guidelines, explanatory texts

Estrutura conceitual na pesquisa moderna

RESUMO

O objetivo principal deste artigo de investigação é apresentar um quadro conceptual que possa servir de guia para o desenvolvimento da investigação na área das línguas e da linguística aplicada, nomeadamente no contexto do ensino no ensino superior. Esta estrutura conceitual foi desenvolvida por estudantes de doutorado durante os estágios iniciais de sua pesquisa. Um dos principais objetivos da estrutura conceitual é ajudar os alunos de doutorado a compreender a importância de ter uma estrutura conceitual bem definida na pesquisa. Permite-lhes compreender como um quadro conceptual serve de base para os seus estudos e ajuda-os a organizar e estruturar a sua investigação de forma eficaz. Além disso, o artigo de pesquisa enfatiza a importância de avaliar

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criticamente as estruturas conceituais existentes na pesquisa moderna. Ao se envolverem nesta análise crítica, os estudantes de doutorado podem identificar os pontos fortes e fracos de diferentes estruturas e obter insights sobre como desenvolver uma estrutura conceitual mais abrangente e dinâmica. Outro aspecto crucial abordado no artigo de pesquisa é a avaliação do impacto de uma estrutura conceitual nos resultados da pesquisa. Este texto destaca a importância de compreender como uma estrutura conceitual afeta a pesquisa e seus resultados. Afirma que um trabalho de pesquisa visa fornecer diretrizes para a criação e utilização de uma estrutura conceitual, especificamente para estudantes de doutorado. O artigo inclui textos explicativos que explicam a teoria por trás do quadro conceitual, garantindo uma compreensão abrangente de seus princípios e conceitos. No geral, o texto apresenta um quadro conceptual para o desenvolvimento da investigação em línguas e linguística aplicada, particularmente no contexto do ensino e extensão no ensino superior.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE

Quadro conceitual, Pesquisa, Diretrizes, textos explicativos.

Introduction

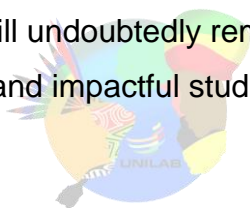
The field of research has evolved significantly over the years, with new methodologies and approaches being developed to address complex and multifaceted research questions. One key aspect that has gained prominence in modern research is the conceptual framework. A conceptual framework provides a theoretical foundation and a systematic roadmap for guiding research design, data collection, and data analysis. In essence, a conceptual framework serves as a lens through which researchers view and understand their research topic. It offers a structured and organized way of thinking about the relationships between different variables, concepts, or phenomena that are being investigated.

By delineating the key constructs and their interconnections, a conceptual framework aids in identifying research gaps, formulating research questions, and designing appropriate research methodologies. A well-developed conceptual framework not only enhances the rigor of the research but also provides a clear framework for interpreting and making sense of the findings. It helps researchers to identify potential explanations or underlying mechanisms that may be driving the observed relationships between variables. Additionally, a conceptual framework also aids in the communication of research findings, as it provides a common language and logical structure for discussing and presenting research outcomes.

The construction of a conceptual framework involves a comprehensive review of existing theories, models, and empirical evidence relevant to the research topic. This review allows researchers to identify key concepts and variables, understand their

theoretical relationships, and integrate them into a coherent framework. Moreover, a conceptual framework can be iterative in nature, meaning that it can be refined and revised as new evidence emerges or as the research progresses 1. The increasing importance of conceptual frameworks in modern research highlights the shift towards a more holistic and interdisciplinary approach to understanding complex phenomena. Researchers are now recognizing that a deep understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of their research topic can significantly enhance the quality and impact of their studies. A well-constructed conceptual framework not only helps to align research design with research objectives but also enables researchers to make meaningful contributions to their respective fields. In conclusion, the use of a conceptual framework in modern research is crucial for providing a theoretical foundation, guiding research design, and aiding in the interpretation.

By organizing and structuring key concepts and variables, a conceptual framework helps researchers to navigate the complexities of their research topic and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of knowledge in their field. As research continues to evolve, the conceptual framework will undoubtedly remain an essential tool for researchers seeking to conduct comprehensive and impactful studies. (FAWCETT, DOWNS, 1986).



1. Contextualization

For Johnson And Onwuegbuzie (2004) conceptual framework exhibits in research of what is expected to attain throughout the research. The conceptual framework tends to explain the variables which are used in the research as well as map out how these variables are relatable to each other. Miles & Huberman (1994): They define a conceptual framework as "a visual or written product, composed of connected concepts, that defines and links a set of ideas." Additionally, they provide a description of how these ideas are interconnected. These authors conceptualize a framework as "a network, or 'a road map,' which guides the development of the research, in terms of its aims, methodology, and analytical concepts." They emphasize the role of the framework in directing the entire research process.

According to Creswell (2014), asserts that a conceptual framework is "a visual or written depiction that broadly explains the most important factors related to a research problem." He highlights the significance of understanding the key elements and their relationship to the research problem. Yin (2014), describes a conceptual framework as "a

logical structure that outlines the key concepts and their relationships within a research study." He emphasizes the logical organization of concepts and their interconnections.

O conceptual framework is a description of the way a researcher understands the factors and/or variables that are involved in the study and their relationships to one another. The purpose of a conceptual framework is to articulate the concepts under study using relevant literature (ROCCO & PLAKHOTNIK, 2009) and to clarify the presumed relationships among those concepts (ROCCO & PLAKHOTNIK, 2009; ANFARA & MERTZ, 2014).

Fawcett & Downs (1986), in the nursing field, they define a conceptual framework as "a set of interrelated concepts that provide direction for nursing practice, research, and education." They emphasize the role of the framework in guiding various aspects of nursing, including practice, research, and education. Fawcett & Downs (1986): In the nursing Field, they define a conceptual framework as "a set of interrelated concepts that provide direction for nursing practice, research, and education." Wikipedia defined a conceptual framework as "the way ideas are organized to achieve a research project's purpose". Like football plays, conceptual frameworks are connected to a research purpose or aim. Explanation is the most common type of research purpose employed in empirical



2. Theatrical framework

The conceptual framework in modern research is essential, especially in the field of social sciences. Smith (2021) and Johnson (2019) are two authors who concur with the significance of this framework. Smith (2021) emphasizes that a clear conceptual framework helps in organizing ideas, guiding the research process, and providing a systematic approach to understanding complex phenomena. A well-developed conceptual framework, according to Smith, lays the foundation for hypothesis formulation and data analysis, leading to robust research outcomes. Supporting the need for a conceptual framework, Johnson (2019) highlights its role in driving theoretical advancements and facilitating deeper insights into research phenomena. Johnson states that a solid conceptual framework assists researchers in identifying variables, establishing causal relationships, and connecting their findings to existing knowledge, contributing to the overall progression of scientific research. By citing Smith and Johnson, it becomes evident that these authors share the view that a well-constructed conceptual framework holds

great importance in modern research. It provides researchers with a structured approach and aids in the development of valid and reliable conclusions.

Thomas S.K. (1962) introduced the concept of paradigms, which became central to understanding shifts in scientific thought and research methodologies. However, argued that scientific progress does not follow a linear path but rather occurs through revolutions, where established paradigms are replaced by new ones. This framework has influenced various fields, including the philosophy of science, history of science, and sociology of scientific knowledge. Foucault's contributions to conceptual frameworks across various disciplines have been rather profound.

In his groundbreaking work, "The Archaeology of Knowledge" (1969), he delved into an analysis of the ways in which power operates in the production and dissemination of knowledge, as well as in the construction of discourses. This particular insight has had a lasting impact on fields such as sociology, history, anthropology, and literary theory. One of Foucault's most influential works, "Discipline and Punish" (1975), further expanded on the mechanisms of power and control within disciplinary institutions. Through his examination of historical penal practices, Foucault shed light on the relationship between power, surveillance, and punishment. He argued that disciplinary institutions, such as prisons, represent a particular site where power is exercised, often in subtle and coercive ways.

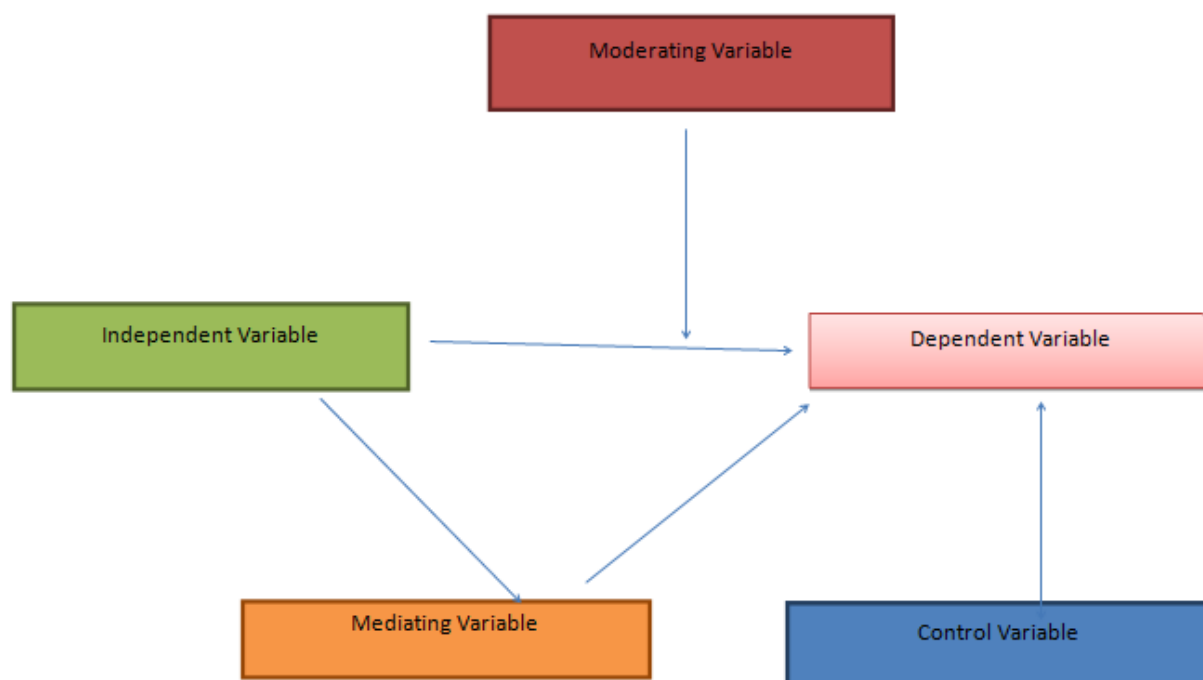
Haraway's essay "A Cyborg Manifesto" (1985) has been highly influential in shaping feminist theory and conceptual frameworks related to technology, gender, and post-humanism. She argued for a reconceptualization of the human subject, challenging traditional notions of identity, embodiment, and agency. Haraway's emphasis on the interconnectedness of technology and feminism has informed debates in fields such as science and technology studies, cultural studies, and gender studies. Her ideas have also inspired discussions on the blurring boundaries between humans and machines, raising important ethical and social questions.

Lakoff & Johnson (1980) proposed that metaphors are not just linguistic devices but fundamental cognitive tools that shape our understanding of the world. They argued that metaphors play a crucial role in the creation of concepts, influencing our thinking, reasoning, and communication. Their research has had a significant impact on conceptual frameworks in areas such as cognitive science, linguistics, and social sciences. Lakoff and Johnson's work has opened up new avenues of research into the relationship between

language, thought, and culture, shedding light on how our conceptual systems are structured and how they shape our perception and interpretation of reality.

For Pinker cited Lakoff and Johnson (2007), discussing how metaphors inform our understanding and expression of concepts and Gibbs expanded on Lakoff & Johnson (1994, delves deeper into the cognitive processes behind metaphorical thinking and its implications for understanding language and thought. Turner, 1996) collaborated with Lakoff and Johnson and explores how metaphors shape our understanding of literature and how they contribute to the creative process of conceptual blending. O conceptual framework is an essential component of any research study as it provides a solid theoretical foundation and structure for the entire research process. According to Saunders et al. (2018), a conceptual framework is "a set of interrelated concepts, definitions, and propositions that presents a systematic view of phenomena by specifying relationships among variables in order to explain and predict outcomes." One of the key benefits of having a conceptual framework is its ability to guide research design. It helps researchers in identifying and formulating research questions.

FIGURE 1: Conceptual Framework



Source: Aurhor (2023)

Conceptual framework includes the key process parameters, defining variables, and cause-and-effect relationships. To add to this, the primary focus while developing a

conceptual framework should remain on the quality of research. The independent variable is a key component of the conceptual framework as it represents the main factor of interest that the researcher is investigating. It helps to shape the overall research question and forms the basis for developing hypotheses or research objectives 3.

The dependent variable is directly influenced by the independent variable and serves as the outcome or result that the researcher is trying to explain or understand. It is an essential element of the conceptual framework as it helps to define the scope and focus of the study. Control variables are included in the conceptual framework to account for potential confounding factors or alternative explanations for the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. They help ensure that the observed relationship is truly attributable to the independent variable and not to other variables.

Moderating variables are incorporated into the conceptual framework to acknowledge and account for potential influences that may enhance or weaken the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. They help to identify factors that may explain variations in the relationship across different situations or individuals. Mediating variables play a role in the conceptual framework by providing insights into the underlying mechanisms or processes through which the independent variable affects the dependent variable. They help to explain the "why" or "how" of the relationship between the two variables. Overall, these variables are interconnected within the conceptual framework to guide the research process and provide a systematic framework for investigating the relationships between different factors or constructs.

CRESWELL, J. W. (2013), emphasizes the importance a conceptual framework in research design provides guidance on how to develop and articulate a framework that aligns with the research goals. In the same hand, by grounding the analysis within the conceptual framework, researchers can make meaningful connections between the variables and ultimately derive valid and reliable conclusions. Conceptual framework assists in the interpretation of research findings. It enables researchers to make sense of the results by relating them back to existing theories and concepts. The framework acts as a theoretical lens through which research findings can be framed and understood in a broader context. This not only enhances the credibility and generalizability of the research but also contributes to the advancement of knowledge in the field. (CRESWELL, J. W. 2014).

Conceptual framework is an indispensable aspect of research as it guides the entire research process, from design to analysis and interpretation. It provides a theoretical foundation and structure for the study, enabling researchers to formulate research questions, select variables, and interpret findings within a broader context. Without a conceptual framework, research studies may lack coherence, direction, and may not reach their full potential in contributing to knowledge development in the respective field. Saldana, J. (2015), discusses how a conceptual framework can help guide the coding and analysis process in qualitative research. Similarly, emphasizes the need for researchers to identify and apply a theoretical lens to make sense of their findings. Plano Clark, V. L., & Creswell, J. W. (2015)

Final considerations

For example, in a study on the impact of social media on consumer purchasing behavior, a well-developed conceptual framework would help researchers identify gaps in the existing literature. They could examine how previous studies have focused mainly on the influence of social media on brand awareness, but not much has been done on its effect on actual purchase decisions. With the help of a conceptual framework, researchers can formulate relevant research questions that address this gap. They may ask questions such as "How does social media influence consumers' decision-making process when it comes to purchasing products?" or "What factors mediate the relationship between social media exposure and consumer purchase behavior?" Next, the conceptual framework would assist in selecting suitable research methodologies to answer these research questions.

For instance, researchers may employ surveys or interviews to gather quantitative and qualitative data on consumers' social media usage, their perceptions of brands, and their purchase decisions. By adopting such methodologies, researchers can collect data that will enable them to analyze the influence of social media on consumer purchasing behavior more comprehensively. Moreover, a well-developed conceptual framework enables researchers to understand the interconnections between different constructs. In the example of the impact of social media on consumer purchasing behavior, the conceptual framework may include variables such as brand awareness, trust, and the consumers' perceived value of a product.

By understanding how these constructs are interconnected, researchers can gain a more holistic understanding of the relationships involved and develop more accurate hypotheses to test. Lastly, a conceptual framework provides a structure for interpreting and making sense of the research findings. It helps researchers organize their data, analyze the results, and draw conclusions. In the example mentioned, the conceptual framework would guide researchers in interpreting the data collected from surveys and interviews, allowing them to identify patterns, trends, and correlations between social media usage and consumer purchase behavior.

In conclusion, a well-developed conceptual framework is crucial for conducting comprehensive and rigorous research studies. It aids in identifying gaps in existing literature, formulating relevant research questions, selecting appropriate research methodologies, understanding interconnections between constructs, and interpreting research findings. By serving as a guide, a conceptual framework enhances the credibility and validity of a study, making it an essential component of effective research.

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