education review // reseñas educativas
editors: david j. blacker / gustavo e. fischman / melissa cast-brede / gene v glass

a multi-lingual journal of book reviews

January 16, 2013 ISSN 1094-5296
Education Review/Reseñas Educativas is a project of the National Education Policy Center http://nepc.colorado.edu
and the College of Education and Human Services of the University of Delaware
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Perry, Jr., L. Fred. (2011) *Research in Applied Linguistics: Becoming a Discerning Consumer*. NY: Routledge.

Pp. xxvi + 285 ISBN 978-0-415-88570-6

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Research in Applied Linguistics: Becoming a Discerning Consumer is a book that offers clear explanations of the framework of research in applied linguistics. As the author states, "I find much of the reluctance toward statistics more a result of some traumatic experience people have had in their past" (p.170), readers who lack research knowledge are challenged when they must comprehend research critically. This book would be a perfect resource to overcome this problem by helping interested readers develop the ability to scrutinize research in order to identify appropriate references for their own goals in applied linguistics.

The book consists of two parts. The first part, *Fundamentals for Discerning Consumers*, is divided into two chapters. Chapter 1 introduces the nature of research and the definition of a discerning consumer of research. In

Citation: Park, Seonmin. (2013 January 16) Review of *Research in Applied Linguistics: Becoming a Discerning Consumer* by L. Fred Perry Jr. *Education Review, 16.* Retrieved [Date] from http://www.edrev.info/reviews/rev1204.pdf

this chapter, readers build a clear concept of research in applied linguistics, and understand the importance of becoming a discerning consumer based on the author's definitions of the meaning to applied linguistics, research and a discerning consumer of research. Chapter 2 explains how to find research articles in applied linguistics. Primary and secondary sources are illustrated with abundant examples. Particularly, useful is an example of ERIC including detailed steps. It shows the process of finding articles electronically. In addition, Figure 2.2: *Levels of weight given to research in different venues* helps readers to judge articles based on their publication venues.

Part Π, entitled *the Major Components of Published Research*, focuses on each component of research for the next six chapters. Chapter 3 presents the framework of a primary research article. The chapter describes the overall characteristics of each section of a typical empirical research article such as the title, abstract, introduction, methods, results and discussion/conclusion.

The next three chapters deal with more specific features of the framework of research. Especially, Chapters 4, 5 and 6 show how to design research and collect data. Chapter 4 is intended to help readers to understand different ways of sampling for research. Each term related to sampling is well-defined along with a paradigm and purpose. Chapter 5 is divided into three sections that encompass different research designs. The first section explains a classification of research designs depending on three different continua such as basic to applied, qualitative to quantitative, and exploratory to confirmatory. Each continuum is illustrated with simple figures and several examples from recent research articles. A second section expands research designs based on research questions. A third section presents the importance of internal validity and lists a number of extraneous factors that can influence the results of a study. Chapter 6 leads readers to comprehend how to collect and evaluate verbal and numerical data. The first section of this chapter shows not only types of verbal data collection procedures but also potential strengths and weaknesses of each procedure. In addition, criteria for evaluation of verbal data collection methods are provided. Similarly, numerical data collection procedures are highlighted in a second section.

Chapter 7 continues to discuss how verbal and numerical data are analyzed. As in Chapter 6, a criterion is provided to evaluate patterns and explanations drawn from verbal data. Also, features of descriptive and inferential statistics are presented for numerical data. Finally, the last chapter attempts to develop readers' abilities to assess a researcher's interpretations and conclusions. The chapter illustrates crucial ingredients of the conclusion section in a research article and lists criteria that readers can use.

The strength of the book is its clear organization. As the author points out in the preface, the main target of the book is graduate students majoring in applied linguistics or TESOL. The book allows these students to be exposed to up-to-date research articles with insightful examples extracted from recent articles from refereed journals in applied linguistics. These examples in each chapter not only facilitate readers' understanding of the framework of research but also extend their indirect experience of diverse topics in applied linguistics. Moreover, an additional recommended reading list in each chapter and 14 pages of references motivate readers to do further studies based on their own interests.

In addition, readers are encouraged to complete numerous exercises provided in each chapter. Readers can build their knowledge of the research framework relying on their interests because chapter questions ask readers to find recent studies based on their own interests. For instance, Chapter 4 which presents methods of sampling includes an exercise, "Select a study of interest that used one of the representative sampling technique previously discussed (p.65)."

Lastly, the provision of key terms and concepts in each chapter, informative appendices, a glossary, notes, and a subject index make the book a useful resource. The key terms and concepts allow readers to review a whole chapter before they move to the next chapter.
If any criticism were to be leveled at the book, it is related to the design and format used in the numbering of appendices, and numbers in a table (e.g., Table 7.2). It would have been clearer if the order of appendices were changed. Since Appendix C is introduced in Chapter 1 whereas Appendix A is mentioned in Chapter 2, readers

could be confused in their efforts to find the right appendix.

Even though the book contains a few design issues, it is tightly structured around the theme of research in applied linguistics. It also provides plenty of comprehensive examples from recent research articles, insightful exercises, and informative appendices, a glossary, notes and subject index. This book will lead those who fear research in applied linguistics toward confidence in scrutinizing research with a critical view. It thus fulfills a vital role in the field.

About the Reviewer

Seonmin Park is a second-year PhD student in Applied Linguistics at Northern Arizona University and holds a Masters degree in Education from Harvard University.

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