PEOPLE 'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
BEJAIA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITTERATURE

RECOMMENDATIONS

of the first hybrid national conference on

Research Methodologies Issues in Higher Education

On April 29th/30th 2024

Conference Presidents:

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In higher education, research is essential to teachers' professional development because it promotes an environment of inquiry, creativity, and quality in both teaching and learning. Hence, acquiring knowledge about research and developing research strategies are key components to successful writing research papers, theses and dissertations.

The conference achieved to gather teachers, researchers and professionals who debated and shared valuable knowledge and experiences related to research issues in higher education. It addressed many facets of research technique such as research issues related to didactics, linguistics, literature, and civilization as well as technology, artificial intelligence, plagiarism, and research. Additionally, it provided participants the opportunity to address the different obstacles they encounter when conducting research.

The participants of the conference, either on site or online, come from different Algerian universities (Bejaia, Setif, Biskra, Sidi Bel Abbes, Tizi Ouzou, El Oued, Guelma, Khenechla, Oum El Bouaghi, Annaba, Constantine, Algiers 2, Skikda, Naama, Jijel, Ouargla, Chlef, Tebessa, Souk Ahres, Boumerdes, Tlemcen) as there was a participant from the university of Southampton, United Kingdom.

The interventions shed light on several research subjects and concerns in addition to teachers' worries regarding the impact of artificial intelligence in the field of research. Moreover, they dealt with personal experiences as well as suggestions and practical solutions to a number of research issues. In what follows, we summarize the major recommendations of the various participations:

1-Knowledge in Research Methodology is required:

- The choice of methodology is the basis for any research work.
- The choice of a suitable methodology should rely on interdisciplinary selection so as researchers could contribute to different disciplines, eg. The use of prototyping processing in foreign language research.

- Researchers (teachers, master and doctoral students…) need more training in both research theory and practice.

- Training students to use research techniques (eg. taking notes, summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting), access sources, and use technology tools.

- As students face difficulties in corpus selection, methodology choice and interpretations of the results, redirecting the teaching process towards real and practical situations is needed.

- Organizing seminars, workshops and conferences about the use of literary theories in research.

2-Reading as a Basis for Research:

- Reading should be used as the starting ground for methodological organization of a research work.

- Incorporating reading sessions to improve students' micro and macro skills.

- Training students in reading academic and scientific texts would promote academic writing skills.

3-Artificial Intelligence, Chat GPT and Research:

- As AI tools can be both beneficial and harmful, paying attention to their use is necessary.

- Chat GPT can be used for generating the research framework, eg. The use of ZETTELBAN Method.

- Providing researchers training sessions and workshops to use AI efficiently and ethically.

- Promoting responsibility in the use of AI tools.

- Raising researchers' awareness about the dangers of AI in order to preserve authenticity and academic integrity.

- AI can be *moderately* used in order to obtain research expertise for the literature review, for planning and design research, and for data analysis.

3-Cultural Empathy and Research:

- Cultural barriers should be considered in the classroom.

- Cultural empathy should be seen as the cornerstone of students' consciousness and awareness.

- Cultural empathy should be used as a medium for efficient interpretation and understanding.

4-Research Publication Processes:

- Raising doctoral students' awareness about research publication processes.

- Raising students' awareness about citing and referencing systems and mistakes.

- Shedding light on predatory journals.

- Publishing a scientific article is not just a matter of sharing findings and results but adhering to journal guidelines, presenting findings clearly, and ensuring ethical considerations should be addressed in order to not only contribute to the academic discourse but also uphold the credibility and trustworthiness of our research within the scientific community.

5-Ethics, plagiarism and Research:

- Researchers should know how to make decisions on the basis of reflection and alternatives surrounding the topic, the objectives and the practicability of the topic dealt with.

- Integrity should be the focal point in any research.

- Raising awareness of students and researchers in general about plagiarism and its consequences.

- Adopting suitable research techniques to avoid plagiarism.

- Teaching research strategies before starting research.

Conclusion:

Concerning the current situation of our department, we have arrived to the following conclusions:

- Revise the syllabus of the module of methodology from the first year bachelor to the second year master, all specialties included in order to ensure continuity in the syllabus content and procedure.

- Integrate an AI module in the curriculum from the first year university in order to ensure its correct use. This would avoid plagiarism and excessive uses of AI tools by students as well as creativity killing.

- Raising students' awareness about cultural differences and their impact in conducting research.

- Train doctoral students in publication processes and principles.

- Integrating a module for doctoral students regarding publication of articles.