Methodology

7th class - 09/10/2019

(Summary written and provided by PRPPG7000 monitors)

The 7th class was about the Method Section, which is one of the parts in an academic paper (following the I.M.R.aD. scheme, the second part). Not every academic paper had this section, but the ability to defend your own methodology is important to everyone in every research. Professor Ron started to talk abou the subject through a video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCf5n4T3HE8>) that included a proposal to test eight different types od deodorant, and that, at the end of the experiment, a girl would decide which one was best. After playing the video, two quetions were raised about it:

1. How would the method used be described?
2. If you were a reviewer: What questions about the method need answers?

According to the data presented by the teacher, the poor written Method section is among the main reasons why academic papers are not accepted for publication. Several papers are submitted with little information about the methods used in a specific research or with defetcs in its description.

It is very importante to think about the questions that a reader can when reading your Method section. Here the figure of the “Naysayer” enters again: It is necessary to antecipate the key questions that the “naysayer” would make, and try to answer them. Therefore, it is necessary to have the ability to defend your methology.

It is important to keep in mind that the methodology is not solely/necessarily a replica of the research. Each section has its specificities, depends on the research field – each has its own relevant aspects. A good tip for writing this part of the paper is: don’t say just what you did during the process, but also why you did it, and connect the questions in the methodology with the questions of the introduction.

To help remembering the content that should be presented in each part of the academic paper, the professor showed a chart showing the questions that have to be applied according to the I.M.R.aD.

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| --- | --- |
| Introduction  (Introdução) | Why?  (Por quê?) |
| Method  (Método) | **How?**  (Como?) |
| Results  (Resultado) | **What?**  (O quê?) |
| Discussion  (Discussão) | **Sowhat?**  (E então?) |

**Homework:**

1. Download one of the papers from our website ( “Discussion 1”, “Discussion 2”, “Discussion 3”, etc). Read only the Discussion section of the chosen paper.
2. At the Discussion section can you identify:

A. The author admitting the limitation?

B. The author talking about the practical implications?

C. The author comparing the results to those of other authors?

3. Revisit “Hanauer&Englander’s” paper (“Quantifying the Burden...) and identify the same points (A, B, C) mentioned above.