

Relationship between Research Instrument Format and Mode of Response

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Abstract:

This study was set out to find the relationship, if any, between variables such as Sex, Age and Discipline of an individual and responses made on the different formats of a questionnaire. The Study made use of four questionnaires each with five formats.

Undergraduates of the Faculties of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, University of Ife were sampled for the study. The hypotheses were tested using student t-test analysis and one-way analysis of variance. The hypotheses were tested on each questionnaire and formats therein. Some of the findings of the investigation are:

i) there was no difference between responses made by Males and Females on the different formats of ATPQ, but there were differences on the ATGQ (Semantic distance), ATTQ (Graphic rating), ATEQ (Semantic distance);

ii) there were no differences between responses made by individuals of different ages on the different formats of ATPQ and ATEQ but there were on ATGQ (Semantic distance) and ATTQ (Graphic rating);

iii) there were differences on all the questionnaires, ATPQ (Thurstone, Likert, Graphic rating), ATGQ (Semantic distance), ATTQ (Semantic distance and Graphic rating), ATEQ (Likert); for testing discipline on Questionnaire format. The ATGQ (Semantic distance) and ATTQ (Graphic rating) showed differences on all the variables (Sex, Age and discipline) for testing the three hypotheses; the Thurstone format ranked least on the mean scores on all the questionnaires.

The Semantic distance ranked best, then the Likert, Dichotomous and Graphic rating. Some of the recommendations made from the study include a replication of the Study using other questionnaires and variables. Users of different scaling formats should be aware of the merits, demerits, uses and abuses of the formats they are employing.

Keywords: Research/ questionnaires/ hypothesis/ likert scale/ variables

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