



King Khalid University
Faculty of languages and Translation
English Department



Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics

Graduation Projects Guideline

Prepared by

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Program Vision, Mission

Vision

The Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics (MAAL) at King Khalid University (KKU) aims at becoming regionally and internationally recognized for its excellence.

Mission

The mission of the MA Applied Linguistics program is to equip the students with in-depth and specialized knowledge, academic and professional skills in the field of Applied Linguistics, and to prepare and inspire them to contribute to knowledge and to address local language needs from a global perspective.

Goals of Research in MAAL

1. Contribute to knowledge by producing high quality research in Applied Linguistics
2. Promote research culture among the program students and involving them in research production and publication
3. Address local language issues from global perspectives.
4. Produce research that contributes to enhancing the quality of teaching and learning

Course Main Objective

This course [Project (MAAL 542)] aims at familiarizing M.A. students with the practical aspects of research in Applied Linguistics. They are introduced to major themes in the areas of Applied Linguistics most commonly selected by researchers. Initially, the students learn how to develop a research hypothesis and proposal; select

an appropriate research method or design, analyze and interpret the data, and report the findings. By the end of the course, they are expected to write their own research project.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Outline the differences between the theoretical and practical aspects of research.
- Explain the different types of possible areas of research in the field of Applied Linguistics
- Describe the steps of conducting a research project.
- Apply the research methods they learn to research local and global applied linguistic issues.
- Formulate a clear and practical research questions and hypotheses.
- Make use of technology to collect relevant data, analyze, and interpret it
- Analyze the problems related to applied linguistics and develop initial solutions.
- Write a research paper using techniques they learn in research methods.
- Demonstrate professional, self-dependence, and self-confidence in executing a research project.
- Act responsibly and ethically in carrying out the research project
- Work successfully in pairs and groups in research projects.

Sections of the Project

The project shall consist of the three sections:

- Section I includes: Cover page, committee decision, acknowledgment, abstract, table of contents
- Section II includes: Introduction, review of related literature, methodology, results, discussion, recommendations conclusion, and references.
- Section II includes: Appendixes

Writing the Project

Students are expected to complete the graduation in one semester. However, if a student fails to complete his/her project in one semester, an extension for another semester may be considered. Also incomplete (IC) grade may be considered.

In addition, the process of writing the project should follow the major steps stated in table 1 below

Table 1: The major steps of writing the graduation project

Week 1	Meeting with the concerned supervisor
Week 2	Submitting the project's topic
Week 2	Approval of the project's topic
Week 3-5	Project Proposal Writing
Week 5	Project Proposal Submission
Week 5	Project Proposal Approval
Week 6-12	Weekly Meetings with the supervisor
Week 13	Project submission
Week 14	Project presentation and examination

Guidelines

Cover page, committee decision, and acknowledgment, abstract, table of contents should appear in the project as shown below.



King Kaldi University

Faculty of languages and Translation

English Department

Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics

Title:

Prepared by

.....

Supervised by

Dr.

A project submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement
for the degree of MA in Applied Linguistics

1441-1442 (2020-2021)

Committee Decision

This graduation project (.....)
was defended successfully and approved on

Examining Committee:

		Signature
Dr.	Supervisor	
Dr.	Member	
Dr.	Member	

- General results
- General interpretation of the results.

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Table of contents	IV
1. Introduction	1.....
1.1. Statement of the Problem	
1.2. Significance of the Study	
1.3. Study Questions	
2. Review of Related Literature	
3. Methodology	
3.1. Method	
3.2. Sample	
3.3. Research Instrument(s)	
4. Results	
5. Discussion	
6. Recommendations	
7. Conclusion	
8. References	

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Table 3.1	

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Figure 4.1	

Figure 4.2

Appendixes

How to Find Research Topic

Finding a research topic is the most important step in writing your research project, but before you start searching for a topic make sure that you have a basic understanding of the research process, research methodologies, and data analysis.

Reading printed and online materials are the most recommended strategies for finding a research topic. You can easily access academic papers, books, and dissertations through the Saudi Digital Library (<https://sdl.edu.sa/SDLPortal/ar/Publishers.aspx>), Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com>), Eric (<https://eric.ed.gov/>), etc.

Once you have chosen your topic, it is important to identify your research questions. Research question(s) should show exactly what you want to find. They should be specific, answerable, and relevant to your topic.

Introduction

In the introduction, you should give background information about your topic and set the context for your study. It is essential to explain to the readers why you chose the topic and why it is important. Also, it is necessary to explain notions, concepts, and other information needed for understanding of your study. In addition, the "Introduction" should specify the objectives of the study, and you need to identify the gap in the literature that your project will fill.

Literature Review

Once you have a specific and answerable question(s) you can move forward to find relevant literature. Relevant sources can be found through searching Saudi Digital Library (SDL), Google Scholar, Eric, etc. It is worth mentioning that your resources should be high-quality, current, significant, and relevant to your topic. It is also important at this stage to identify the gap in the literature and show how your study will fill this gap and make a contribution to the field of Applied Linguistics.

Methodology

At the beginning of this section, it is advisable to remind your readers of the purpose of your study. Then you will need to indicate the methodology your study adopts, whether it is a qualitative, quantitative, or a mixed methodology. Also, you need to describe your sample and your sampling strategy.

Furthermore, you need to explain how you will collect the necessary data for your study and finally you need to address data analysis techniques. Here it is important to specify data analysis methods or techniques you are planning to use such as qualitative analysis, quantitative analysis, statistical analysis, etc.

Results

In this section you have to present the results or findings of your study. Here it is important to be completely objective and descriptive, not interpretive. The following tips help you write your results properly:

- Results should be written in the past tense.
- Focus on significant data. Ignore data that are not pertinent to your research questions.
- Tables and figures are very useful visual aids in presenting the results or findings of your study. Make sure that they are clear and can be understood easily.
- Note that the results section should concentrate on presenting and not discussing the results

Discussion

First you have remind your readers of your research questions. Next, you need to summarize your key findings that you have already stated in the results section. Then you need interpret your results. When interpreting your results, you need to compare your findings to those the findings of research from the literature review section. If your finding contrast with existing research, you need state this in the dissuasion. In this case, you need to think about why do your results differ from the results of other studies? What do your results contribute to your field of Applied Linguistics? What other interpretations could there be for your results?

Also, in this section, you need to state clearly the limitations of your study. These limitations can be related to any part of your study, from the scope or theoretical basis to method(s) or sample. For example, you may state that you collected data from a very small sample which would mean that you are unable to generalize your results to the broader population.

Recommendations

This section can be written separately or it can be added to the previous section, i.e. the discussion section. Whatever your choice might be, recommendations should focus on two points: 1) the practical application of your results, 2) the implications or suggestions for future research. The first point is related to how findings can be used in real situations such as teaching, assessment, planning, etc. The second point is about how your findings paved the way for other studies to overcome the limitations in your study. Additionally, when writing your suggestions or recommendations, it does not suffice to say that more research is needed on the topic, you need to recommend how future research can build on your study.

Conclusion:

When writing the conclusion, you can consider the following steps:

- Remind your readers of your topic
- Restate the main questions
- Summarize the main findings
- State the most significant limitations, recommendations, and implications of

References:

References should be written in APA style. For further details, please visit the link below.

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

Evaluating Projects:

The examining committee shall evaluate projects in two ways:

1) Evaluating the written work. [70 marks]

The evaluation of the written work should be carried according the rubric below.

#	Criterion	Marks			
		4	3	2	1
1	Project format: The project is well designed and written in APA format according to instructions stated in the current guide.				
2	Abstract: Purpose of the study, source(s) from where the data are drawn (sample/participants), method(s) used for collecting data, and general results are clearly stated.				
3	Introduction: The introduction provides background information about the topic and sets the context for the study.				
4	Literature review: Resources are current, significant, and relevant to your topic. Also the gap in the literature is clearly identified.				
5	Methodology: The methodology, sample and data collection are clearly described.				
6	Results: The results are displayed clearly. Tables and figures are used effectively.				
7	Discussion: Interpreting of results compares and contrasts the findings to those the findings of existing research				
8	Recommendations: The recommendations should be written accurately and they should show how future research or practical applications can build on your study.				
9	References: The references are written in APA styles and listed in the right order.				
10	Spelling & Grammar: The manuscript is written with no grammatical or spelling mistakes				

- **The total mark here is 40. For example if a student scores 35 out of 40, his mark out of 70 will be $70 \times 35 = 2450$. $2450 \div 40 = 61.25$**

2) Oral evaluation where every student presents his/ her project orally before the examining committee and at the presence of the students concerned. [30 marks]

The evaluation of the project oral presentation should be carried according the rubric below.

#	Criterion	Marks
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1	The project is presented in a clear and well-organized manner.	5	4	3	2	1
2	Presenter uses table, figures, and other needed audio-visual aids effectively					
3	Presenter exhibits good knowledge of his/her topic.					
4	Presenter exhibits confidence and speaks clearly with correct pronunciation.					
5	Presenter reveals uses time effectively.					
6	Presenter responds clearly to the equations and comments of the examining committee.					

*** The total mark here is 30 out of 100.**

Concluding Remarks:

- The project should be written in APA format
- The space between the lines should be 1.5.
- Use one-inch margins on all sides
- Make sure that the title is centered on the page with your name underneath.
- Use 12-point font, Times New Roman, throughout the project.
- All pages should be numbered as shown in the table of contents