









Writing Research Proposals & Theses

Substance, Structure and Style

Abdul Rashid Moten

9 17W 19

PEARSON

LIBRARY INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

Writing Research Proposals & Theses

Substance, Structure and Style

Abdul Rashid Moten

Prentice Hall

Kuala Lumpur • London • New York • Boston • San Francisco • Toronto Sydney • Singapore • Hong Kong • Tokyo • Seoul • Taipei • New Delhi • Cape Town Madrid • Mexico City • Amsterdam • Munich • Paris • Milan

Published by

Prentice Hall

Pearson Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. Lot 2, Jalan 215, Off Jalan Templer, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

Tel: 03-78012000 Fax: 03-77853435

Pearson Education offices in Asia: Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Manila, Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo.

Printed in Malaysia by In Reach Resources Sdn Bhd

First print 2009

ISBN: 978-967-349-023-3

Writing Research Proposals & Theses: Substance, Structure and Style

Abdul Rashid Moten

Copyright © 2009 Pearson Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.

All rights reserved. This publication is protected by copyright and permission should be obtained from the Publisher prior to any prohibited reproduction, storage in a retrieval system, or transmission in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise. For information regarding permission(s), write to: Rights and Permissions Department.

Prentice Hall is an imprint of



Table of Contents

Foreword xiii Preface xiii Acknowledgements xvii

1 Introduction: Setting the Stage for Research 1

Research Fundamentals 1
Thesis and Dissertation 3
Duration of Studies 6
The Role of the Supervisor 7
The Role of the Student 11
Islamic Ethics in Research 13
Plagiarism 16
Conclusion 16

2 Theoretical and Analytical Questions 19

Research: An Islamic Perspective 19
Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches 22
Triangulation 25
Use of Hypotheses or Research Questions 26
Assumptions 28
Sampling, Sample Types and Generalisation 29
Conclusion 32

3 Preparing a Research Proposal 33

Planning in Islam 33 Nature and the Need for a Proposal Selecting a Topic 36 Cover Page 37 Statement of the Problem 37 Background and History 39 Justification of the Problem 40 Literature Review 41 Theoretical Framework 43 Hypothesis 45 Conceptual and Operational Definitions 46 Methods and Procedures 47 Type of Study 47 Data Collection 48 Sampling 50 Analysis and Interpretation Proposed Chapter Outline 51 Time Frame and Budget 52 Bibliography and Appendices 52 Concluding Observations 53

4 Structure of a Thesis 57

Thesis Organisation in Islam 58
The Structure of the Muqaddimah 59
The Main Text 60
Preliminary Matter 65
Title Page 65
Abstract 66
Acknowledgements 66
Table of Contents 67
List of Tables and Figures 67
Nomenclature List 67
Appendices 67
Bibliography 68
Layout of the Thesis 68
Conclusion 69

The Art of Writing 71 5

The Qur'an and the Writing Style 72 Accuracy 73 Brevity 76 Clarity 77 Revising, Editing and Proofreading Revision 81 Copy Editing 83 Proofreading 84 Submitting the Thesis 85 Conclusion 85

Thesis at a Glance: Summarising the 6 Argument 87

The Substance 88 The Structure 90 The Style 90 Conclusion 91

Appendix A: IIUM Code of Ethics 93 Appendix B: Table of Contents Appendix C: Thesis Format 103 Select Annotated Bibliography 109 Glossary of Selected Terms 115 Index 119