#### Lesson 10 :****Method Types in**** Literary ****Research****

#### Part 04

**15-Visual Methods:**

Studies the visual qualities of literary works. Some literary works, such as illuminated manuscripts, children’s literature, and graphic novels, present a complex interplay of text and image. Even works without illustrations can be studied for their use of typography, layout, and other visual features. .[[1]](#footnote-2)Visual images have effects in depicting and reinforcing social differences and hierarchies.  
They not only accompany texts, but texts accompany visual images (captions to photos,  
explanations for exhibits in museums & galleries or in books).[[2]](#footnote-3)

**16-Ethnographic Methods:**  
 It informs a variety of writings like travel writing and audience research. In the former, it  
focuses on the participant observation in producing travel accounts. In the latter, reading  
groups offer a site for ethnographic research in English studies. [[3]](#footnote-4)

Ethnographic Methods areStudies groups of people and their interactions with literary works, for instance in educational institutions, in reading groups (such as book clubs), and in fan networks. This approach may involve interviews and visits to places (including online communities) where people interact with literary works. Note: before you begin such work, you must have [Institutional Review Board (IRB)](https://www.research.ucf.edu/compliance/irb.html) approval “to protect the rights and welfare of human participants involved in research.” [[4]](#footnote-5)

**17-Discourse Analysis Methods:**  
 It is concerned with the investigation of language, both oral and written. It assumes that  
language is invested, meaning that language is not a neutral tool for transmitting a message  
but rather shapes human perceptions of the world. Such shaping takes place within  
hierarchical structures of power which are both formulated and upheld by language. It can  
also be changed through the changing use of language. [[5]](#footnote-6)

 Studies language patterns to reveal ideology and social relations of power. This research involves the study of institutions, social groups, and social movements to understand how people in various settings use language to represent the world to themselves and others. Literary works may present complex mixtures of discourses which the characters (and readers) have to navigate. [[6]](#footnote-7)

**18-SEMIOTICS APPROACH:**

**Etymology:**   
 It means a sign, symbolIt is a science that study about a sign and everything relates with sign.It is based on the assumption that a literary work has its potential communicative which is signed by a symbol which is artistic and dramatic.Study of semiotics in literature has been done by Culler, Lotman, Kristeva, Peckham, Jakobson, Barthes

**STEPS IN SEMIOTICS APPROACH:**  
 Reading and the finding the unique things of a literary work.Analysis on technique, style, power and the special things of a literary work.Finding the relation between a literary work with everything outside the story.Research report.[[7]](#footnote-8)

**19-To enhance theory knowledge:**

How to choose representative research literature? On this issue, we must not only mater above-mentioned points; we should also study the fundamental theory knowledge of literature methodology. How are we going to collect the literature? To find valuable literatures for certain research subject in the vast literature ocean, we must master effective method to collect the documents. First of all, researchers should determine the scope and nature of the research subject and fix the direction of the search. Secondly, researchers must know education journals and periodicals both at home and abroad, understand domestic and foreign types of educational books, pictures, audio and video, electronic data and statistics overview and know from where could these materials be obtained. Finally, researchers must be familiar with literature index and directory classification method and master the basic skills of literature retrieval.

Then, we must sort and analyze the large number of literatures collected. How to handle it? The sorting of the literature refers to the process in which researchers conduct creative analysis, comparison and summarizing of literatures that are collected and are identified. Through this kind of reasoning, researches form scientific understanding of research subject.

The specific methods of literature sorting mainly apply logical analysis, judging, reasoning, synthesis and dialectical thinking, etc., to make fact judgment from the materials or to summarize some rules or principles to sort these materials.

After sorting literatures, we should analyze the literatures. As raised by Zhenguo Yuan, literature research methods include non-structured qualitative analysis methods and structured quantitative analysis. Non-structured qualitative analysis has been illustrated. Structured quantitative analysis is also known as content analysis. Content analysis is to systematically and objective quantitative literature contents and to make description.. For example, when a reader wants to buy a book, he or she will first look at the directory, read an article and take a look at the keywords. These are a kind of intuitive content analysis. Some educators have conducted researches on Education Science by Kaiipob. It is found that Kaiipob mentioned “the transfer of knowledge" more than 100 times and only mentioned “the development of intelligence” only 10 times. Therefore, he put forward that Kaiipob’s education science is a education science of imparting knowledge. This study is the use of the content analysis. The characteristics of content analysis are intuitive, objective, systematic, and quantitative. The nature of content analysis is to describe literature in words by data, which is good for formal hypothesis application, for scientifically sampling, and for the application of computers to do literature researches. Content analysis is mainly used in trend analysis, comparative analysis and intention analysis.[[8]](#footnote-9)

Regardless of the method(s) you choose, you will need to learn how to apply them to your work and how to carry them out successfully. For example, you should know that many archives do not allow you to bring pens (you can use pencils) and you may not be allowed to bring bags into the archives. You will need to keep a record of which documents you consult and their location (box number, etc.) in the archives. If you are unsure how to use a particular method, please consult a book about it.[]](https://pressbooks.online.ucf.edu/strategies/chapter/research-methods/#footnote-90-1) Also, ask for the advice of trained researchers such as your instructor or a research librarian.[[9]](#footnote-10)

If research is related to any field of science, its task and purpose are accurate investigation and reaching the truth. Research can be the cause of progress in human life, and no one can ignore its benefits, so research is the soul of the development of all sciences. The only secret of current research progress is the availability and use of research methods.

Without research, human life is incomplete and difficult, so every researcher should make good use of the research methods for their research in order to achieve certain goals in their respective research affairs, in addition to identifying research methods, definitions, types, values, and other important topics of literature.[[10]](#footnote-11)

1. Barry Mauer and John Venecek: **Strategies for Conducting Literary Research/ https://pressbooks.online.ucf.edu/strategies/** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Eliot, Simon and W.R. Owens (eds) (1998). A Handbook to Literary Research. London:  
   Routledge [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. J. JOHN SEKAR : **Is there a Method/Methodology for Literary Research?** Research Centre in English, The American College   
   Dean, INDIA [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Barry Mauer and John Venecek: **Strategies for Conducting Literary Research/ https://pressbooks.online.ucf.edu/strategies/** [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. J. JOHN SEKAR : **Is there a Method/Methodology for Literary Research?** Research Centre in English, The American College   
   Dean, INDIA [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Barry Mauer and John Venecek: **Strategies for Conducting Literary Research/ https://pressbooks.online.ucf.edu/strategies/** [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Haryati Sulistyorini: **RESEARCH METHOD IN LITERATURE ,**Faculty of Languages and LettersDian Nuswantoro UniversityIntroduction to Literary Studies [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Wang, Shouheng. *Basis of education scientific research methodology*. Hefei: Anhui University Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Barry Mauer and John Venecek: **Strategies for Conducting Literary Research/ https://pressbooks.online.ucf.edu/strategies/** [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Shafiqullah Rahmani et all : **The Value of Research Methods in Literary Studies,** International Journal of Current Science Research and Review, **Volume 06 Issu**e **03 March 2023**  P2039 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)