



RESEARCH CRITIQUE: How To Evaluate The Quality Of A Research Article

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Purposes of a Research Critique

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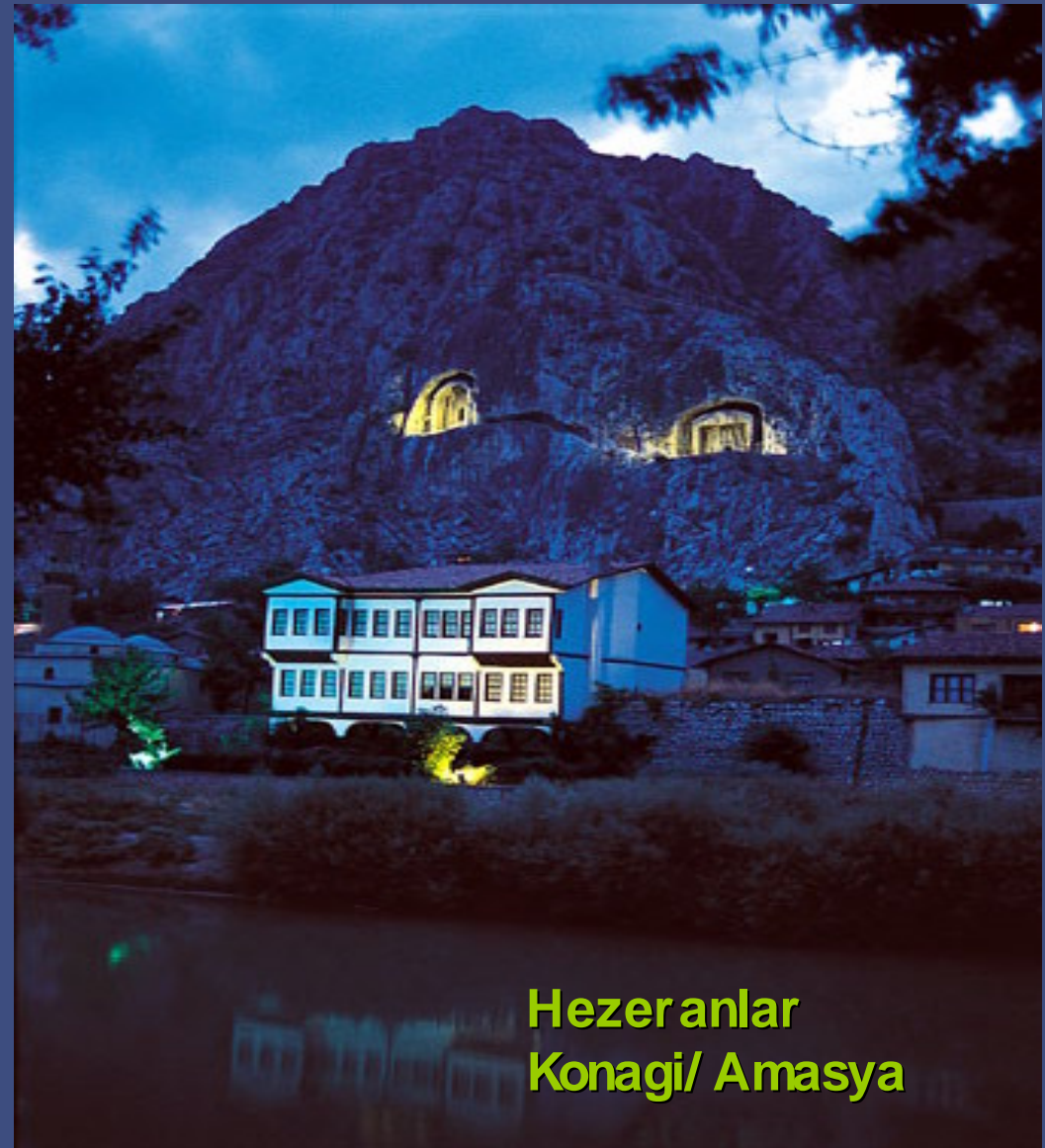
- A research critique is not just a summary of a study but rather a careful appraisal of its merits and flaws.
- A good critique objectively identifies areas of adequacy and inadequacy, as well as virtues and faults.



Types of research critiques conducted in nursing- Part 1

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- Student critiques
- Critiques by the practicing nurse
- Critiques by nursing educators
- Critiques by nurse researchers



**Hezeranlar
Konagi/ Amasya**



Types of research critiques conducted in nursing- Part 2

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Göcek

- Critiques after verbal presentations of studies
- Critiques after published research reports
- A critique done for abstract selection
- The critique of an article for publication
- The critique of research proposals



DI MENS IONS OF A RESEARCH CRI TI QUE

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Sedir Adasi
Marmaris



1. Substantive and Theoretical Dimension

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- The research problem should have an obvious relevance to some aspect of nursing.
- It is not enough that a problem be interesting if it offers but it also offers knowledge on nursing or improving nursing practices.



**Gideros Koyu / Cide -
Kastamonu**

2. Methodologic Dimension

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- The heart of a research critique lies in the appraisal of the researchers' methodological decisions.
- The quality of evidence that a study yields is inextricably linked to researchers' choice of methods and strategies for study design and for collecting and analyzing data.

3.Ethical Dimension

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- A piece of research is required the risk / benefit ratio. More specifically the extent to which the benefits of the study is maximized and the risks are minimized such that subjects are protected from harm during the study.



Kaputas / Kas

4. Interpretive Dimension

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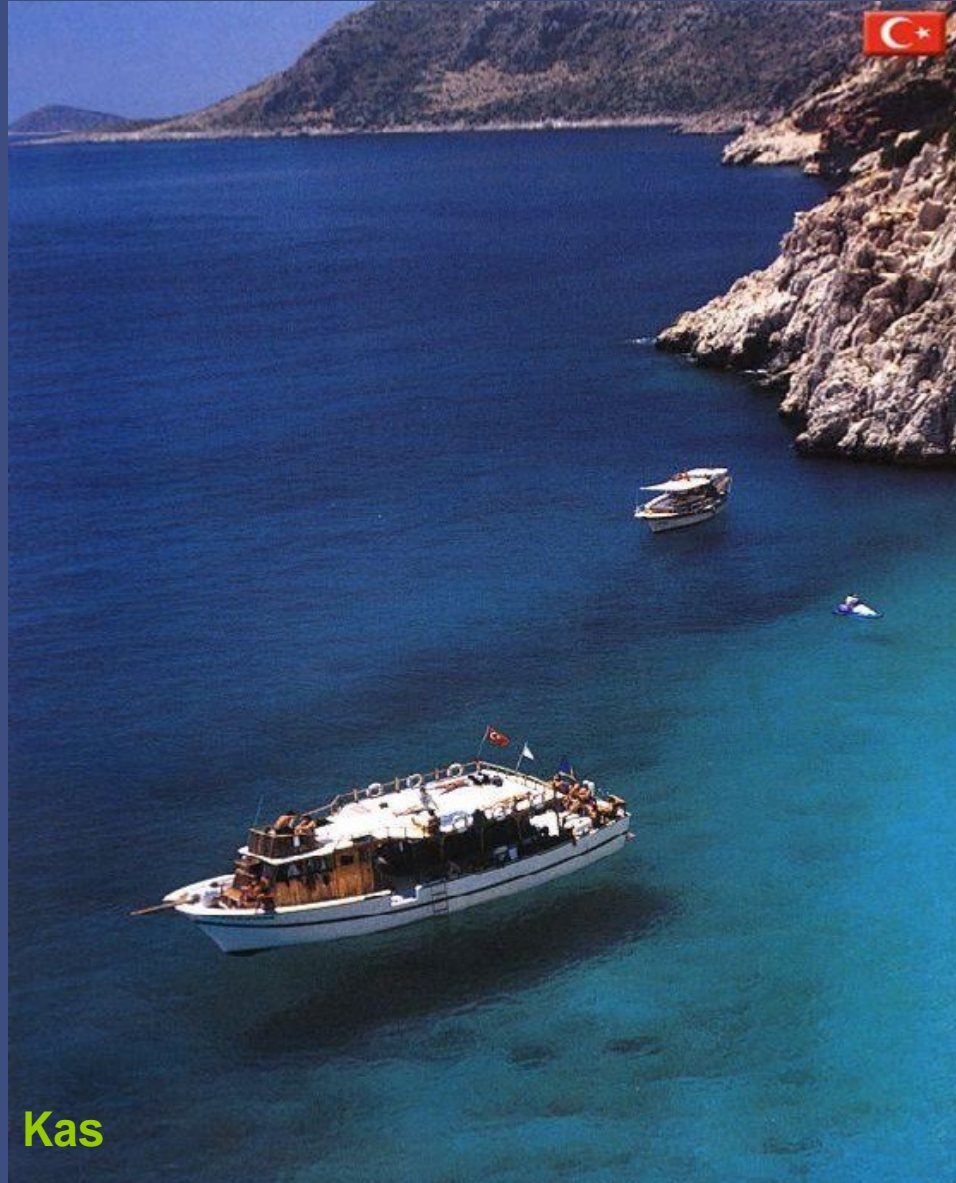
Anadolu Kavagi/ Istanbul

- Research reports virtually always conclude with a discussion, conclusion statement, or implications section.
- In this final section, researchers offer an interpretation of the findings, and also consider whether the findings might imply something about nursing.



THE CRITIQUI NG PROCESS FOR A RESEARCH ARTICLE

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- Nature of the study and its problem statement
- Literature review and conceptual framework
- Research design and procedures
- Data collection and analysis
- Discussion of findings



GUIDELINES FOR CRITIQUING QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH REPORTS

TITLE

Basic questions
for a critique:

Was the title a good
one, and did it
suggest the
research problem
and the study
population?

Acigöl/Denizli



ABSTRACT

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Basic questions for a critique:

- Does the abstract clearly and concisely summarize the main features of the report?

Altiparmaklar / Artvin



INTRODUCTION

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Statement of the problem and purpose

Basic questions for a critique:

- What is the problem and/ or purpose of the research study?
- Does the problem and/ or purpose statement make clear the concept and the population under study?
- Does the problem have significance for nursing?
- Is there a good match between the research problem, the paradigm, and methods used? Is a quantitative approach appropriate?

Amanos Daglari / Hatay



INTRODUCTION

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Literature review

Basic questions for a critique:

- Is the literature review thorough, up-to-date, and based mainly on primary sources?
- Does the review summarize knowledge on the dependent and independent variables and the relationship between them?
- Does the literature review lay a solid basis for the new study?

Balikli Göl / Agri



INTRODUCTION

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Conceptual/ theoretical
framework

Basic questions for a critique:

- Are key concepts adequately defined conceptually? Is there a conceptual/ theoretical framework and is it appropriate? If not, is the absence of one justified?



Çamurlu Yaylası / Artvin



INTRODUCTION

Hypothesis(es) or research question(s)

Basic questions for a critique:

- Are research questions and/or hypotheses explicitly stated? If not, is their absence justified?
- Are questions and hypotheses appropriately worded?
- Are the questions/ hypotheses consistent with the literature review and the conceptual framework?
- What is the direction of the relationship in each hypotheses, if indicated?
- Are the hypotheses testable?

Bey Daglari / Antalya



METHOD

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Research design

Basic questions for a critique:

- Was the most rigorous possible design used, given the study purpose?
- Were appropriate comparisons made to enhance interpretability of the findings?
- Was the number of data collection points appropriate?
- Did the design minimize threats to the internal and external validity of the study?

Asi Koyu / Mugla



METHOD

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Population and sample

Basic questions for a critique:

- How was the sample selected?
Was the sample described in sufficient detail?
- Was the best possible sampling design used to enhance the sample's representativeness?
- Was the sample size adequate?
Was a power analysis used to estimate sample size needs?
- Which population made the findings general and what were the limitations?

Datça / Mugla



METHOD

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Data collection and measurement

Basic questions for a critique:

- Are the operational and conceptual definitions congruent?
- Were key variables operational by using the best possible method (e.g., interviews, observations, etc.)
- Were the specific instruments adequately described and were they proper choices?
- Did the report provide evidence that the data collection methods yielded data that was highly reliable and valid?

Erciyes Dagı / Kayseri



METHOD

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Procedures

Basic questions for a critique:

- If there was an involvement, was it adequately described and was it properly implemented?
- Was the data collected in a manner that minimized bias?
Was the data collection staff appropriately trained?
- Were appropriate procedures used to safeguard the rights of study participants?

Kekova / Antalya

Data analysis

Basic questions for a critique:

- Was each specific analyses undertaken to address each research question or test each hypothesis?
- Were appropriate statistical methods used, given the level of measurement of the variables, number of groups being compared, and etc.?
- Was the most powerful analytic method used? (e.g., did the analysis help to control extraneous variables?)





RESULTS

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Findings

Basic questions for a critique:

- Were the findings adequately summarized, with good use of tables and figures?
- Do the findings provide strong evidence regarding the research questions? Were Type I and Type II errors minimized?



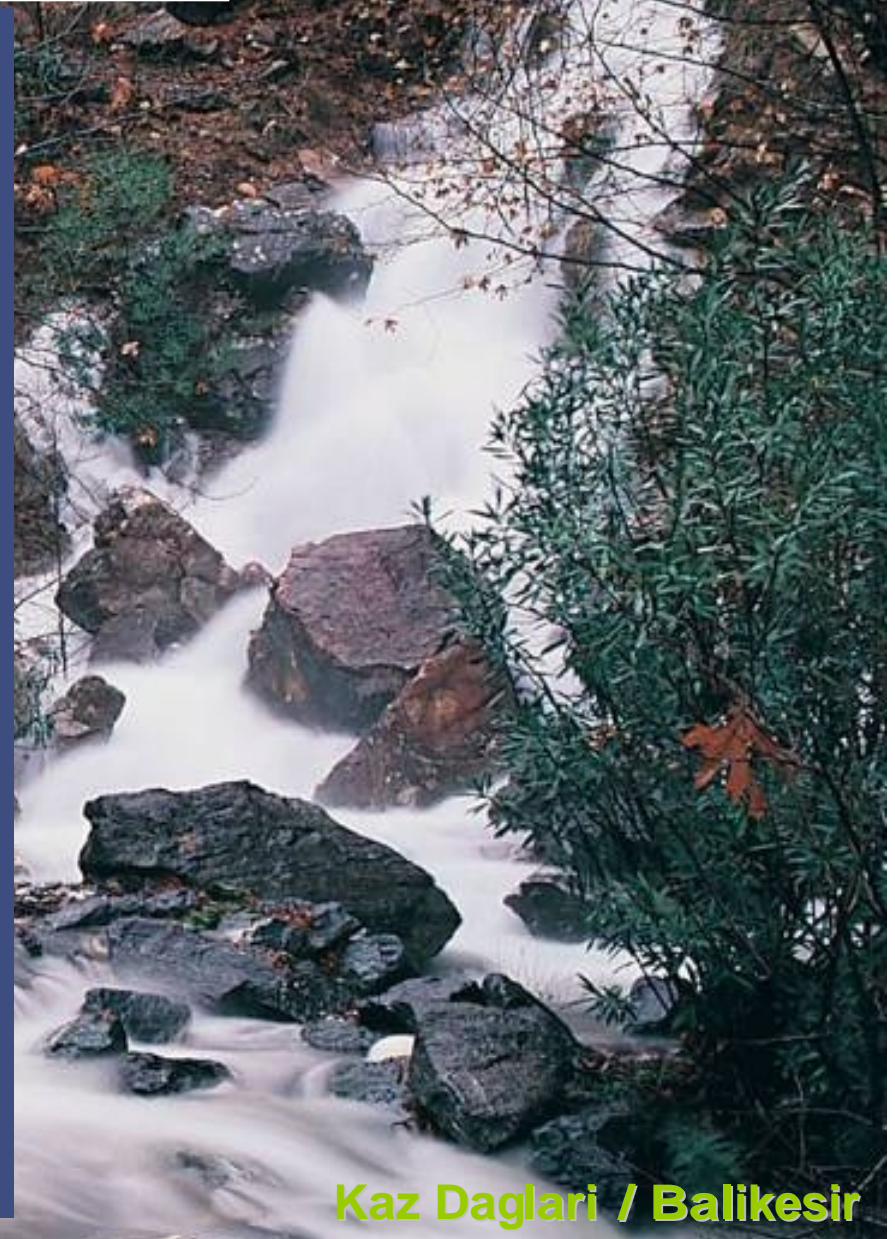
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Interpretation of the findings

Basic questions for a critique:

- Are all major findings interpreted and discussed within the context of prior research and/ or the study's conceptual framework?
- Are the interpretations consistent with the result and with the study's limitations?
- Does the report address the issue of the generalization of the findings?



Kaz Daglari / Balikesir

Implications / recommendations

Basic questions for a critique:

- Do the researchers discuss the implications of the study for clinical practice or further research-and are those implications reasonable and complete?



GLOBAL ISSUES

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Presentation

Basic questions for a critique:

- Was the report well-written, well-organized, and sufficiently detailed for critical analysis?
- Were you able to understand the study?
- Was the report written in a manner that makes the findings accessible to practicing nurses?

İgneada Longozu / Kirklareli



GLOBAL ISSUES

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Summary assessment Basic questions for a critique:

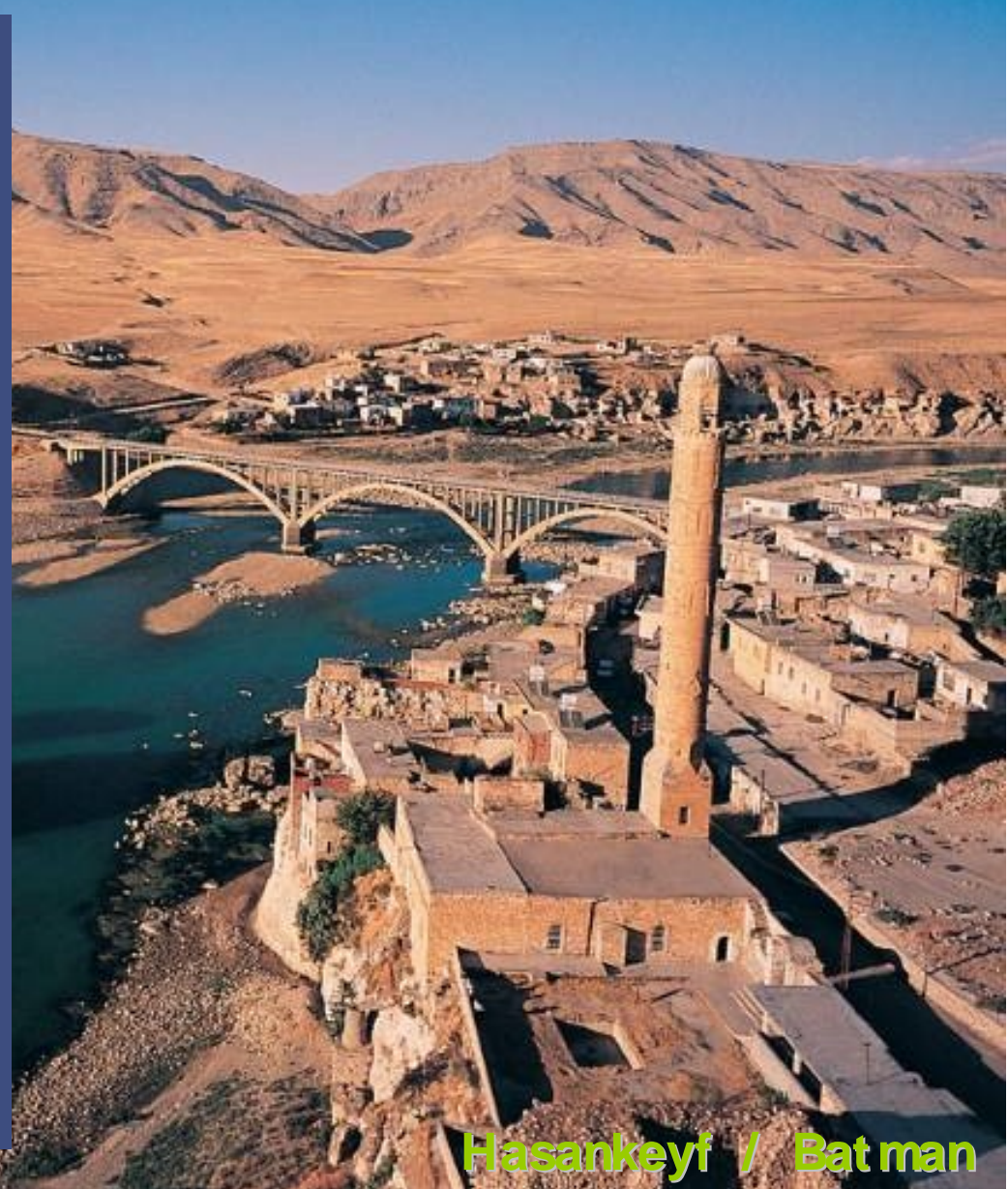
- Despite any identified limitations, do the study findings appear to be valid; do you have confidence in the truth value of the results?
- Does the study contribute any meaningful evidence that can be used in nursing practice or that is useful to the nursing discipline?



TITLE

Basic questions
for a critique:

Was the title a
good one,
suggesting the
key phenomenon
and the group or
community under
study?



Hasankeyf / Batman



ABSTRACT

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Basic questions for a critique:

- Does the abstract clearly and concisely summarize the main features of report?



INTRODUCTION

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Statement of the problem and purpose

Basic questions for a critique:

- Is the phenomenon of interest clearly identified?
- Is the problem stated unambiguously and is it easy to identify?
- Does the problem have any significance in nursing?
- Is there a good match between the research problem and the paradigm and methods used? Is a qualitative approach appropriate?



Lüksör Vadisi / Erzurum



INTRODUCTION

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Literature review

Basic questions for a critique:

- Does the report summarize the existing body of knowledge related to the problem of phenomenon of interest?
- Is the literature review adequate?
- Does the literature review lay a solid basis for the new study?

Munzur Daglari / Tunceli



INTRODUCTION

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Conceptual underpinnings

Basic questions for a critique:

- Are key concepts adequately defined conceptually?
- Is the philosophical basis underlying; tradition, conceptual framework, or ideological orientation made explicit and is it appropriate for the problem?



Meke Gölü / Konya



INTRODUCTION

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Hypothesizes or research questions

Basic questions for a critique:

- Are research questions explicitly stated? If not, is their absence justified?
- Are the questions consistent with the study's philosophical basis underlying; tradition, conceptual framework, or ideological orientation?



METHOD

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Research design and research tradition

Basic questions for a critique:

- Is the identified research tradition, if any, congruent with the methods used to collect and analyze data?
- Was an adequate amount of time spent in the field or with study participants?
- Did the design unfold in the field, allowing researchers to capitalize on early understandings?
- Was there evidence of flexibility in the design?
- Were there an adequate number of contacts with study participants?

Nemrut Krateri / Mus

Sample and setting

Basic questions for a critique:

- Was the group or population of interest adequately described?
- Were the setting and sample described in sufficient detail?
- Was the approach used to gain access to the site or to recruit participants appropriate?
- Did the best possible method of sampling enhance information richness and address the needs of the study?
- Was the sample size adequate? Was saturation achieved?



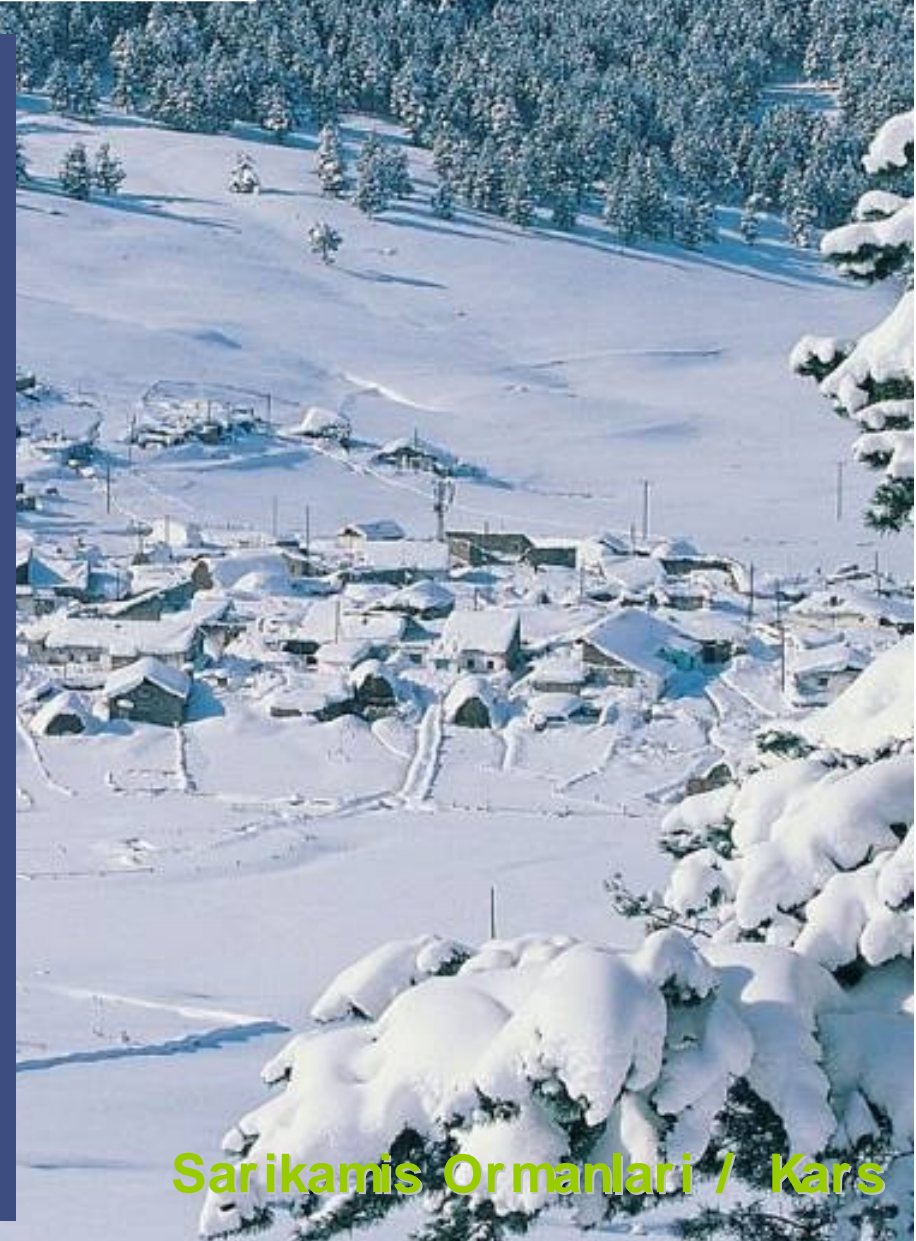
METHOD

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Data collection

Basic questions for a critique:

- Were the methods of gathering data appropriate? Was data gathered through two or more methods to achieve triangulation?
- Did the researcher ask the right questions or make the right observations, and were they recorded in appropriate fashion?
- Was a sufficient amount of data gathered? Was the data of sufficient depth and richness?



Sarikamis Ormanlari / Kars

Procedures

Basic questions for a critique:

- Were data collection and recording procedures adequately described and do they appear to be appropriate?
- Was data collected in a manner that minimized bias or behavioral distortions?
Was the data collection staff appropriately trained?
- Were appropriate procedures used to safeguard the rights of study participants?



METHOD

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Enhancement of rigor

Basic questions for a critique:

- Were methods used to enhance the trustworthiness of data and analysis, also was the description of those methods adequate?
- Were the methods used to enhance credibility appropriate and sufficient?
- Did the researcher document research procedures and decision processes sufficiently so that findings are auditable and confirmable?



Tortum Selalesi / Erzurum



RESULTS

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Data analysis

Basic questions for a critique:

- Were the data management (e.g., coding) and data analysis methods sufficiently described?
- Was the data analysis strategy compatible with the research tradition and with the nature and type of the data gathered?
- Did the analysis yield an appropriate “product” (e.g., a theory, taxonomy, thematic pattern, etc.)?
- Did the analytical procedures suggest the possibility of bias?

Uludag / Bursa



RESULTS

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Findings

Basic questions for a critique:

- Were the findings effectively summarized with good use of excerpts?
- Do the themes adequately capture the meaning of the data? Does it appear that the researcher, with satisfaction, conceptualized the themes or patterns in data?
- Did the analysis yield an insightful, provocative, and meaningful picture of the phenomenon under investigation?



Verçenik / Rize



RESULTS

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Amasya

Theoretical integration

Basic questions for a critique:

- Are the themes or patterns logically connected to each other to form a convincing and integrated whole?
- Were figures, maps, or models used effectively to summarize conceptualizations?
- If a conceptual framework or ideological orientation guided the study, are the themes or patterns linked to it in a congruent manner?



DISCUSSION

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Interpretation of the findings

Basic questions for a critique:

- Are the findings interpreted within an appropriate social or cultural context?
- Are major findings interpreted and discussed within the context of prior studies?
- Are the interpretations consistent with the study's limitations?
- Does the report address the issue of the transferability of findings?

Değirmen Boğazı - Balıkesir



DI SCUSSI ON

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Implications/
recommendations

Basic questions for a
critique:

- Do the researchers discuss the implications of the study for clinical practice or further inquiry, and are those implications reasonable?

Düden Selalesi/Antalya



GLOBAL ISSUES

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Pr esent at ion

Basic questions for a critique:

- Was t he report well-writ t en, well-or-ganized, and suf f iciently det ailed f or critical analysis?
- Was t he description of t he met hods, f indings, and int erpret ations suf f iciently rich and vivid?

Saitabat Selalesi/Bursa

Summary assessment

Basic questions for a critique:

- Do the study findings appear to be trustworthy. Do you have confidence in the truth value of the results?
- Does the study contribute any meaningful evidence that can be used in nursing practice or that is useful to the nursing discipline?



Truva Atı/ Çanakkale

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Ortaköy Mosque/Istanbul