

Research Paradigms: The Novice Researcher's Nightmare

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to present an overview of three major research paradigms (positivist, interpretivist and critical) and the philosophy underpinning them. It also present a simple explanation to some of the most used terms in educational research: epistemology, ontology, methodology, and methods. Understanding research paradigms is extremely crucial to any novice researchers who embark on the journey of researching for the first time and to any language teachers who are interested in reading research articles.

Keywords: critical paradigm, epistemology, interpretive paradigm, methodology, ontology, positivist paradigm