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The Perspective on Data Collection Instruments for Younger Learners

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Abstract : For academia, collecting reliable and valid data is one of the most significant issues for researchers. However, it is not the same procedure for all different target groups; meanwhile, during data collection from teenagers, young adults, or adults, researchers can use common data collection tools such as questionnaires, interviews, and semi-structured interviews; yet, for young learners and very young ones, these reliable and valid data collection tools cannot be easily designed or applied by the researchers. In this study, firstly, common data collection tools are examined for 'very young' and 'young learners' participant groups since it is thought that the quality and efficiency of an academic study is mainly based on its valid and correct data collection and data analysis procedure. Secondly, two different data collection instruments for very young and young learners are stated as discussing the efficacy of them. Finally, a suggested data collection tool – a performance-based questionnaire- which is specifically developed for 'very young' and 'young learners' participant groups in the field of teaching English to young learners as a foreign language is presented in this current study. The designing procedure and suggested items/factors for the suggested data collection tool are accordingly revealed at the end of the study to help researchers have studied with young and very learners.
Keywords : data collection instruments, performance-based questionnaire, young learners, very young learners
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