**EMPHASES OF QUANTITATIVE, MIXED, AND QUALITATIVE RESEARCH**

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|  | **QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH** | **MIXED RESEARCH** | **QUALITATIVE RESEARCH** |
| **Scientific method** | **Confirmatory or “top-down” The researcher tests hypotheses and theory with data** | **Confirmatory and exploratory** | **Exploratory or “bottom-up”**  **The researcher generates or constructs knowledge, hypotheses, and grounded theory from data collected during fieldwork** |
| Ontology (i.e., nature of reality/truth) | Objective, material, structural, agreed-upon | Pluralism; appreciation of objective, subjective, and intersubjective reality and their interrelations | Subjective, mental, personal, and constructed |
| Epistemology (i.e., theory of knowledge) | Scientific realism; search for Truth; justification by empirical confirmation of hypotheses; universal scientific standards | Dialectical pragmatism; pragmatic justification (what works for whom in specific contexts); mixture of universal (e.g., *always* be ethical) and community-specific needs-based standards | Relativism; individual and group justification; varying standards |
| View of human thought and behavior | Regular and predictable | Dynamic, complex, and partially predictable Multiple influences include environment/nurture, biology/nature,  freewill/agency, and chance/fortuity. | Situational, social, contextual, personal, and unpredictable |
| Most common research objectives | Quantitative/numerical description, causal explanation, and prediction | Multiple objectives; provide complex and fuller explanation and understanding; understand multiple perspectives | Qualitative/subjective description, empathetic understanding, and exploration |
| Interest | Identify general scientific laws; inform national policy. | Connect theory and practice; understand multiple causation, nomothetic (i.e., general) causation, and idiographic (i.e., particular, individual) causation; connect national and local interests and policy. | Understand and appreciate particular groups and individuals; inform local policy. |
| “Focus” | Narrow-angle lens, testing specific hypotheses | Multilens focus | Wide-angle and “deep-angle” lens, examining the breadth and depth of phenomena to learn more about them |
| Nature of observation | Study behavior under controlled conditions; isolate the causal effect of single variables | Study multiple contexts, perspectives, or conditions; study multiple factors as they operate together | Study groups and individuals in natural settings; attempt to understand insiders’ views, meanings, and perspectives |
| Form of data collected | Collect quantitative data based on precise measurement using structured and validated data-collection instruments | Collect multiple kinds of data | Collect qualitative data such as in- depth interviews, participant observation, field notes, and open- ended questions. The researcher is the primary data-collection instrument |
| Nature of data | Variables | Mixture of variables, words, categories, and  images | Words, images, categories |
| Data analysis | Identify statistical relationships among variables | Quantitative and qualitative analysis used separately and in combination. | Use descriptive data; search for patterns, themes, and holistic features; and appreciate difference/variation |
| Results | Generalizable findings providing representation of objective outsider viewpoint of populations | Provision of “subjective insider” and “objective outsider” viewpoints; presentation and integration of multiple dimensions and perspectives | Particularistic findings; provision of insider viewpoints |
| Form of final report | Formal statistical report (e.g., with correlations, comparisons of means, and reporting of statistical significance of findings | Mixture of numbers and narrative | Informal narrative report with contextual description and direct quotations from research participants |

Tabla 2.1 *Emphases of Quantitative, Mixed, and Qualitative Research.* Recuperado de http://knowledgeportal.pakteachers.org/sites/knowledgeportal.pakteachers.org/files/resources/RESEARCH%20METHOD%20COHEN%20ok.pdf