

## CHAPTER 3. METHODOLOGY

### Introduction

Research developed is designed to provide more information into the needs of students from ESL families that may not have the support needed from the school to be successful in their school experiences. In previous studies, such as Ochoa and Rhodes (2005) or Sze, Chapman, and Shi (2009), the focus has been on the student rather than the needs of developing successful communications and meeting the needs of ESL parents. Meeting the communication needs of parents is essential to the success of all students at all ages, Yan and Mohan (2008) found that conflict and miscommunication were some of the leading problems facing ESL students or students from ESL families.

### Statement of the Problem

Many ESL students and students from ESL homes are unable to participate with the schools in the same effective ways as other parents in the same districts. Schools around the US have developed special projects to meet the needs of NCLB and provide parents with many different opportunities to be a part of their children's education; however, ESL families often feel left out and prevented from participating in these types of activities (Yan & Mohan, 2008). ESL students would be successful in these measures in the same way as other students if there were stronger support systems for ESL families.

### **Research Questions**

Creswell (2008) stresses that research questions must be kept on task with the goals of the research and the objectives of solving the problem statement. The research questions included:

Research Question 1: In the community, in what ways are the ESL families accommodated in school related events, activities, and student success planning?

Research Question 2: What are the ESL families opinions of the accommodations designed to assist these families in becoming an active part of the school and learning processes for their children?

### **Methodology and Design**

Methodology and design used for this specific study will be based on qualitative design methods, which include interviews and surveys of the teachers and parents in the local area. The goal will be to receive qualifying surveys from both groups in order to provide a clear picture of the problem and possibly identify methods for resolution.

### **Population Sample**

Some studies use populations and descriptive statistics, which is described as conducting a study with small enough population, such as an individual organization or group, and can be defined by the demographic profile they consist of; however, other studies have a population size that is too large for this method. When a population size is too large, a sample of the population must be studied. The goal of a sample population is to be an accurate representation of the

population but in a smaller number. Random samples are the goal, because these samples allow for a higher confidence level when developing results; however, the goal is to provide a population sample that can be a snap shot when comparing demographic profile information.

### **Instrumentation**

In order to conduct the research in a qualitative manner it is essential to develop questionnaires that meet the needs of the research questions. As identified in Appendix B, each questionnaire question, found in Appendix A, matches the research questions and will be used to identify the results.

### **Data Collection**

The collection of data will occur primarily through the SurveyMonkey system and be immediately entered into the system for evaluation. Permit records of these submissions will be stored in a single DVD and deleted from the system if it should contain any identifiable information. No survey will be maintained in any type of support if it contains identifiable information.

### **Data Analysis**

Data analysis will be conducted by collecting the survey results from SurveyMonkey and submitting them for evaluation through SPSS or Excel. These methods for evaluation eliminate calculations errors but are not preventative to data entry errors. Each item submitted by hand will be evaluated twice for accurate submissions. In addition, each survey question is already predestined to be related to a specific research question.

### **Ethical Considerations**

Research involving people must be developed ethically, particularly this includes the responsibility of the researcher to protect the privacy of the individuals that participate in the study. This privacy protection must extend to all people's, regardless of age, religion, race, and be inclusive of identifiable information such as protected under legislation within the US.

### **Limitations of the Study**

Limitations in this study stem from a combination of development of the target sample versus the ability of that sample to equal the same demographic profile of the population. Similar to other studies, this study is heavily dependent on individual responses, as a qualitative study, and will be influenced by things other than only opinions - including respondent current mood or time allotment for the questionnaires.

### **Reference**

- Creswell, J. (2008). *Educational Research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research, 3rd edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Ochoa, S., & Rhodes, R. L. (2005). Assisting Parents of Bilingual Students to Achieve Equity in Public Schools. *Journal of Educational & Psychological Consultation*, 16(1/2), 75-94.  
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