

Week 2 Research Questions and Hypothesis

Development

1. Lecture Objectives

- 1) The purpose of this lecture is to help students refine their research topics and develop research questions and hypotheses, which are essential elements of academic research.

Students will learn how to formulate clear research questions and construct testable hypotheses for their thesis.

2. Meaning of a Research Question

- 1) A research question is the central problem expressed in the form of a question that the researcher seeks to answer.
- 2) A good research question has the following characteristics:
 - (1) It is clear and specific.
 - (2) It can be answered through research.
 - (3) It addresses a meaningful academic issue.
 - (4) It guides the direction of the research.

Examples (Theological Research)

- (1) How does Paul's gospel differ from Reformation theology?
- (2) How did the early church testify to the resurrection of Jesus?
- (3) What role does apologetics play in the modern church?

3. Criteria for a Good Research Question

- 1) A strong research question generally meets the following criteria:

(1) Clarity

The question must be clearly defined and not ambiguous.

(2) Researchability

It must be possible to investigate the question using Scripture, literature, and historical sources.

(3) Significance

The question should have academic or theological importance.

(4) Specificity

The scope should be focused and manageable.

4. Meaning of a Hypothesis

- 1) A hypothesis is a tentative answer proposed by the researcher to address the research question.
- 2) It can be tested, supported, or revised during the research process.

Example

1) Research Question

“How does Paul's gospel differ from Reformation theology?”

2) Hypothesis

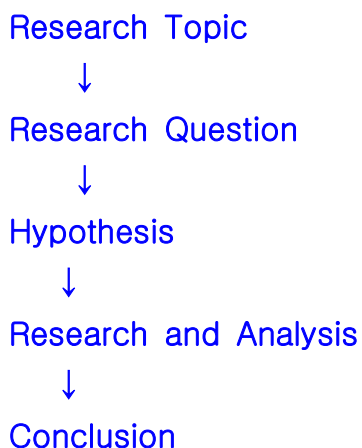
“Paul's gospel is more directly centered on divine revelation and the redemptive work of Christ than Reformation theology.”

5. Principles of Hypothesis Development

- 1) A good hypothesis should:
 - (1) Be testable through research
 - (2) Be logically consistent
 - (3) Be directly related to the research question
 - (4) Be expressed as a clear claim

6. Relationship Between Research Questions and Hypotheses

- 1) The relationship can be structured as follows:



7. Practice Activity

- 1) Students will complete the following exercise:
 - (1) Write their thesis topic in one sentence.
 - (2) Develop a research question based on the topic.
 - (3) Formulate a hypothesis related to the research question.
 - (4) Share and discuss their ideas with peers.

8. Summary

- 1) Research questions and hypotheses are the foundation of academic research.

- 2) When clear questions and logical hypotheses are established, the research direction becomes focused and meaningful conclusions can be reached.