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Course 4

Analysis of the research topic



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Course plan

1. Understanding and defining the subject

▶ 2. **5 Wh's and How method** ((Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How)

3. Organize your research

4. Case studies

Objective

- ▶ It is necessary to understand, define and question the research subject:
- ▶ • to avoid misunderstandings, off–topic issues and oversights
(éviter les contre-sens, les hors-sujet et les oublis)
- ▶ • to select the questions to be addressed
- to be able to pose a problem

Introduction

- ▶ **Analyzing the subject is an essential step before beginning any research in the library, in a catalog or on the Internet.**
- ▶ **The questioning of the subject can then give the different directions that research can take , as the researcher will discover by consulting the usual.**
- ▶ **Finally, identifying resource locations and evaluating the time to be devoted to the work come together in the material organization of the research.**

1. Understanding and defining the subject

- ▶ To set up a research project, you need to use tools that will help you understand the subject, then question it and formulate hypotheses.

In the process of scientific research, it is therefore necessary first to identify the subject and then to reformulate it.

▶1.1. Identifying the research topic

In this stage, the aim is to find out about the subject and clearly formulate the various research questions.

- define the research context: what situation does this research relate?
Why do I need to do this research?
- Identify the purpose of the search: What information am I looking for? What am I interested in? What do I already know about the subject?
- delimit the research: What are the geographical and temporal limits of the research?
- Specify the type of response required: What is the format of the response or the type of information required?

▶1.2. Formulating the subject

Once the subject has been identified, the next step is to formulate a set of relevant keywords, which are then submitted to the information sources to obtain an appropriate response.

Keywords

A keyword is a word or phrase typically chosen from the title or text of a document to characterize its content and facilitate searching. It serves as an access point to the document.

▶1.2. Formulating the subject

▶Contextualizing concepts: What words or expressions best describe the concepts involved in the research?

▶Translating concepts into keywords: Which words best translate concepts?

▶-Determining equivalents: What are synonyms and equivalents?

Grouping keywords and equivalents: What are the links between different keywords?

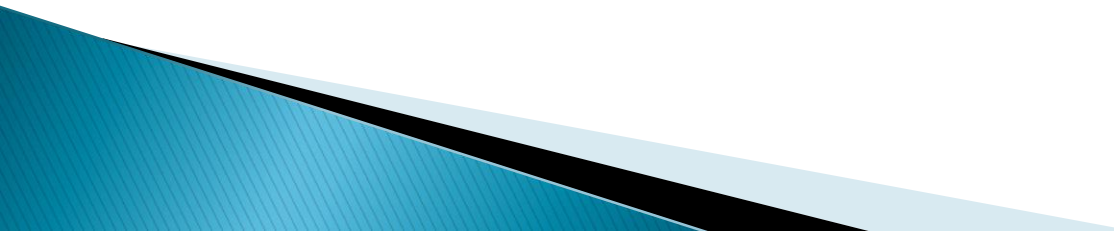
▶1.2. Formulating the subject

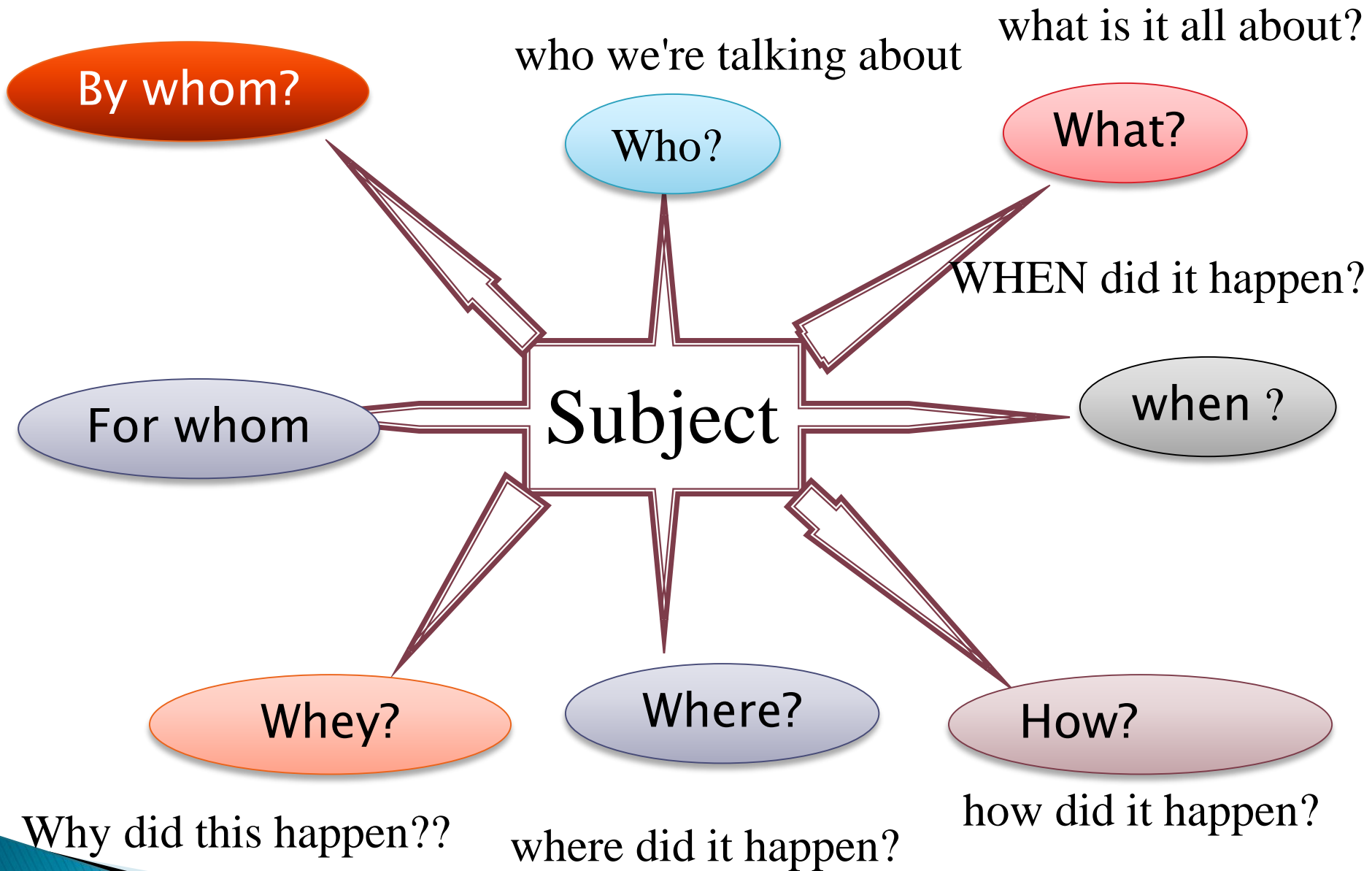
Identifying and formulating a research topic or problem will save an enormous amount of time in the next phase of information gathering.

This step is necessary to take ownership of the subject and the directions you need to take to address it.

2. Questioning the subject (5 W's and How method)

The aim is to ask simple questions, the answers to which can be used to identify, clarify and explore a subject in greater depth (approfondir un sujet).

- Identify the problem: what exactly are we talking about?
 - Referring to published literature: what we already know
 - present the hypothesis(es): what will be tested.
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3. Organizing research

Organizing your search is the key to meeting the **recipient's expectations and saving time**

► It's important to understand **the type of work required** (e.g. revising a course, preparing a presentation, preparing an internship report):

Depending on the form of the work requested, the time devoted to understanding the subject varies (le temps consacré à la compréhension du sujet est variable).

A few minutes are required for a simple look-up in a multi-person dictionary.

Hours of work over several days to synthesize content from different types of documents..

- ▶ Next, the work must be placed in a **particular context and, above all, a discipline...**
- ▶ **For example, the cell biology course, the physics course...**
- ▶ Finally, we need to plan the **material conditions: timetable, locations, specific materials.**
- ▶ You need to find out about the **conditions of access to places and documents, and estimate the time you'll need to devote to this work.**

4. Case studies

Seen during the course session.

Bibliographies

<https://www.animaveille.com/tag/analyse-du-sujet/>