Writing process and completing the thesis

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17.4.2018 at 8.30–9.00
L3 Linnanmaa

Towards Doctoral Degree
UniOGS
First version of the dissertation

- Use Acta template
- Start from the list of content of this lecture
- Sketch the content for each sub-chapter
- Maximise the use of existing materials
  - Articles, research reports, etc.
- Copy substance from your materials (rephrase)
- Write missing bits from scratch
Compilation dissertation

- 3-5 articles + compilation
  - Requirements for the number of articles varies by discipline
  - Journal articles vs. conference articles vs. manuscripts

- Compilation must be readable independently

- Best and most fitting bits from the articles
  - Contemplating the whole created by the articles
Alternative structures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Abstract</td>
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<td>Acknowledgements</td>
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<td>Abbreviations and definitions (List of</td>
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<td>original publications)</td>
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<td>Table of contents</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Introduction</td>
<td>1 Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2 Objectives and scope</td>
<td>2 Literature review</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3 Research process</td>
<td>3 Aims of the study</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Theoretical foundation</td>
<td>4 Materials and methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Results</td>
<td>5 Results</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Discussion</td>
<td>6 Discussion</td>
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</table>
Compilation dissertation structure

1 Introduction
1.1 Background and research environment
1.2 Objectives and scope
1.3 Research process and dissertation structure

2 Theoretical foundation
(2.1 Background)
2.2 Theoretical sub-area 1
2.3 Theoretical sub-area 2
2.4 Theoretical sub-area 3
2.5 Theoretical sub-area n
(2.6 Theory synthesis)

3 Results
3.1 Research question 1 results
3.2 RQ 2 results
3.3 RQ 3 results
3.4 RQ 4 results
(3.5 Results summary)

4 Discussion
4.1 Theoretical implications
4.2 Practical implications
4.3 Reliability and validity
4.4 Recommendations for further research
Monograph dissertation structure

1 Introduction
   1.1 Background and research environment
   1.2 Objectives and scope
   1.3 Research process and dissertation structure

2 Theoretical foundation
   (2.1 Background )
   2.2 Theoretical sub-area 1
   2.3 Theoretical sub-area 2
   2.4 Theoretical sub-area 3
   2.5 Theoretical sub-area n
   (2.6 Theory synthesis )

3 Results
   3.1 Results of sub-area 1
   3.2 Results of sub-area 2
   3.3 Results of sub-area 3
   ...  
   3.N Answering research questions

4 Discussion
   4.1 Theoretical implications
   4.2 Practical implications
   4.3 Reliability and validity
   4.4 Recommendations for further research

(5 Summary)
References
Abstract

- Short paragraph for each of the following
  - total length 1 page

- What is the bigger picture (introduction)?
- Dissertation purpose
- Research method
- Key results
- Practical implications
1.1 Background and research environment

- Research background and **research gap**
  - Identifying a gap in research using literature
- What have others studied relating to the topic?
  - what is known & what is not known about the topic and closely related issues
- Write using the "funnel principle"
1.2 Objectives and scope

- Divide the **research problem** into research questions / hypotheses

- Describe the **logic** how the research questions are interconnected.
  - use an illustration

- Aims of the dissertation and exclusions
  - must be in-line with the results – allow the results to guide the final version

- Compilation dissertation
  - Simplest solution if each research question is answered by one article
## Complicated structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research question</th>
<th>Article I</th>
<th>Article II</th>
<th>Article III</th>
<th>Article IV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RQ1</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>RQ2</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>RQ3</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RQ4</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3 Results

Present core results
- Compilation: RQ-by-RQ
- Monograph: in stages

Monograph:

3 Results
3.1 Results of sub-area 1
3.2 Results of sub-area 2
3.3 Results of sub-area 3
...
3.n Answering research questions

Compilation:

3 Results
3.1 Research question 1 results
3.2 Research question 2 results
3.3 Research question 3 results
3.4 Research question 4 results
(3.5 Results summary)
4.1 Scientific implications

- how do you advance the existing scientific knowledge
- reflect against literature presented in your theoretical part
- supports/contradicts previous research results, or creates something completely new?
- Structural recommendation: one key conclusion/topic at a time
4 Discussion

4.2 Practical implications
- Who benefits from your results and how
- Implications to society, companies, organisations, etc.
- Structural recommendation: beneficiary group by beneficiary group

4.3 Reliability and validity
- Discuss reliability and validity of your research
- Take a position on
  - limitations of your research
  - generaliseability of results
Writing order

- PowerPoint presentation
- Research questions and related answers
- What is the bigger whole created by your articles

- Writing of results
  - Result analyses and conclusions
- Research methods
- Theory (Literature review)
- Introduction
- Discussion
- Abstract
- Title

- Finalising
- Iterations when necessary
Other tips for writing

- Write and **finalise** one sub-chapter at a time → ready to publish text
- Co-operate with your colleagues
  - to give & get feedback
  - to realise the purpose of each sub-chapter
- Once the Results chapter is written, ask supervisor for feedback before proceeding further
Introductory sentences

- Pay special attention to the beginnings of chapters and paragraphs
- Write introductory sentences
  - Enables reader to understand what is being discussed
- Present figures, tables, etc. in the text
  - Figure 1 illustrates, Table 2 summarises
  - More detailed text after the illustration
Finalisation

• Check that results and research questions match
  – fine-tune research questions if necessary

• Check that Theory, Introduction, and Materials & methods are in line with the results

• Check and follow format requirements
Other points

- Language check either before pre-examination, simultaneously, or after

- Article publishers
  - ask permissions to use in your dissertation early
  - ask permission to use your figures
Further questions

- A good possibility to get your dissertation-related questioned answered

- In the end of lecture

Writing the compiling part of a compilation dissertation

Friday 20.4.2018 at 08.15-12.00 in lecture room SÄ102 Linnanmaa campus