

Reflective Practice in Research Undertaken Multilingually

Abstract

Drawing on my doctoral experience, this paper presents a personal account of the role of reflection in conducting research multilingually. As PhD work was completed in both Arabic and English, the paper addresses interactions between the two languages in light of the different stages of the study, and discusses the value of reflective practice for researcher development. In this regard, a number of issues are emphasized, such as a) the role of reflection in gaining a deeper understanding of the particularities and complexities of one's work, and b) the relationship between reflective practice and researcher autonomy, especially in the case of undertaking doctoral studies in monolingual academic contexts. The paper further discusses the role of on-site and virtual professional communities in enriching experiences of conducting multilingual research. These are especially important within academic environments of growing numbers of international doctoral students, and given the exponential potential of cyberspace which allows more learners to connect to institutions of higher education, from their home countries.