

Preface to the Second Edition

In the Introduction to the first edition of *Questionnaires in second language research*, I argued that in spite of the wide application of questionnaires in applied linguistics, there did not seem to be sufficient awareness in the profession about the theory of questionnaire design. The positive reception of the book confirmed that it successfully catered to the need for a relatively non-technical and accessible text that describes systematically how to construct, administer, and process questionnaires. So why write a second edition?

The reason for this new edition is not that the material in the first edition has become outdated—research methods texts usually have a much longer shelf life than books describing research results. Rather, over the past seven years I have thought of several ways of how the book could be improved by adding extra material and by filling certain gaps. The most significant change in this revised edition involves adding a whole new chapter to the book—Chapter 5, “Illustration: developing a motivation questionnaire”—to provide a detailed, illustrative analysis of how an actual scientific research instrument was developed from scratch following the theoretical guidelines. This chapter was co-authored by my Ph.D. student, Tatsuya Taguchi, who has been directing a major test design program at the University of Nottingham under my guidance. Tatsuya has also helped me to update the references and improve several other parts of the material, particularly the addition of a section on translating questionnaire items in Chapter 2 and the discussion of how to collect survey data on the Internet in Chapter 3. We also added the full form of the Japanese instrument, along with Chinese and Iranian versions, in the Appendices.

Besides these more substantial changes, I have made numerous smaller additions, and improved the style and accuracy of the text in many places. All in all, the first edition has been given a thorough facelift! One thing has not changed, though: I still believe that conducting questionnaire surveys can be an exciting and rewarding activity, and I do hope that readers will find in this book all the technical information that they need to be able to obtain valid and reliable results. Have fun!

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