

Contents

Preface xi

1	An introduction to research methods and traditions	1
	Research traditions in applied linguistics	1
	The status of knowledge	10
	Some key concepts in research	12
	Action research	17
	Conclusion	20
	Questions and tasks	21
	Further reading	23
2	The experimental method	24
	The context of experimentation	24
	The logic of statistical inference	28
	Additional statistical tools	37
	Types of experiments	40
	The psychometric study: an example	41
	Conclusion	47
	Questions and tasks	48
	Further reading	51
3	Ethnography	52
	Principles of ethnographic research	53
	The reliability and validity of ethnography	58
	The importance of context in ethnographic inquiry	64
	Contrasting psychometry and ethnography	68
	Conclusion	71
	Questions and tasks	71
	Further reading	73
4	Case study	74
	Defining case studies	74
	Reliability and validity of case study research	79
	Single case research	81

Contents

The case study: an example	83
Conclusion	88
Questions and tasks	89
Further reading	90
5 Classroom observation and research	91
Methods of classroom observation and research	91
A review of research	102
Classroom research: sample studies	105
Conclusion	109
Questions and tasks	110
Further reading	114
6 Introspective methods	115
Some early introspective methods	116
Diary studies	118
Retrospection	124
A sample study using introspection	129
Conclusion	132
Questions and tasks	132
Further reading	135
7 Elicitation techniques	136
Production tasks	136
Surveys	140
Questionnaires	143
Interviews	149
A sample study	153
Conclusion	156
Questions and tasks	157
Further reading	158
8 Interaction analysis	159
Comparing discourse analysis, interaction analysis, and conversation analysis	159
Child–adult interaction	162
Adult–adult interaction: interpersonal encounters	168
Adult–adult interaction: transactional encounters	170
Interaction analysis in a cross-cultural context	174
Conclusion	177
Questions and tasks	178
Further reading	183

9	Program evaluation	184	
	Defining evaluation	184	
	The relationship between assessment and evaluation	185	
	The importance of process data in program evaluation	189	
	Points of focus for program evaluation	190	
	Evaluation and research	193	
	Elements in the design of an evaluation study	196	
	Doing evaluation: a case study	201	
	Conclusion	208	
	Questions and tasks	209	
	Further reading	210	
10	Doing research	211	
	Developing a research question	211	
	The literature review	216	
	Implementing the research project	218	
	Presenting the research	220	
	Conclusion	226	
	Questions and tasks	227	
	Further reading	228	
	Glossary of key terms in research	229	
	References	234	
	Index	245	