The Research Problem

In any area of study (whether theoretical or practical), any question that needs to be answered or any assumption that needs to be challenged or investigated can be the basis for a research problem. The main function of the research problem is to indicate clearly **WHAT** is intended to investigated.

When selecting a research problem, there are several important considerations to keep in mind to ensure the study is meaningful, feasible, and impactful. These include:

1. **Interest**
   Choosing a topic within a personal area of interest can help maintain motivation and enthusiasm throughout the research process, even when faced with challenges such as time constraints and hard work.
2. **Relevance**
   The research topic should hold significance not only for the researcher but also for the broader field. It should contribute to the existing body of knowledge and practice by generating new insights, validating existing theories, bridging knowledge gaps, or improving practices.
3. **Level of Expertise**
   Researchers should possess adequate knowledge and expertise in the chosen field. For example, someone investigating neurolinguistics should be familiar with both linguistics and neuroscience. If expertise is lacking, a willingness to build the necessary knowledge before and during the research is essential.
4. **Precision**
   A well-defined and specific research problem is critical. Narrowing down the problem makes the research more focused, detailed, and structured.
5. **Magnitude**
   The research should be manageable in scope, considering the available time, resources, and other constraints.
6. **Measurement of Concepts**
   Concepts used in research need to be measurable. For instance, if studying the "effectiveness" of a teaching approach, clear indicators, such as student performance or grades, should be identified to define and measure the concept.
7. **Availability of Data**
   Accessibility of data is crucial. Researchers should ensure that the necessary data can be obtained before committing to a study to avoid challenges related to data scarcity.

By considering these factors, researchers can select a problem that is both feasible to investigate and meaningful in its contribution to knowledge and practice.