**The structure of a dissertation :**

**1 /Abstract**

An abstract is a 150- 250 word paragraph, it is simply a short summary of the entire work ( thesis or dissertation) that readers can use as an overview. It should be a condensed and representative version of the whole work, and must be detailed as possible within the word count limits ( not more than 250 words)

The abstract is written after you have finished your whole work ( research paper, dissertation or thesis), so yo have a clear idea of what to include in this short paragraph, because it concisely reports the aims and outcomes of your research so that readers know exactly what the paper is about.

**Where is it placed in a dissertation ? :** in a dissertation or thesis, the abstract is included on a separate page, after the title page.

**2/ Introduction :**

Think of the introduction as a mental road map that must answer the following questions :

What am I studying ? why is this topic important to investigate ? what is already known about this topic from previous research studies ? how will this study advance our knowledge ? what distinguishes my study from previous studies ?

**Elements of an introduction :**

To answer the above questions in writing your introduction, the introduction should be organized as follows :

1/ background of the study 2/ statement of the problem 3/ aims of the study 4/ research questions 5/ hypotheses 6/ significance of the study 7/ research design and methodology 8/ sructure of the thesis.

**background of the study :**

Background information identifies and describes the history and nature of a well defined research problem with reference to the existing literature, it should indicate the root of the problem being studied and the extent to which previous studies have successfully investigated the problem , noting, in particular , where gaps exist that your study attempts to address. Introductory background differs from a literature review in that it places the research problem in proper context rather than examining pertinent literature. Background information can also include summaries of important, relevant research studies. The key is to summarize for the reader what is known about the specific research problem before you conduct your analysis.

**Significance of the study :**

It explains the basis or fundamental reasons for the study. The significance of the study should discuss the importance of the proposed research and its relevance. The investigation might be relevant for theory, practice and future research. The investigator should explain why it is important for the study to be undertaken and indicate the likelihood of its contribution to the advancement of knowledge.

**Statement of the problem :**

A statement of the problem is used in research work as a claim that outlines the problem addressed by a study. The statement of the problem briefly addresses the question ; what is the problem that the research will address ?

Writing a statement of the problem should help you clearly identify the purpose of the research project you will propose.

**Aims of the study :**

The primary focus of your research project is usually expressed in terms of aims and objectives. Your aim should respond logically to the problem statement.

**Research questions :**

A research question is a clear, focused, concise, complex and arguable question around which you center your research.

**Hypotheses :**

A hypothesis is a tentative statement about the relationship between two or more variables ( IV / DP) , it is a specific, testable prediction about what you expect to happen in a study. For example, a study designed to look at the relationship between eating breakfast and test performance might have a hypothesis that states :

Students who eat breakfast will perform better on a math exam than students who do not eat breakfast.

**3/ Literature review :**

One of the most daunting and time consuming chapters that might be up to 30 pages long, here you provide details about previous conducted research on your topic. Introduce opinions , findings, and recommendations of other reputable scholars. In assessing the merit of previous studies ; their soundness, relevance, design quality, and findings and conclusions, you can learn from the errors of others and avoid pitfalls. Pitfalls and barriers can be identified in earlier research and avoided. The literature research, especially in the findings and recommendations of others, often provides more and more persuasive justification for research on the problem.

**4/ Research methodology :**

A methodology section explains how exactly you go about doing your research, it describes the approachs, methods and tools used to carry out your study

**5/ Results and discussion :**

The next section introduces Your findings .basically, you need to explain whether you have answered the main research questions posed.

**6/Conclusion and recommendations :**

The final chapter of your dissertation is called conclusion and recommendations, it summarizes your work and gives recommendations as to the future research within your field.