

## ***The Significance of the Problematic in Ensuring Scientific Research Quality***

### **الإشكالية في البحث العلمي وأهميتها في ضمان جودة البحث العلمي**

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#### **Abstract:**

Successful, complete scientific research goes through basic and essential steps. Every successful scientific study relies on fundamental and crucial stages. The researcher embarks on it by selecting a research topic and articulating a central problematic that will serve as the cornerstone of the topic. He must discuss it, answer it through study and analysis, utilizing the rules of the scientific method known and applied in scientific research)which is the subject of study in our article, before proceeding to the subsequent, appropriate, and suitable steps for the research.

We've taken on this study to delve deeper into the topic. We split it into two sections. In the first part, we delved into the concept of the problematic; in the second part, we explored the steps of visualizing and formulating a good problematic.

**Key words:** Research, Scientific research, Problematic, Problem, Quality.

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## **الملخص:**

إن البحث العلمي الكامل الناجح يمرّ بخطواتٍ أساسيّة وجوهريّة، يبدأها الباحث كأول خطوة باختيار موضوع بحث وعبر طرح إشكالية محورية التي ستكون صلب الموضوع إذ يتعين عليه مناقشتها والإجابة عليها بالدراسة والتحليل وذلك بالاستعانة بقواعد المنهج العلمي المعروفة والمطبقة في الأبحاث العلمية، والتي هي محل الدراسة في مقالنا قبل أن ينتقل إلى الخطوات الموالية والمناسبة والملائمة لبحثه.

وقد ارتأينا أن نجري هذه الدراسة للتفصيل أكثر في هذا الموضوع وقد قسمناها إلى مبحثين تناولنا في الأول: مفهوم الإشكالية، وفي الثاني مراحل تصور وصياغة الإشكالية الجيدة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** البحث، البحث العلمي، الإشكالية، المشكلة، الجودة

## **1. Introduction**

Research is not considered scientific unless its subject is approached objectively, abstractly, and accurately. It must be free from preconceived judgments, follow agreed-upon foundations and principles, and go through scientific methodology steps in all stages---including research design, data collection, analysis, and result presentation.

Hence, it is imperative to elucidate the accurate notion of scientific exploration. Many definitions have been proposed that are closely related and akin to one another, including:

Scientific research is an organized investigation aimed at discovering knowledge and facts that can be verified in the future.<sup>1</sup> Scientific research is also defined as a precise method that aims to discover, scientifically verify<sup>2</sup> and test new knowledge, facts and relationships.

Hillway states that scientific query is a research method that seeks to find a solution to a specific problem through careful examination and systematic, accurate and objective pursuit.<sup>3</sup>

And According to Macmillan and Schumacher, scientific research is defined as “the collection and interpretation of information and data for a specific purpose”, while in Tuchman’s concept, scientific research is defined as follows: "an organized process to reach answers to

questions or solutions to problems through careful investigation of all evidence and proof."<sup>4</sup>

The characteristics of scientific research are that it is organized, precise, accurate, objective, general, comprehensive, based on observation, precise experimentation and testing, based on facts rather than speculation or imagination, and innovative...<sup>5</sup>

Even though researchers deal with the basic and essential steps of scientific research in an almost familiar order, the effort and time spent on each step varies, and each step is different for each study. In addition, the overlapping nature of the steps makes it difficult to divide studies into separate time phases.

As research has a beginning and an end, with steps in between, researchers need to conduct research with skill and precision. Researchers' skills in this context depend primarily on their training and specialization.

In general, scientific research follows a specific sequence which starts with defining the problem and selecting the topic, followed by listing and collecting scientific literature on the topic, reading and thinking, dividing and organizing the topic, collecting and accumulating information, followed by formulating the research and writing it up correctly and skillfully.

In general, researchers need to highlight these steps clearly and concisely so that the reader can understand all the steps they followed from beginning to end on the one hand, understand and objectively evaluate aspects of the research on the other hand. This also allows other researchers to conduct parallel studies and compare results effectively.

As a first step in the scientific research process, the researcher begins by choosing a research topic and posing a basic problematic of this topic. The researcher should discuss and answer it through research and analysis by dividing it into sub-problematic, using the rules of the scientific method known and applied in scientific research, which is the subject of this study, before proceeding to the next steps appropriate for his/her research.

From this perspective, the importance of our topic becomes clear and highlights a fundamental step in the scientific research process, since this step is considered the starting and key point of the research, determining its meaning and quality.

This step is represented by the definition of the problematic and its impact on the research process, ensuring that it is in the right direction, giving its own value and specificity and ensuring the usefulness of the treated topic in the research process.

Thus, the problematic we are trying to solve is: ***To what extent does the problematic formulation and preparation affect the quality of scientific research?***

As sub-questions that can be asked:

- What is meant by "problematic"?
- What is the difference between problematic and the research problem?
- How can we build a good problematic?
- What are the criteria that can help us in this way?

This is what we will try to answer using the descriptive as well as the analytical methodology that are appropriate for studying this topic through the following two sections.

### ***Section One: The Concept of Problematic***

The problematic is, without exaggeration, the most crucial part of scientific research,<sup>6</sup> as mentioned before. It is like the nervous system for the human body. It was mentioned that “good research requires a good problematic”. This is important because it serves as the foundation and the main support in the plan and outcomes. It also acts as a unique identifier for any research. Multiple studies may focus on the same topic, but each research addresses a distinct problematic in its own way, setting it apart from others.

## **1. Definition of the problematic**

Definitions of the problematic in scientific research can differ based on linguistic and technical aspects.

### **1.1. Linguistic definition**

The term "problematic" originates from the word "problem" which means to make something difficult. It also means to confuse or mix up. "Problematic" is used to describe situations that are confusing and unclear, as well as difficult matters that involve confusion and ambiguity. Typically, "problematic" is used to talk about complex and ambiguous issues.

"Problematic as a source" refers to unclear and troublesome issues, and "problematic" is a word used to describe things that are unclear and contain a mixture of elements. So, "research problem" or "problematic" refers to issues that have these meanings and connotations.

### **1.2. Idiomatic definition *Haut du formulaire***

The problematic is the skill of asking questions, the subject brought up by the researcher in question form, or a written piece about a particular topic that concludes with posing a question(s).<sup>7</sup>

Maurice Angers defines research question as "presenting the research objective in a form of a question to search for an answer. It can also be a set of important questions about a specific phenomenon".<sup>8</sup>

Some people describe it as: "A mysterious issue, or a phenomenon in need of explanation, or a procedural formulation of a series of wonderings about a certain topic." Others define it as: "Questions posed in a scientific area."<sup>9</sup>

Based on what was discussed earlier, the problematic is defined as "a set of queries that a researcher asks during a study on a certain topic". These questions need to be answered by using research methods and techniques. When writing research, questions are formulated as one question or multiple research questions.

It can also be described as "a query or problem that necessitates further explanation and resolution, typically expressed through

questions that outline the scope of the topic and its associated variables. This process demands thorough investigation, analysis, and engagement with various sources of expertise, knowledge, and scientific research to ensure its accurate and coherent articulation”<sup>10</sup>

The research problematic can be defined as “a collection of significant queries that a scientific investigator formulates regarding a particular phenomenon. This framework facilitates the acquisition of answers in a coherent and comprehensible way, allowing for understanding, interpretation, and management based on a defined categorization, all of which align with the researcher’s area of expertise”.<sup>11</sup>

This definition effectively eliminates any questions deemed unworthy, including those that are vague, trivial, or overly complex to investigate. It also disregards inquiries posed by individuals lacking the necessary scientific research skills, as they often merely echo information they have encountered without possessing a deep understanding of the topic.

Consequently, even if their questions may hold intrinsic value, these individuals are typically unable to derive meaningful insights from them.

The scientific researcher is required to tackle queries in a structured and clearly defined way. A deficiency in specificity can render the research process or the resolution of the question challenging or even unfeasible. The core of the problematic lies in the necessity for specificity, thoroughness, and the ability to conduct research and provide answers. Any deviation from these principles disqualifies the endeavor from being considered legitimate scientific research.

Scientific research aims to provide insights that enhance our ability to explain, comprehend, or manage various phenomena, or to clarify our limitations in these areas. The primary objective of such research is not to deliver conclusive answers or create solutions, but

to pursue the truth, regardless of whether the findings are affirmative or negative.

It is crucial to acknowledge that negative results can hold significant scientific importance, as long as they are based on rigorous investigation rather than mere conjecture or the presentation of constructed answers or misleading justifications.<sup>12</sup> \_

## **2. The differentiation between problematic & research problem**

The terms "problematic" and "problem"<sup>13</sup> are frequently employed interchangeably as if they were synonymous, yet it is crucial to recognize the distinct difference between them. Who argue that the key distinction is that a problematic is defined by the potential for a solution that can effectively resolve it, provided that it exists within the realm of objective reality and areas conducive to experimentation. humanity that asserts Marx regard, this In<sup>14</sup> presents challenges (problematic) that are indeed solvable.

The term "problematic" originates from the Arabic language as a translation of the French word "problématique" and in contemporary usage, it refers to a complex network of interrelated issues that arise within a specific line of thought, whether individual or collective.

These issues (problematic) are characterized by their inability to be addressed in isolation and resist purely theoretical solutions, necessitating a comprehensive approach that encompasses all aspects.

Essentially, it captures the essence of a theoretical dilemma that defies straightforward formulation, embodying a state of tension and a drive toward intellectual coherence.

The arguments presented in the opinion can be fully endorsed. Furthermore, while the experiment highlights distinct differences between social and natural phenomena, it is important to recognize that not all social problems reach definitive resolutions.

Although the concept discussed regarding the problematic is viewed as a broad theoretical framework; it may not align perfectly

with every aspect of its application in the methodology of scientific research methodology. It is not always essential for the problematic to seek the establishment of a theory or a universal law in every instance.

While we acknowledge the points made in this opinion, we do not concur with all of them. It is important to recognize the distinction between natural and social phenomena, particularly regarding experiential differences.

Furthermore, not every social issue can be conclusively resolved through research. Instead, social research typically aims to offer insights and recommendations for tackling these issues, rather than delivering absolute solutions.

In this regard, the term "problematic" is understood in a broad theoretical framework, which may not fully align with its application in the context of scientific research methodology. The existence of a problematic does not necessarily dictate the objective of formulating a theory or universal law; rather, it often leads to an exploratory investigation.

On the other hand, while this perspective presents a theoretical framework for the problematic at hand, it does not fully align with the practical considerations involved in conducting scientific research. The primary objective of addressing the problematic is not solely to develop a theory or establish a universal law; however, striving for such an objective is still and remains a significant and lofty pursuit.

It can be asserted that there is an overlap between them; however, this does not diminish the presence of essential distinctions, the most notable of which include the following:

- The researcher's journey begins with identifying a problem, 15 which is often informed by prior studies, personal observations, or various phenomena in the environment. In contrast, the problematic emerges as a culmination of the researcher's efforts

and analyses, representing a sophisticated construction process that demands significant time and intellectual investment.

- While the research problem tends to be broad and general, the problematic is more focused and specialized.
- The problem serves as an integral component of the problematic, acting as the initial nucleus in the development and definition of the broader issue at hand.
- The problematic, as will be elaborated upon, encompasses a multifaceted process that unfolds in several stages. Although the term "problematic" is frequently used to denote the final outcome of this process, it specifically refers to the precise question that the researcher ultimately formulates.

### ***Section Two: Key stages in conceptualizing and articulating an effective problematic***

As highlighted by Pr. Mohammed Mounir Hidjab, “research which begins with a vacuum will conclude within a vacuum”.<sup>16</sup> This underscores the significance of selecting and precisely articulating the research problem, which is regarded as the foundational step in the scientific inquiry process.

Research problematic frequently exhibit complexity and interconnection, often blending with broader phenomena, making it challenging to identify their true causes without a thorough diagnosis.<sup>17</sup> Consequently, effectively defining the research problem necessitates that the researcher utilize specific sources for clarity and adhere to established criteria for its formulation.

#### ***1. Sources of conceptualizing a problematic***

The researcher has access to a variety of resources<sup>18</sup> that can aid in identifying and comprehending the issue under investigation. These resources encompass a range of options:

### ***1.1. Job specialization:***

It offers researchers the chance to uncover issues that require investigation and resolution within their field. To effectively identify unexplored areas, particularly in the legal domain, it is essential for researchers to engage in ongoing review of existing literature and studies, ensuring they remain informed about emerging developments.

### ***1.2. Scientific specialization:***

The researcher's area of expertise serves as a crucial foundation for accessing a vast array of information during the research process. This specialization<sup>19</sup> not only facilitates the identification of challenges and issues that warrant further exploration but also enhances the ability to analyze and address these problems comprehensively.

### ***1.3. Prior research:***

They play a crucial role in informing the investigator's work within their area of study. By examining existing literature, the researcher can develop more nuanced inquiries regarding the subject<sup>20</sup> matter and pinpoint gaps in the current knowledge base that warrant further exploration. Consequently, it is essential for the researcher to meticulously select relevant studies and possess the expertise to analyze and interpret the data and insights obtained from these sources<sup>21</sup> effectively.

### ***1.4. Personal experience:***

It plays a significant role in a researcher's journey. Through engagement in their specific field and a thorough examination of existing literature and studies, researchers accumulate valuable insights that bolster their capacity to identify and articulate a research problem, underscoring its relevance and their belief in its significance.

Nevertheless, it is crucial for researchers to avoid solely depending on their personal experiences when defining their research problems, as this can introduce bias and compromise objectivity. Instead, they should

draw upon a diverse array of sources to develop their research problems in a coherent and impartial manner.

### **1.5. Critics:**

Engaging in critical readings is an effective approach for choosing study topics, particularly for theoretical research. This method allows researchers to thoroughly and critically examine prior studies<sup>22</sup> within their area of expertise, enabling them to pinpoint existing gaps that warrant further investigation. Conversely, if researchers review earlier works without applying critical analysis, they may encounter challenges in precisely articulating their research problem.

### **1.6. Research seminars:**

They play a crucial role in enhancing a researcher's capacity to select topics that align with their skills and situational context. By participating in these seminars, which often cover a range of graduation requirements, researchers can engage in discussions on significant scientific and practical issues that have been thoroughly examined by experts and supervisors.

This interaction not only offers guidance in pinpointing relevant research problems but also directs researchers to pertinent sources and references that can support their work.

### **1.7. Conferences and seminars:**

Attending scientific conferences and seminars is crucial for researchers, as these events provide opportunities to engage with a diverse array of specialized experts. By participating in discussions and listening to various presentations, researchers can gain valuable insights that may reveal new dimensions of their work and broaden their research perspectives.

### **1.8. Field visits and coincidences:**

Field visits help the researcher in his field of research, and are considered a valuable source that enables him to access vital information

and direct experiences, provide many indicators regarding several topics that must be highlighted and studied, and contribute to identifying and formulating research problems in an accurate and detailed manner.

**Coincidence:** can be a source of inspiration for the researcher, as it may make him discover a new, unexpected research problematic, which arouses his curiosity that prompts him to discover his research topic in a deeper way, his interaction with the environment and society, participation in research teams...

### ***1.9. Media and the Internet:***

They serve as vital and abundant resources for information and concepts that researchers can leverage in their scientific inquiries. This encompasses written, audio, and visual materials that can assist in identifying and elucidating a particular issue while establishing its preliminary parameters.

Furthermore, the Internet offers access to numerous contemporary studies and research across diverse fields and specializations, which 23 researchers can examine and utilize as a crucial resource in defining and shaping the focus of their investigations (problematic).

### ***2. Manners of formulating a problematic:***

The researcher must articulate the research problematic in a precise and straightforward manner, ensuring that the focus of the study is <sup>24</sup> distinct from other areas and is defined with accuracy.

This should be accomplished using clear and accessible language, avoiding the mere transposition of the research title into a research problematic without any alterations. Instead, the formulation should be more comprehensive, explicitly outlining the questions and variables pertinent to the research.

Additionally, it is crucial to differentiate between the research problem and the broader issue, as previously emphasized. The formulation of the research problematic can be approached in two distinct forms:

**The initial representation** consists of phrases and words that articulate the problem in a verbal and evaluative manner.

**The subsequent representation** is framed as a question, wherein the problem is expressed through the formulation of a question or a series of questions.<sup>25</sup>

It is advisable to adopt the second approach in defining the problematic, specifically the technique of framing a question or a series of questions, due to several compelling reasons, including the following:

- The variables and relationships are clearly explained in the questions.
- It shows that the main objective of the study is to answer the questions.
- It facilitates the identification of the main objective of the study in a better way.

When developing a research problematic, it is essential to consider the following three key criteria:<sup>26</sup>

- **First**, the problematic must be articulated with clarity and precision, ensuring that its intent is easily comprehensible.
- **Second**, it is important to delineate the variables involved in the study, as well as the relationships among them, to facilitate a deeper understanding of the research context and its direction.
- **Lastly**, the formulation should clearly define the characteristics and limitations of the problematic, allowing for straightforward identification of potential solutions and a well-defined research trajectory.

### ***3. The standards for assessing the research problem and its significance in determining the high quality of scientific research***

There are a set of questions, criteria or specifications<sup>27</sup> that play an important role in considering scientific research to be of high quality, including the following:

- **The originality of the subject matter:** Does the research question or problematic explore a novel area or merely revisit established themes?
- **Contribution to science:** To what degree will the findings of the research enhance knowledge, and do they aid in the advancement of the researcher's specific field of expertise?
- **Precision and clarity in problematic formulation:** Was the research problematic articulated in a manner that is both clear and precise, facilitating an understanding of its objectives and content?
- **Focus on addressing additional issues:** Will the resolution of the research problematic help to shift focus within the same scientific discipline towards tackling other related challenges?
- **Generalizability of findings:** Are the outcomes derived from the research applicable across various contexts beyond the initial study?
- **Societal and ethical advantages:** What tangible and intangible benefits will the research yield for both society and the researcher?

### ***Conclusion:***

The methodology employed in scientific research, particularly within the realm of legal studies, holds a significant and esteemed role, as it is grounded in precise and reliable principles, alongside a foundation of legal knowledge that adheres to scientific rigor and integrity.

This research focuses on a singular facet of methodology, specifically the problematic element, by elucidating its definition, stages of development, and sources of understanding, particularly concerning the methods and criteria for its formulation.

Consequently, the problematic serves as the essential core upon which the researcher builds their inquiry into the posed question, intertwining with both methodological and theoretical frameworks that are rooted in components and principles that must be considered throughout all phases of the research process.

In essence, the problematic constitutes the backbone of scientific inquiry, aimed at resolution, and its clear definition at the outset of the

research is crucial for the researcher, as it helps prevent confusion arising from new developments.

This aspect forms the fundamental structure of the research and is indispensable for the researcher, irrespective of the research's nature. Therefore, it is advisable for every researcher to give particular attention to the problematic, ensuring it is articulated with precision and aligned with established methodological standards, rules, and specifications—such as clarity, accuracy, brevity, and appropriateness.

Ultimately, the problematic acts as the introduction that guides the exploration of the topic towards specific outcomes, making its careful formulation vital to the overall quality of the conducted scientific research.

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