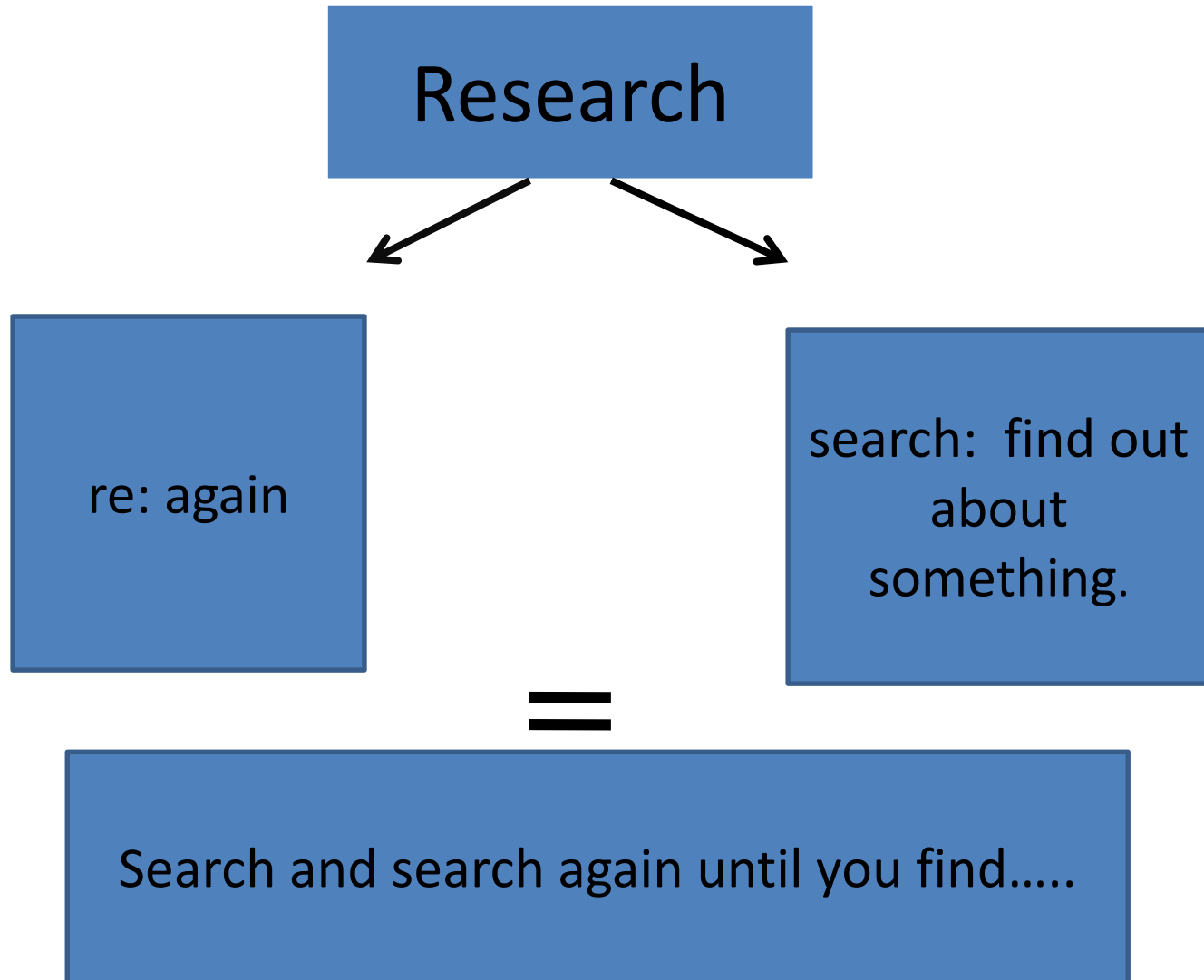


# Research Methodology

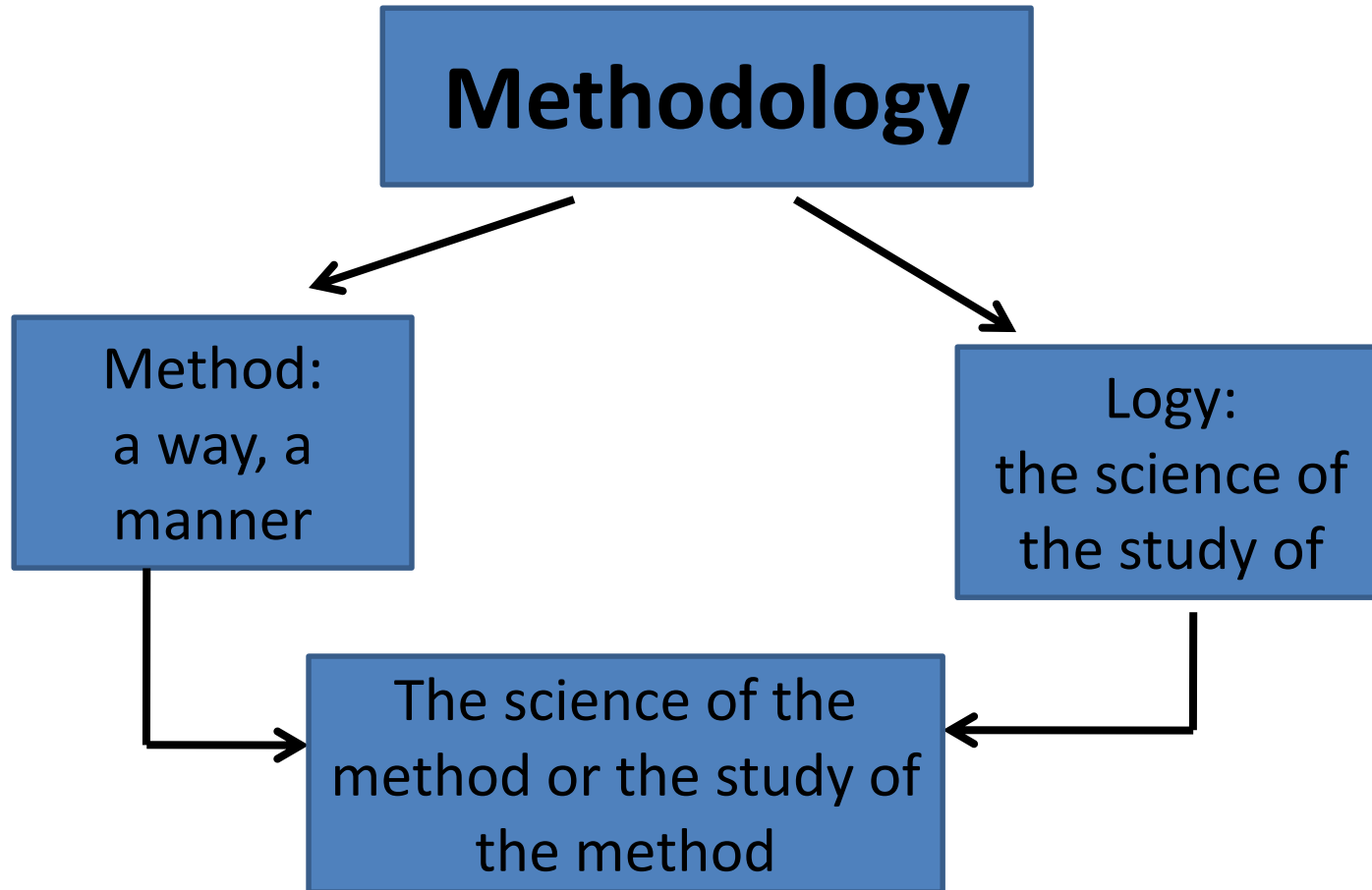
# Lecture 1

## **DEFINING SOME CONCEPTS**

# 1. Perception and meaning of research



## 2. Perception and meaning of methodology



**Hence,**

Research is **WHAT** people do  
and methodology is **HOW**  
people do things.

# 3. Some experts' definitions

- **3.1/ Hatch and Lazaraton (1991):**

« Research is the organized, systematic search for answers to the questions we ask.»

## Key words:

### **Organised:**

- Arranged in a working order.
- Planned and structured.
- Classified according to structure of work

### **Systematic:**

- Related to, a part of , belonging to a system.
- Planned and ordered.
- Classified in a system.
- That leaves no element out of the system

## 3.2/ Cohen and Lawrence (1980):

« Research is the **understanding** of the nature of **phenomena** and the search for the **truth**. »

### **Key words:**

**Understanding:** mental process of comprehension.

**Nature:** way that things happen.

**Phenomena:** observable facts .

**Truth:** conformity to fact and reality.

### 3.3/ Ranjit Kumar (1999):

« Research is more than a set of skills, it is a way of thinking, examining critically the various aspects of your day-to-day professional works, understanding and formulating guiding principles that govern a particular procedure and developing and testing new theories that contribute to the advancement of your practice and profession. It is a habit of questioning what you do, and systematic examination of clinical observations to explain and find answers for what you perceive, with a view to instituting appropriate changes for more effective professional service. »



# Key words:

- **skills:** capacities, techniques, abilities, to do things well.
- **thinking:** mental process and activity.
- **Critically:** in a critical manner, using the ability to criticize
- **Guiding:** advising, counselling, controlling the path.
- **Procedure:** particular method for performing a task
- **Theory:** set of ideas, coherent statement that explains a phenomenon.
- **Questioning:** seeking information through question/reply.
- **Clinical:** accurate, systematic and deep observation.
- **Observation:** watching attentively in order to discover.
- **perceive:** become aware directly.

## 3.4/ Creswell(2008):

« Research is a **process** of steps used to collect and **analyze** information to increase our understanding of a topic or **issue** ».

### **Key words:**

- **Process:** series of things that are done in order to achieve something.
- **analyze:** dividing into parts and constituents and examining them.
- **Issue:** matter, concern, problem.

**Hence,**

Research is an activity carried out to gather data under controlled conditions in order to discover consistencies that may exist among variables.

**Key words:**

**Gather:** collect

**Consistency:** agreement, logical coherence among things

**Variable:** likely to change and vary.

Depending on the field of study, definitions of research might differ .

**For instance:**

**Travers** defines **educational** research as « an activity directed towards the development of an **organised body** of **scientific knowledge** about the events with which educators are concerned.»

# Key words:

- **Educational:** relating to education, instructive.
- **Scientific:** having to do with science, in accord with , and obeying procedures accepted by science.

**To Kerlinger,**

scientific research is « a systematic,  
**controlled, empirical,** and critical  
investigation of **hypothetical**  
propositions about the presumed  
relations among natural phenomena .»

# Key words:

- **Controlled:** restricted, under permanent check and verification.
- **Empirical:** based on experience, verifiable by scientific means.
- **Hypothetical:** based on hypothesis, based on conditional truth, needs being tested and verified to prove true or false.

## 4. A compromise

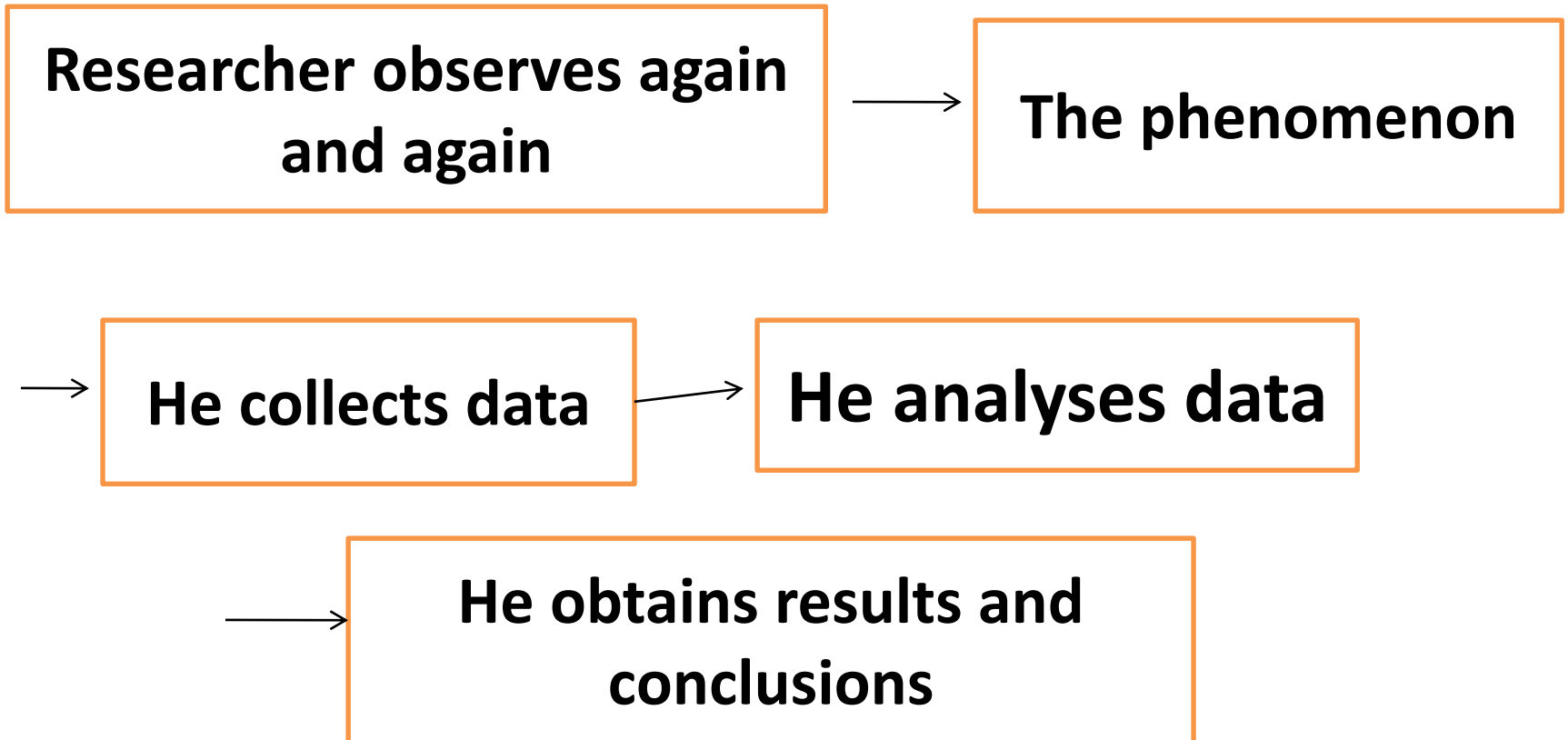
Research is Man's **reaction** to , and questioning of, **unknown** phenomena. In his search for the truth, Man attempts to answer questions, to understand phenomena and to suggest solutions to problems.

### Key words:

- **Compromise:** settlement of differences.
- **Reaction:** action in response to a stimulus.
- **unknown:** not known, not identified.



# 5. The process of research



# 6. Some characteristics of research:

- Gathering **knowledge**.
- **Aquaintance** with general **principles**.
- Systematic **investigation**.
- **Logical** and **objective**.
- No personal feelings.
- Regular patient unhurried activity.
- **Generalisations** and **conclusions** are carefully arrived at.
- Uses **reflective thinking**.
- **Creative divergent thinking**.
- **Scientific thinking**.
- **Scientific reasoning**.

# Key words:

- **Knowledge:** general understanding, awareness of a particular fact or situation
- **aquaintance:** state of being familiar with ..having more than a superficial knowledge.
- **principles:** rules, fundamental assumptions.
- **investigation:** a process of inquiring or following up.
- **Logical:** obeys logic, involves thinking in linear manner, basis of scientific method.

- **Generalisation:** formulation of general concepts, using deductive reasoning.
- **Conclusion:** outcome, result of a process, decision reached after a careful thought.
- **Reflective:** thinking back, redirecting back to the source.
- **Objective:** not based on emotions or prejudices, based on observed facts.
- **Unhurried:** constant in pursuit or exertion

- **Creative:** having the ability to design and produce original, expressive and imaginative things.
- **Divergent:** different, growing further apart
- **Reasoning:** deduction of interpretation , using reason and logic instead of emotions and feelings.

End of lecture,

Thank you.

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# Homework:

Find more about the content of the lecture.

- Other definitions of research.
- Other characteristics of research .
- Other definitions of methodology.
- Find more about key words, if need be.