

**Jane Sunderland. 2010. Research questions in linguistics. In *Research methods in linguistics*, ed. Lia Litosseliti, 9-28. London: Bloomsbury.**

Questions to guide your reading (find the answers in the text):

- Why do we need research questions?
- Where do research questions come from?
- What is the difference between research question and topic?
- What were the topic and the (main) research question of the author's PhD?
- What is the difference between research question and intellectual puzzle?
- Explain: (i) descriptive, (ii) explanatory, (iii) evaluative research question.
- Give an example for a methodological research question.
- What is an empirical research question?
- Why is it important to ask oneself the question "Would anyone but me understand my research questions"?"
- Explain with examples what the author of the following quote had in mind: "Are you doing research on, with or for your participants?"
- Give an example for an "unanswerable" research question.
- What does operationalizing research questions involve?
- When is a research question original?

Formulate three research questions for any topic that interests you.