



Framework of Conclusion Chapter

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Conclusions and implications Chapter (Chapter 5)

The concluding chapter of a doctoral thesis serves as a crucial component, consolidating the research findings into a cohesive summary that underscores the study's contributions to the field.

It emphasises the significance of the research, addresses the posed research questions, and demonstrates the successful attainment of the stated objectives. Moreover, the chapter provides valuable recommendations for future research and practical applications, ensuring that the work's impact endures. By articulating the implications of the study with clarity, the concluding chapter reinforces the research's value and its potential to advance knowledge and practice within the discipline.

Conclusions and implications Chapter (Chapter 5)

Typical number of pages and time required to complete the
Conclusion Chapter in Doctor of Business Administration thesis

Chapter	Topic	Percentage	Pages	Months
5	Conclusions and Implications	20%	30	6

Conclusions and implications Chapter

Typical content of the Conclusion Chapter in Doctor of Business Administration thesis

Chapter	Topic
5.1	Introduction
5.2	Conclusions about each research issue or proposition
5.3	Conclusions about the research problem
5.4	Implications for theory
5.5	Implications for policy and practice
5.5.1	Implications for Private Sector Practices
5.5.2	Implications for Public Sector Policies
5.6	Limitations of the research
5.7	Implications for theory (this section is optional)
5.8	Further research

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Chapter 5.1: Research Contributions and Implications

Chapter 5 is a crucial part of a thesis, as it highlights the research's unique contribution to knowledge. It's essential to present the findings clearly and creatively. To do this, the chapter should:

1. **Identify Contributions:** Explicitly outline the novel aspects of the research, such as using new methods or interpreting data in new ways.
2. **Provide Context:** Use a table to show how the research fits into the existing literature, indicating which themes are new or under-explored.
3. **Integrate Findings:** Discuss how the findings confirm, contradict, or extend previous research, using a jigsaw puzzle analogy to visualize the overall picture.
4. **Set the Stage:** The introduction to Section 5.1 should be more detailed than others, explaining the research's significance and its potential impact.

(Chad Perry 2002)

Chapter 5.2: Conclusions about research issues or propositions

The conclusions section should:

- **Summarise key findings** from Chapter 4 Data Analysis, linking them to the relevant research issues or propositions.
- **Compare findings** to the Chapter 2 literature review, highlighting agreements and disagreements.
- **Explain discrepancies** by considering factors like geographical context or industry differences.
- **Identify contributions to knowledge** arising from disagreements or novel findings.
- **Contextualise findings** within the broader body of knowledge, referencing the literature review.
- **Demonstrate the unique contribution** of the research, such as considering specific firm characteristics like size and industry.

(Chad Perry 2002)

Chapter 5.3: Conclusions about the research problem

Summarise key findings from Chapter 4 Data Analysis, linking them to the research problem.

- Incorporate qualitative insights from interviews to enrich the conclusions.
- Ensure conclusions are grounded in research findings, avoiding premature implications.
- Present a final conceptual framework to visualise the research's contribution.
- List research contributions with clear justifications.
- For theory-building research, present the final theory and propositions for future testing.
- For a thesis, discuss how the findings relate to existing theories.

(Chad Perry 2002)

Chapter 5.4: Implications for theory

- Demonstrate the research's contribution to knowledge and its impact on the wider body of knowledge.
- Relate the findings to both parent theories from Chapter 2 Literature Review and other relevant theories.
- Convince examiners of the research's value by showing its broader implications and interdisciplinary relevance.
- Present any necessary modifications to the models developed in Chapter 2 Literature Review.
- Provide a comprehensive answer to the research problem.
- Highlight the research's key contributions to the field.

(Chad Perry 2002)

Chapter 5.5: Implications for theory

- **Practical implications for private sector managers:**
 - Detailed in Section 5.5.1 Private Sector Managers
- **Practical implications for public sector analysts and managers:**
 - Detailed in Section 5.5.2 Public Sector Analysts and Managers
 - May involve training needs or new government policies
- **Potential for academic contribution:**
 - Developing a checklist of procedures for managers based on research findings
 - This can help fulfill justification iv of Section 1.3 Justification for the Research

(Chad Perry 2002)

Chapter 5.6: Limitations

- **Acknowledge limitations:**
 - Refer to Section 1.7 for Delimitations of scope and key assumptions, and their justifications
 - Discuss any additional limitations that emerged during the research
 - Avoid overemphasising limitations, as this may undermine the research's significance
- **Highlight strengths:**
 - Briefly state the research's strengths, such as sample size or methodology
- **Discuss potential limitations:**
 - Use of perceptions instead of figures
 - Convenience sampling
 - Cross-sectional data
- **Reiterate significance of findings:**
 - Conclude that the limitations do not diminish the significance of the findings
 - Position limitations as opportunities for future research

(Chad Perry 2002)

Chapter 5.7: Limitations for Methodology

- This optional section allows the researcher to reflect on the research methodology. It can include discussions on:
 - **Methodological successes and challenges:** Highlight specific aspects of the methodology that were particularly effective or problematic.
 - **Novel methodological approaches:** Describe any innovative procedures or techniques developed for the research that were not previously documented in the literature.
 - **Evaluation of existing literature:** Assess the usefulness and potential limitations of the existing literature on the methodology. Typically, this section is concise, occupying about half a page or less.

(Chad Perry 2002)

Chapter 5.8: Limitations for Further Research

- This final section provides guidance for future research, considering both topics and methodologies.
- **Key considerations for future research:**
 - **Methodological diversity:** Encourage the use of multiple methodologies, such as positivist survey research, to generalise findings from case study research.
 - **Expanding research scope:** Explore opportunities to broaden the research by removing certain delimitations outlined in Section 1.7 for Delimitations of scope and key assumptions, and their justifications
This could involve investigating different regions, industries, or management levels.
 - **Developing specific research propositions:** Provide clear and actionable research questions or propositions to guide future research efforts.
- **Concluding remarks:** Conclude the thesis with a summary statement that reinforces the overall contribution of the research. For instance: "The existing literature suggests a straightforward relationship between marketing and entrepreneurship. However, this research demonstrates a more complex interplay between these two fields, providing a foundation for further exploration of this critical interface."

(Chad Perry 2002)

References

- A STRUCTURED APPROACH TO PRESENTING THESES: NOTES FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR SUPERVISORS by Chad Perry (revised on 3.11.02)

Summary



Remember to tailor the conclusion to your specific research and its implications.

A strong conclusion should include:

- 1. Summarise key findings:** Concisely recap the main results of your research.
- 2. Highlight the significance:** Emphasise the importance and impact of your research findings.
- 3. Identify limitations:** Acknowledge any limitations in your study and how they might affect the results.
- 4. Suggest future research directions:** Propose areas for further investigation to build on your work.
- 5. Leave a lasting impression:** Develop a memorable closing statement that reinforces the value of your research.

Thank you

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