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Pertemuan 5 *Summary*

Understanding and Applying Research Paradigms in Educational Contexts

(Kivunja & Kuyini, 2017)

This journal article explains the meaning, scope, and application of research paradigms in educational contexts. It highlights that many higher degree students and early-career researchers struggle to articulate and apply paradigms in their proposals. Drawing on Thomas Kuhn's notion of "paradigm" as a worldview, the authors emphasize four key elements (epistemology, ontology, methodology, and axiology) as the foundation of any research paradigm. Each element shapes how knowledge is generated, interpreted, and applied. The article reviews the main paradigms widely used in educational research: Positivist (and Postpositivist), Interpretivist/Constructivist, Critical/Transformative, and Pragmatic.

The Positivist paradigm focuses on objectivity, measurement, and cause–effect relationships using quantitative methods, while the Interpretivist paradigm assumes reality is socially constructed and favors qualitative, context-based inquiry. The Critical/Transformative paradigm links research with social justice, emphasizing participation, emancipation, and power relations. The Pragmatic paradigm encourages mixed methods, using "what works" to answer complex research questions.

Beyond definitions, the authors stress that choosing a paradigm directly affects research design, data collection, analysis, and ethics. Axiological considerations (values and ethics) are framed by PAPA principles—Privacy, Accuracy, Property, and Accessibility. The article also shows how controversies like the "paradigm wars" arose from differences in definitions and disciplinary power struggles but argues that clear understanding of paradigms enhances rigor and relevance in educational research.

Ultimately, the paper serves as a guide for students to locate their studies within an appropriate paradigm, justify their choice, and align methodology with philosophical underpinnings. By

clarifying these concepts, it helps researchers design more coherent, ethical, and effective research proposals.