



Feasibility of a Ph.D. Program in Linguistics for the University of Zulia

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Abstract

The proposed research paper, in its first phase of development, intends to answer the question about the feasibility of a Ph.D. program in Linguistics for Venezuelan universities, which through previous studies has been identified as a need among graduates of the MA in linguistics and related disciplines, such as language teaching, literature and social communication. This proposal aims to design, as a pilot study; a doctoral program in Linguistics at the University of Zulia, to expand the curriculum offering in order to provide graduates the means and skills to enable them to generate new knowledge in this discipline. The research is part of the nature of the feasible project, which can be classified as a type of mixed research, based on needs identified in the field, after a literature search in order to structure the proposal. The theoretical framework includes a proposed individualized doctoral program [Arrieta and Meza, 2004] and some of the research studies conducted by this team [Arrieta et al., 2005], [Arrieta et al., 2006]. As a background this research work has the PhD program in Linguistics at the University of Los Andes, in Venezuela. There has also been a complete review of examples of similar programs belonging to the curricular offerings of the University of Concepcion in Chile, the Autonomous University of Madrid and the University of Panama. It is expected to submit to the Commission a program Curriculum of The University of Zulia which would satisfy the need identified. Methodologically, the first thing to be done is a diagnosis of the situation in question; secondly, to propose and substantiate the proposed theoretical foundations to develop and establish both the methodological procedures and activities and resources necessary to carry out the implementation. Added to this, there will be a feasibility study of the project and, finally, the implementation of the proposal with its evaluation. The phases or stages are: diagnosis, feasibility and design of the proposal. The diagnosis involves a reconstruction of the object of study and is intended to detect and identify the need. The feasibility indicates the possibility of developing a project, taking into consideration the need identified, benefits, human, technical, financial, market research, and beneficiaries. Therefore, after completion of the diagnostic and feasibility, we would proceed to the preparation of the proposal, which necessarily involves a third phase of this project.