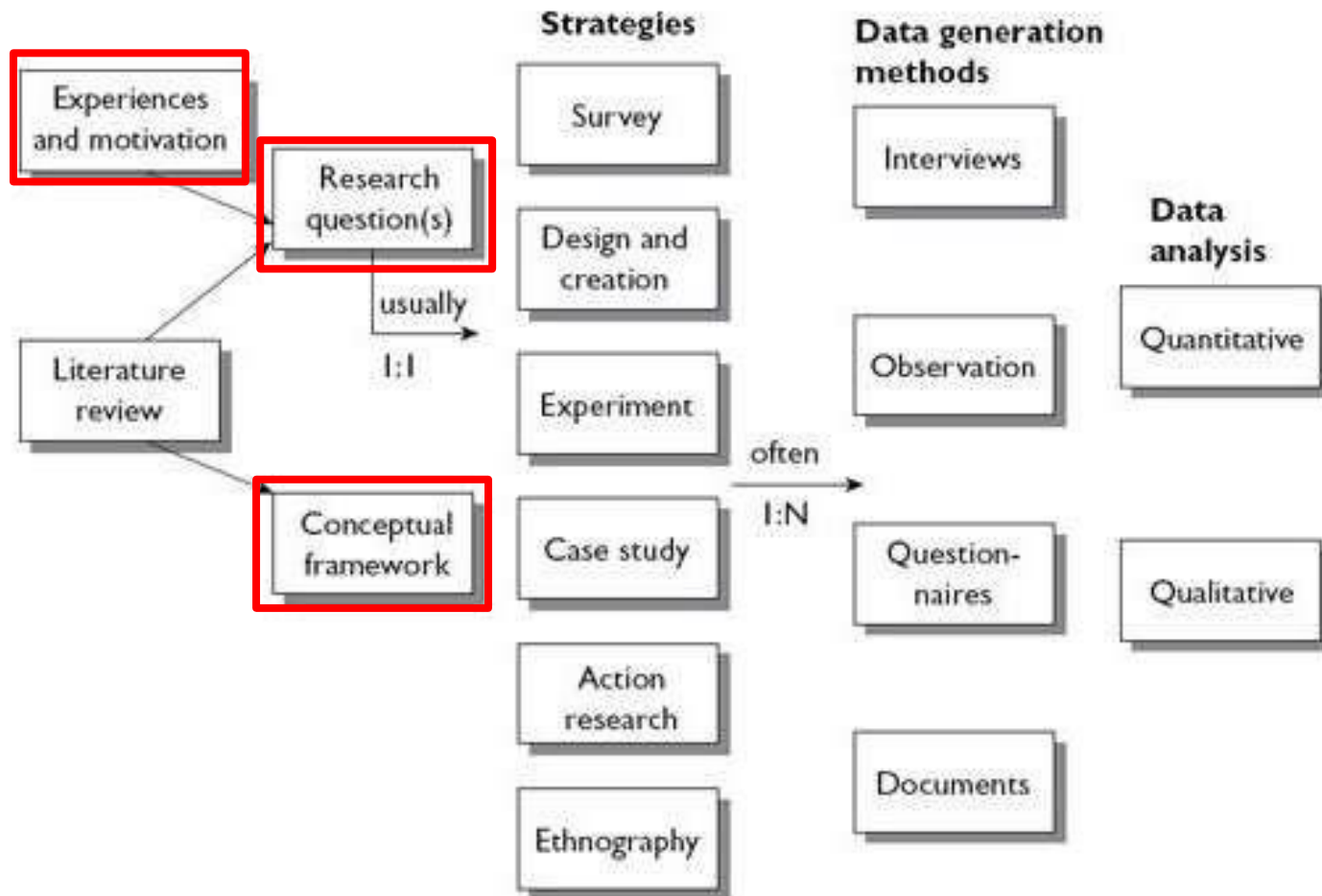


Research Methodology

Week 2: Purpose and product of research



THE RESEARCH PROCESS



THE THINKING MAN



You

Rigor



Other researchers



Your research

Relevance



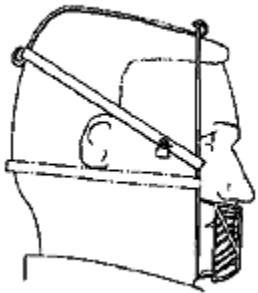
Practice

PURPOSE OF RESEARCH (OATES)

- To add to the body of knowledge
- To solve a problem
- To find out what happens
- To find the evidence to inform practice
- To develop a greater understanding of people and their world
- To predict, plan and control
- To contribute to other people's well-being
- To contribute to personal needs
- To test or disapprove a theory
- To come up with a better way
- To understand another person's point of view
- To create more interest in the researcher



PRODUCT OF RESEARCH



US04344424
Anti-eating face mask

...simple and inexpensive in construction, which does not interfere with transmission of speech or breathing by the user and which may be locked in place


US05523741
Santa Claus Detector

... Christmas Stocking device useful for visually signalling the arrival of Santa Claus ...

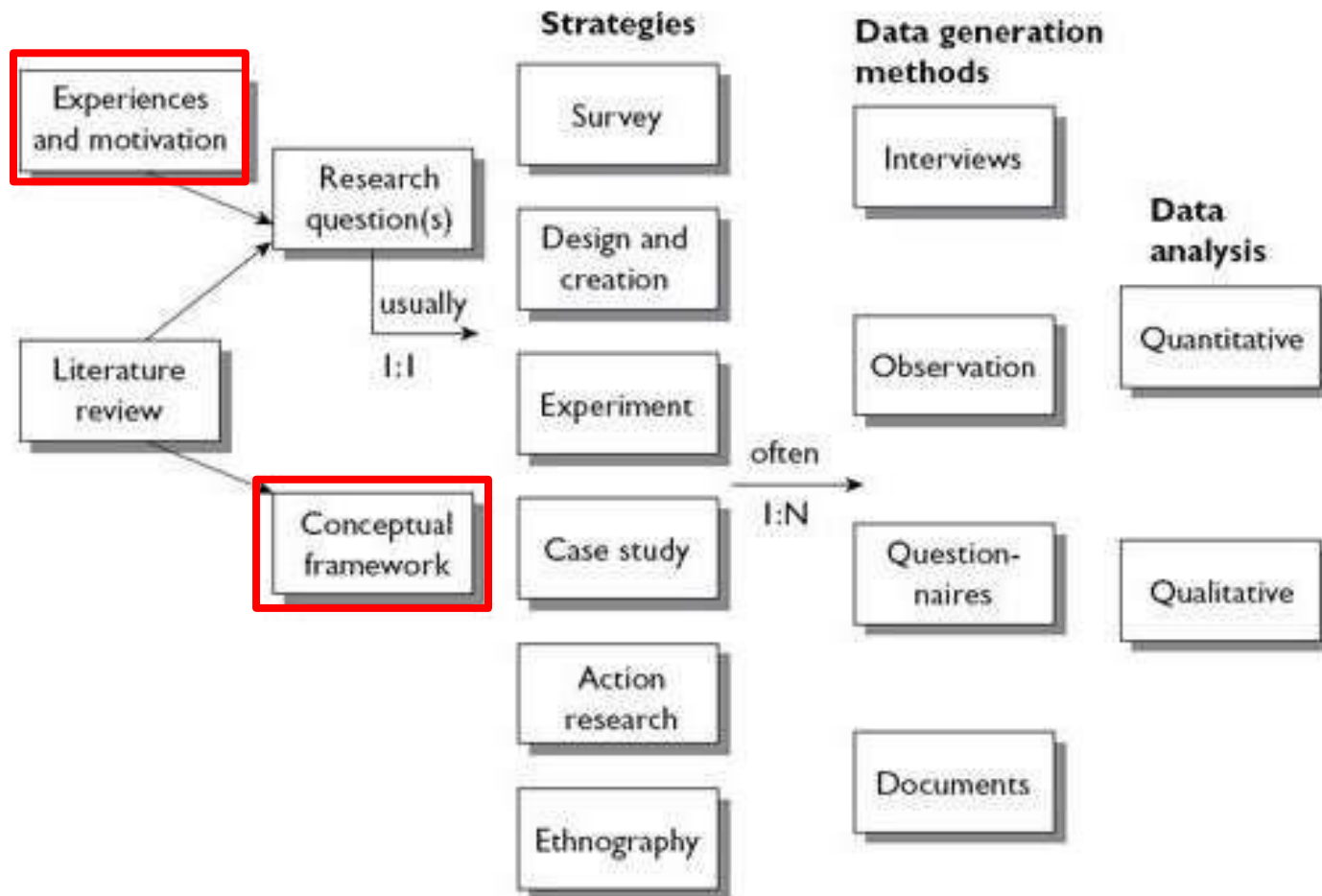


- A new or improved product
- A new theory
- A re-interpretation of an existing theory
- New or improved research tool or technique
- A new or improved model or perspective
- An in-depth study of a particular situation
- An exploration of a topic, area or field
- A critical analysis
- Unanticipated outcomes

PRODUCT OF RESEARCH

- new or improved evidence
 - new or improved methodology
 - new or improved analysis
 - new or improved concepts or theories
 - new or improved computer-based product.
- 

SELECTING YOUR TOPIC



SELECTING YOUR TOPIC

- Is the research likely to offer something new for your target users?
- Does the topic have 'symmetry of potential outcomes'?
- Will your research still contribute something to knowledge, even if you do not complete all of the technical product in the time available?
- Is there a theory (or set of ideas) that will help you structure your approach, at least in the beginning?
- Can the research be carried out in the time available?
- Does the research topic fit in with your own motivations, strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes?
- Do you have the necessary resources?
- Can you approach the topic without too much bias?
- Will the research be safe and ethical?

NEXT LECTURE: RESEARCH QUESTIONS

