

Comparative Method

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Introduction

In this method scholars compare and contrast diverse elements of countries' political systems and try to find out differences and certain tendencies.

Comparative method can be used to compare political systems of different countries at the same time and also it can be used to compare political systems over time.

Comparative method involves some processes: a list of things to compare, sorting and classifying them and, carrying out a basic act of comparison and making relevant conclusions. The main advantage of comparative method is that it makes the study of politics more structured and conclusions derived with this method are more precise.

Characteristics of Comparative method

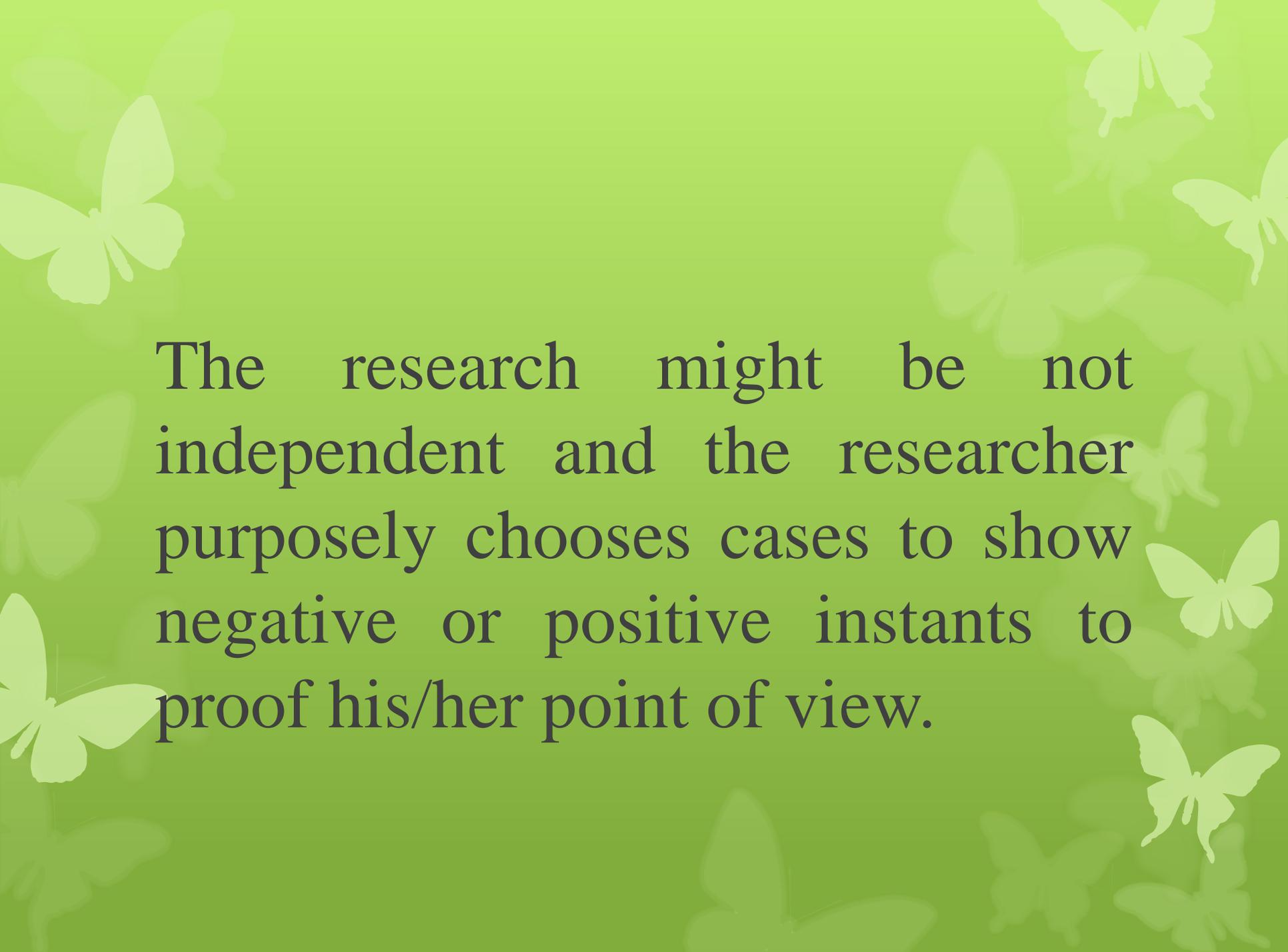
1. **Definition of Conceptual Units:** The units which are compared in comparative politics are conceptual units as they are the substances of the explanations to which the real phenomenon is more or less imitated.

2-Classifications: Classification occupies a very significant place in the field of comparative government and politics because it enables the making of broad general decisions of a very-complex phenomenon.

3-Hypothesis Formulation and Testing: The effort of making comparisons should be done in a way that hypotheses are formulated and then tested so that the requirement of verifiability and applicability is fulfilled.

Difficulties

There are certain complications and difficulties in comparative method. Common problem of social sciences is that there are too many variables and insufficient cases which are quite different. It is difficult to compare completely different or identical cases, because to take the advantage of comparative method, only similar cases with slight differences should be.



The research might be not independent and the researcher purposely chooses cases to show negative or positive instants to proof his/her point of view.

References

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