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SECOND EDITION

# RESEARCH IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Becoming a Discerning Consumer

Fred L. Perry, Jr.

ROUTLEDGE

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# Research in Applied Linguistics

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Becoming a Discerning Consumer

Second Edition

Fred L. Perry, Jr.

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Dedicated to the memory of my parents: Fred and Ann,  
My wife, Karen Kay, who inspires me to do my best,  
and all of my students at AUC who encouraged me  
to write this book.



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## Foreword

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At the close of this first decade of the 21st century, ability to understand research and evaluate it critically has never been more important. Scholars, educators, and policymakers daily face questions about language learning and teaching, and need a thorough grounding in aspects of research quality. Is one approach to language teaching better than another? Do students from different backgrounds respond similarly to a novel activity, textbook, or assessment technique? Would more hours of instruction and/or individual study produce more complete learning? This wonderful volume offers a well-reasoned and readable introduction to the principal issues surrounding original investigations in applied linguistics. Whether or not readers will conduct their own independent research, they will doubtless be expected to know enough to assess the merits of many studies, classic and contemporary, encountered during graduate study and, very likely, in subsequent positions as well. Such knowledge is critical to developing the careful judgment that marks any genuine professional. Why should we pay attention to yet another volume about research, when dozens already exist? This one is special; it has already become indispensable for many around the globe. In more than two decades of working with research novices, I have rarely seen so many students demonstrate the level of excitement shown for the first edition of this book. Many have found their way to Perry's excellent volume on their own and use it as an invaluable "guide on the side" as they make their way through required statistics courses and then take further steps to design their own research. Their enthusiasm is eloquent testimony to the worth of both content and perspective.

Thus, whether you are a novice entering a graduate program, an advanced student working through questions related to an individual research project, a collaborator in larger-scale investigation, or a faculty member advising graduate students, this volume offers sound guidance and multiple timely insights regarding the determination of relative quality of published research. In these pages, Perry provides readers with