

Factors Influencing Parents' School Choice (On the Examples of Two Schools with Different Medium of Instruction)

Kozhakhmetova Assem
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Statement of the Problem

- **The formation of highly educated nation**

(Nazarbayev, 2012)



- **Parents' role is significant**
- **Paucity of research about school choice in Kazakhstan**

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<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/520bf8d3e4b04d4779439a98/t/520c5a7ae4b08b89e5dde767/1376541311629/equine-therapy-sessions-for-parents-and-families>



Purpose of the study

RQ1: What factors influence parents' school choice for their children in Aktobe city?

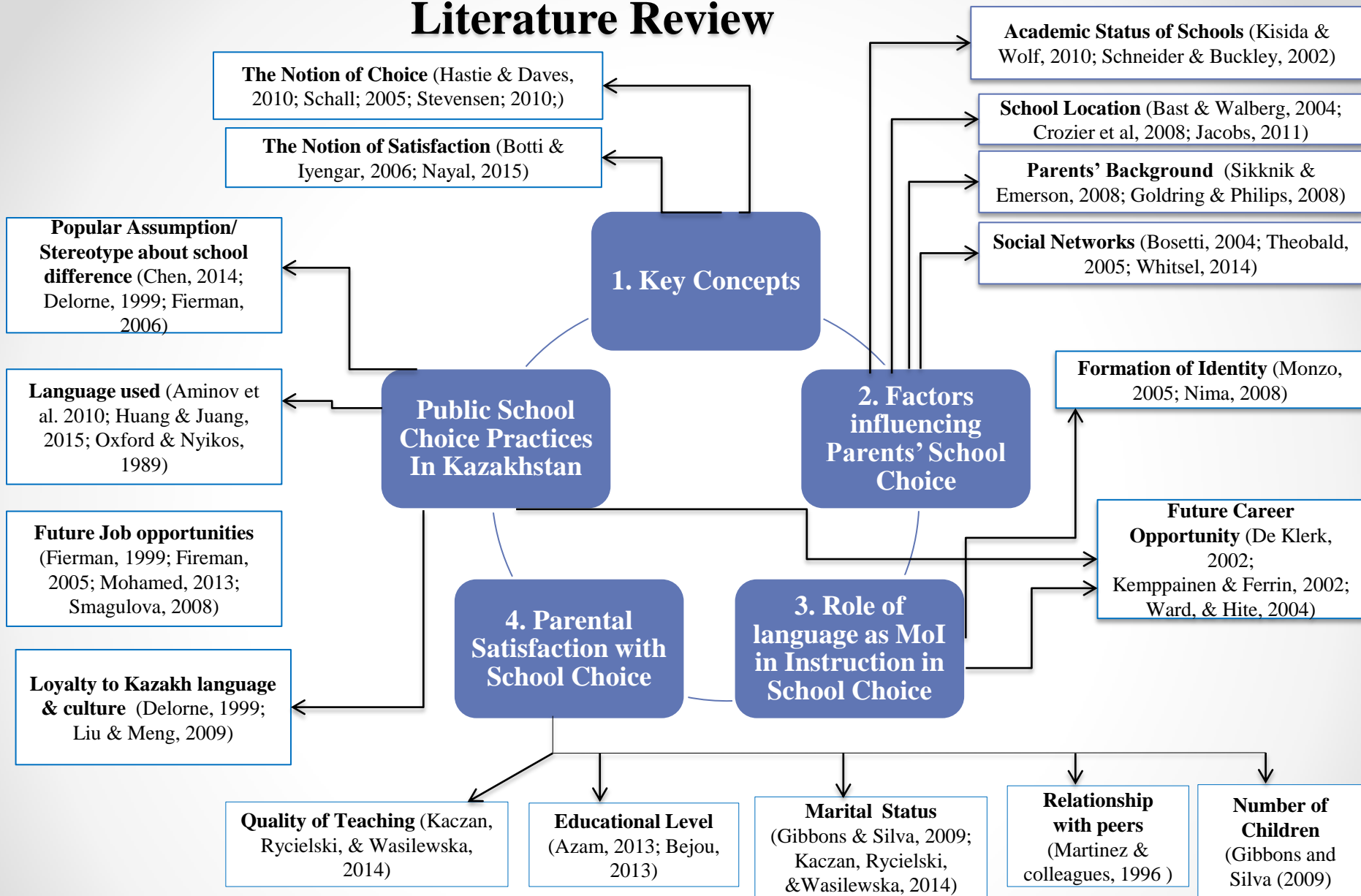
Investigation of the factors impacting school choice of ethnic-Kazakh parents with a special focus in language as a medium of instruction

RQ2: How does the medium of instruction affect parents' school choice?

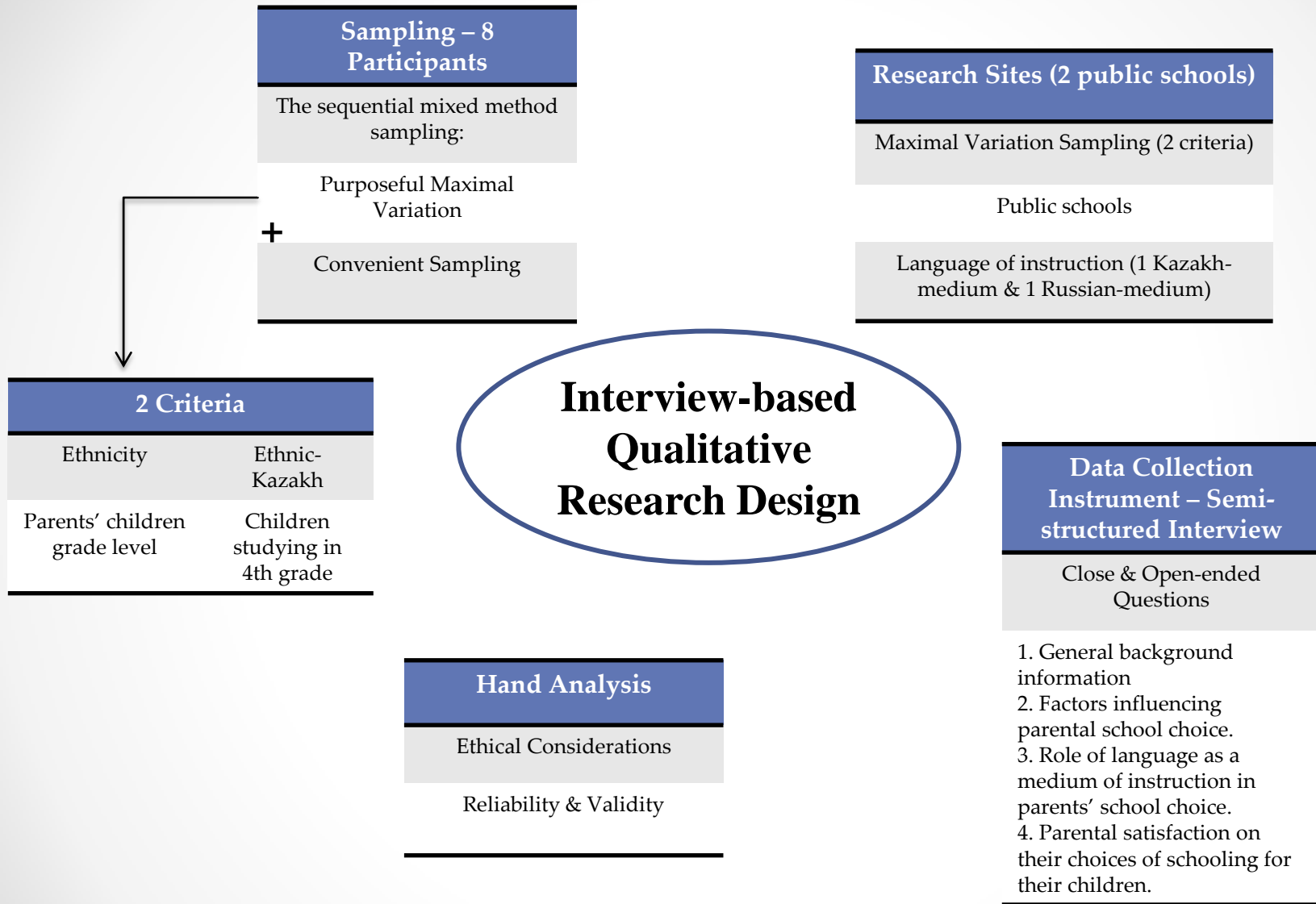
RQ3: What factors affect parents' satisfaction with schools?





Literature Review



Methodology



Findings & Discussion (RQ1)

<p><u>Quality of Education & Quality of Teaching Staff</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valued by all parents • Higher levels of education • Parent want “their children to do better” <p>(Bast & Walberg, 2004; Bosettie & Pyryt, 2007; Gant, 2005; Kisida & Wolf, 2010; Schneider & Buckley, 2002)</p>	
<p>School Location</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the most pivotal factors in school choice • Location boundaries in Public Schooling System = Parents’ wish (good enough; parents’ credence in schools ; feelings of commitment; “with those who are like them”) <p>(Crozier et al 2008; Harris & Larsen, 2015; Glazeman, 1998; Theobald, 2005; Rambla, Valiente & Frias, 2011)</p>	
<p>Personal & Other People’s Experiences</p>	<p>Personal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White-collar occupations • Profession as a teacher – insider, ease of decisions • Personal dream - mix of factors <p>(Masters, 1969; Rabe, 2004; Bridge & Blackmann, 1978)</p>	<p>Other People’s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impossible to avoid – “grapevine” • All parents refer to their friends, communities, relatives, or colleagues <p>(Green et al. 2007; Parcel & Menaghan, 1994; Ball & Vincent, 1998; Bosetti, 2004)</p> 

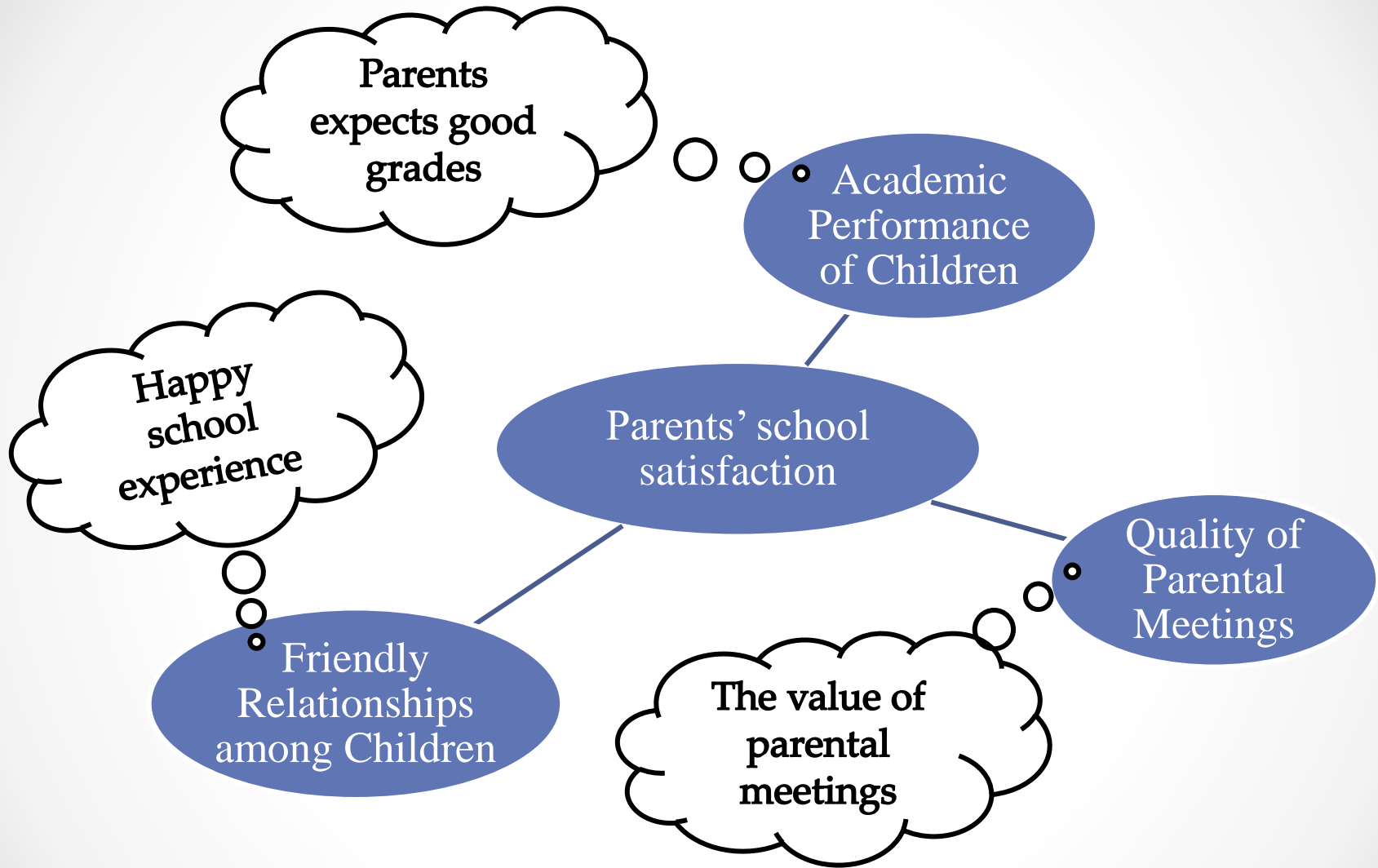
Findings & Discussion (RQ2):

How does the medium of instruction affect parents' school choice?

<u>Language Education Background</u>	<u>Perceptions of Languages: Kazakh and Russian</u>		
	Identity Formation	Future Career Opportunity	Difference in schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Impact of prior language education background and language proficiency <p>(Huang & Juang, 2015; Oxford & Nyikos, 1989)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools develop personality of children Education in Mother Tongue Parents' strong aspiration to raise children with the sense of identity belonging to their language and culture <p>(Monzo, 2005; Nima, 2008; Liu & Meng, 2009).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize the future of their children Proficiency of Russian is a must <p>(Kemppainen, Ferrin, Ward, & Hite, 2004; De Klerk, 2002; Fireman, 2006).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sociable, and confident vs. inactive and shy Certain patterns of thought and behavior" <p>(Chen et al. ,2014; Delorne, 1999; Fierman, 2006</p>



Findings & Discussion (RQ3)



Conclusion

1. Quality of Education and Quality of Teaching Staff
2. School location + Personal & Other People's Experiences

LANGUAGE (KAZAKH OR RUSSIAN) Naturally determined because of parents' language education experiences and their perceptions of languages & medium of instruction



- Academic success of their children
- Well organized parental meetings
- Friendly relationships with other children

Limitations

- Time constrain while data collection
- Inappropriate places for interviews
- Impossibility to generalize

Implications

- Quantitative Research Method
- Students' insights about School Choice
- Improving quality of parental meetings can increase parents' school satisfaction



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