

Introduction to Qualitative Research: Its concepts and applications

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What is qualitative research?

- a ?
- b ?
- c ?
- d ?
- etc

Two important questions in research

- 1. Ontology: what is reality?
- 2. Epistemology: what is knowledge?
- # Paradigm: positivist and constructivist
- positivists: one fixed, universal truth

Conts...

- constructivists: no universal truth => meaning is socially constructed, there are multiple constructions and interpretations of reality, the constructions and interpretation may change, depending on time and situation
- So reality = not universal, bound to time and context (See, Crocker, 2009).

Paradigm to think with (Lather, 2006, p.38)

- Positivist
- Interpretivist
- Critical theory
- Deconstructivist
- etc

Qualitative research approaches (Methodology)

- Narrative inquiry
- Case study
- Ethnography
- Action research
- Mixed method
- Phenomenology & Grounded theory (for advanced qualitative research) (Croker, 2009, p.16)

Conts...

- Discourse research : e.g. Dafi & Wahyudi, 2014; Mukti & Wahyudi, 2015; Djayanti & Wahyudi, 2015
- Other pure and applied linguistic studies etc
- Literatures ?

What we should know about a good research project

- Original
- Worth doing
- Feasible and manageable
- Lead to publication (see Paltridge, 2014,p.20)

Criteria to conduct a good research

- Read broadly and widely
- Know the reason of doing a particular research
- Read up to date materials
- Work through the implication of research questions (see Steven & Asmar, 1999 cited in Paltridge, 2014, p.21) and the investigative framework or the research design used.

The common structure of research

- Title
- Critical literature reviews
- Research questions
- Theoretical framework (if necessary); highly suggested for undergraduate students
- Methodology: methods of data collection and analysis
- Findings and discussion
- Conclusion

Topic of research

- Should indicate originality
- Should be interesting
- Should reflect researcher's interest
- etc

Write a critical literature review (Saunders & Rojon, 2011, pp.157-160)

- Identifies and includes the most relevant research to the topic
- Discusses and evaluates research
- Identifies recognized experts
- Contextualizes and justifies your aim(s) and objective(s)
- Consider and discuss research that support and opposes your ideas

Conts...

- Justifies points made logically with valid evidence
- Distinguishes between fact and opinion
- Includes research that has been published since the start of the project
- References all sources fully

Research questions:

- Should clearly relate to title
- Shows researcher's interest
- Could be descriptive and explorative: e.g. what; how etc

Theoretical framework

- Interpretivism (symbolic interactionism, phenomenology, etc)
- Critical inquiry
- Post-modernism etc
- # Use a particular scholar's theory relevant to your research

Methodology (data collection & analysis)

- Observation
- Interview
- Narrative
- Document analysis
- Conversation analysis
- Depending on the nature of your research

Findings and discussion

- Findings: what you found from your collected data (by using the category (ies) you follow/refer from the particular theoretical/Analytical framework e.g. Qadafi & Wahyudi (2014). No interpretation is given by the researcher.
- Discussion: the researcher starts interpreting and analyzing the data in relation to research questions, theoretical framework used and literature reviews. The researcher should be able to make sound analysis and informed judgment. The original contribution to the existing body of knowledge is presented.

Conclusion

- Providing a summary of findings and discussion of the research along with original contribution made.
- Highlighting the limitation of research
- Giving recommendations and future research direction if necessary

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