Narrative Research


Questions for Discussion

In this chapter, we begin our detailed exploration of narrative research.

Approaches to Inquiry

Five Qualitative Designs

2. For individuals new to qualitative research, examine one of the introductory texts mentioned in the Additional Reading section and develop an outline for your own project.

Exercises

Determine the research problem of interest and select the qualitative research approach to conduct the study. In conducting a qualitative research study, it is important to develop a clear understanding of the research problem and to define the research questions and objectives. This involves identifying the key issues and questions that will guide the research and the methods that will be used to collect and analyze data.

Types of Qualitative Studies

Choose the appropriate qualitative research design based on the research question and the nature of the data. There are several qualitative research designs that can be used, including case studies, ethnography, phenomenology, and grounded theory. Each design has its own strengths and weaknesses, and the choice of design will depend on the specific research question and the nature of the data.

Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design

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Definition and Background

Phenomenological Research

In a community, where do stories come from? When do stories happen? Who tells them? Who can tell them? How do stories influence our lives? These are the questions that guide the research in this study. From the perspective of phenomenological research, understanding the subjective experiences of individuals is crucial. Phenomenological research focuses on the lived experiences of participants, capturing the essence of their perceptions and understanding of phenomena.

Challenges

Charmaz and Colmery (2000, p. 20) state, "This is not a matter of simply describing the phenomena. It is a matter of understanding the phenomena as they are experienced by the participants. Phenomenological research is not objective, as it relies on the subjective experiences of the participants. The researcher's role is to become a participant in the research, to understand the experiences of the participants, and to interpret these experiences in a meaningful way."

Conclusion

Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design

1. Collect information about the context of these stories. Different methods, such as interviews and focus groups, are used to gather data from participants.
2. Analyze the participants’ stories and their context. This involves coding the data, identifying patterns, and synthesizing the information.
3. Present findings in a qualitative research report. The report should include a detailed description of the research design, methodology, and results.
### Table 7.1 Data Collection Activities by Five Approaches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Collection Activity</th>
<th>Narrative</th>
<th>Phenomenology</th>
<th>Grounded Theory</th>
<th>Ethnography</th>
<th>Case Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is traditionally studied? (sites or individuals)</td>
<td>Single individual, accessible and distinctive</td>
<td>Multiple individuals who have experienced the phenomenon</td>
<td>Multiple individuals who have responded to an action or participated in a process about a central phenomenon</td>
<td>Members of a culture-sharing group or individuals representative of the group</td>
<td>A bounded system, such as a process, an activity, an event, a program, or multiple individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are typical access and rapport issues? (access and rapport)</td>
<td>Gaining permission from individuals, obtaining access to information in archives</td>
<td>Finding people who have experienced the phenomenon</td>
<td>Locating a homogeneous sample</td>
<td>Gaining access through the gatekeeper, gaining the confidence of informants</td>
<td>Gaining access through the gatekeeper, gaining the confidence of participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does one select a site or individuals to study? (purposeful sampling strategies)</td>
<td>Several strategies, depending on the person (e.g., convenient, politically important, typical, a critical case)</td>
<td>Finding individuals who have experienced the phenomenon, a “theory-based” sample, a “theoretical” sample</td>
<td>Finding a cultural group to which one is a “stranger,” a “representative” sample</td>
<td>Finding a “case” or “cases,” an “atypical” case, or a “maximum variation” or “extreme” case</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 7.2 Data Collection Activities (Continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What type of information typically is collected? (forms of data)</td>
<td>Documents and archival material, open-ended interviews, subject journaling, participant observation, casual chatting</td>
<td>Interviews with 5 to 25 people (Polkinghorne, 1989)</td>
<td>Primarily interviews with 20 to 30 people to achieve detail in the theory</td>
<td>Participant observations, interviews, artifacts, and documents</td>
<td>Extensive forms, such as documents and records, interviews, observation, and physical artifacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is information recorded? (recording information)</td>
<td>Notes, interview protocol</td>
<td>Interviews, often multiple interviews with the same individuals</td>
<td>Interview protocol, memoing</td>
<td>Fieldnotes, interview and observational protocols</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are common data collection issues? (field issues)</td>
<td>Access to materials, authenticity of account and materials</td>
<td>Bracketing one’s experiences, logistics of interviewing</td>
<td>Interviewing issues (e.g., logistics, openness)</td>
<td>Field issues (e.g., reflexivity, reactivity, reciprocity, “going native,” divulging private information, deception)</td>
<td>Interviewing and observing issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is information typically stored? (storing data)</td>
<td>File folders, computer files</td>
<td>Transcriptions, computer files</td>
<td>Transcriptions, computer files</td>
<td>Fieldnotes, transcriptions, computer files</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
of information and technology
Saves time, money, and effort in the process
Enhancement: flexibility means multiple uses
Unsupervised
Follows new leads without the need for
Enables the generation of new questions based on the
All these data are collected from various sources

Table 1.1: Types of Sampling Strategies in Qualitative Inquiry

Response

1. Probability of Sampling
2. NonProbability of Sampling

Table 2.1

Quantitative Inquiry and Research Design

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There is nothing that I have ever been asked to do or that I have ever done that has been more important to me than the work that I have done since I was a student. I believe that my work has been important because it has been productive and because it has been useful. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work on a number of projects that have been both challenging and rewarding. I have been able to contribute to the development of new ideas and to the advancement of knowledge in my field. I believe that my work has been important because it has been productive and because it has been useful. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work on a number of projects that have been both challenging and rewarding. I have been able to contribute to the development of new ideas and to the advancement of knowledge in my field.

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In the information retrieval literature, the investigation of collection approaches of data collection.

The particular approach to research often utilizes a qualitative research strategy of inductive research and open-ended interviews. The data collection comprises interviews with experts in the field, focus groups, and observation in the workplace. The data is then analyzed using thematic analysis to identify key themes and patterns.
Choosing Among Five Approaches
RESEARCH DESIGN
INQUIRY
QUALITATIVE
Second Edition