

Important concepts about qualitative research

Guri Verne, May 15th 2025

Remember:

Reflexivity:

the process of reflecting critically on approach, positioning, and relationship between what you encounter in the field and how you represent it.

Positionality:

Your previous experiences will influence how you interpret what you encounter.

How you appear to the informants will influence how they relate to you as a researcher.

Rigorous subjectivity (C&C p. 14-15)

What to tell positivists

Theoretical sampling

- Gaining selective access to appropriate groups of people
 - *(instead of random sampling)*

Theoretical saturation

- When what you hear begin to have the same ring to them
 - *(instead of a fixed large number of respondents)*

Theoretical adequacy

- Search for other researchers' interpretations of similar situations

«Research must involve the struggle to produce intersubjective truths»

Validity and reliability (C&C p. 146)

What to tell positivists 2

Credibility of the account

(the representation of what occurred)

Transferability of the material

(making what occurred intelligible to the audience)

Dependability of the interpretation

(that it is not illogical, or too partisan)

Confirmability of the study

(the ability to audit the process that made it or opportunities for informants to reply)

WHAT GOES WHERE IN A MASTER THESIS OR DISSERTATION?

- Title
- Summary /Abstract (1 page)
- Acknowledgements
- Table of content

- Introduction
- Literature review
- Theoretical chapter
- Methodology and empirical setting
- Analysis chapter(s)
- Discussion/Interpretation
- Conclusion

What others have done

Goes into the grinder

What you have found (and learned)

Discuss with yourself
- and others

- References
- Appendix

For more, see Appendix to this lecture on the course page