




Quality Criteria in Qualitative Research

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Criteria that establish rigor in qualitative methods

Credibility: just like validity in qualitative research – asks if there is a correspondence between the way the respondents actually perceive social constructs and the way the researcher portrays their viewpoints.



Criteria that establish rigor in qualitative methods

- (a) persistent observation
- (b) peer debriefing
- (c) progressive subjectivity
- (d) member checks
- (e) triangulation
- (f) transferability
- (g) dependability
- (h) authenticity and fairness
- (i) confirmability

a. Persistent Observation

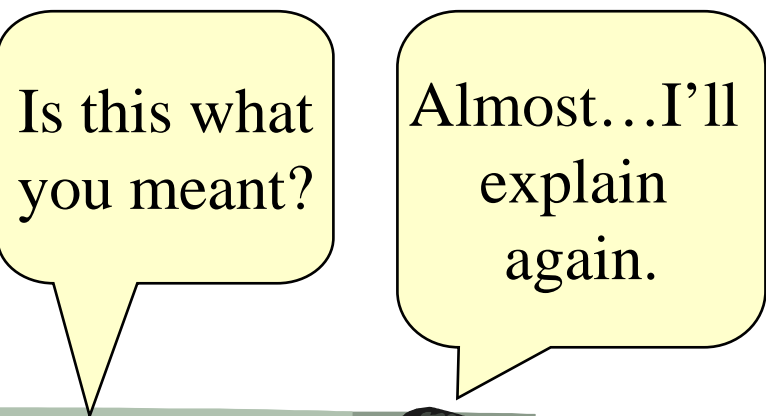
- Themes, examples, information begin repeating means it's time to wrap up. "premature closure" would mean they wrapped up too early and did not gather sufficient data.

b. Peer Debriefing

- ◆ Discuss with a disinterested peer, findings, conclusions, analysis, and hypotheses.

c. Progressive Subjectivity

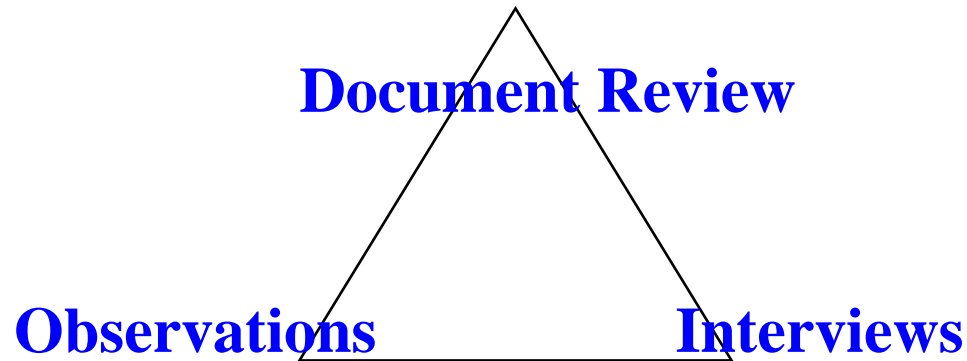
- Researcher monitors their developing constructions and document the process of change from the beginning of the study until the end.



d. Member Checks

- ◆ Verifies respondents answers.

e. Triangulation



f. Transferability

- ◆ Like external validity for qualitative research – the researcher must give a “thick” description so the reader knows whether it will apply to their situation.



g. Dependability

- The inquiry process is appropriate and of high quality. Strategies or focus may change as the study continues. A dependability audit can be done.

h. Authenticity

- ◆ Fairness: The researcher presents all value differences, views, and conflicts.
- ◆ Ontological Authenticity: An individual's or groups' conscious experience of the world became more informed and sophisticated.
- ◆ Catalytic Authenticity: Action was stimulated by the inquiry process.

i. Confirmability

- ◆ The influence of the researcher's judgment is minimized.
- ◆ The data and their interpretation are not figments of the researcher's imagination.

Confirmability audit – going back and checking the original sources in transcripts, documents, journals, field notes.....



Questions for Critically Analyzing Qualitative Research

Pages 259-260, Mertens 2005

Patton's version: p. 552-588