Research Methods
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Plans for Today

- Group Presentation of Critical Analysis:
    - Group E
- Data Analysis Methods
- APA Style: Citations and References
- Sharing of Research Proposals

Afternoon tasks:

- **Online Assignment: Research Proposal: Data Analysis Methods (5), Potential obstacles & proposed solutions (6), References (7) and Appendices (8) – May 9 (Tuesday) – late assignments will not be accepted!**

Data Analysis

What is data analysis?

- Analysis means making sense of the data by identifying broad trends, characteristics or features across data pieces

- Data analysis involves:
  - Describing (the "**what**")
  - Explaining (the "**why**") – finding explanations for what emerges from the descriptions of the data

When should data be analyzed?

- ☐ The process of data collection and analysis in qualitative research is often dynamic (i.e., collection and analysis often overlap)

- ☐ As data are collected, explanations, ideas and hypotheses inevitably emerge

- ☐ Then, more data are collected/analyzed to test these emerging explanations

Process of analysis

- Stage 1: Assembling the data
  - Assemble the complete data set you have collected over the period of the research (e.g., field notes, journal entries, transcriptions, questionnaires)
  - Read the entire data set once to conduct an initial examination. Write down thoughts, ideas, impressions

Process of analysis

□ Stage 2: Coding the data

■ After the initial examination, categories or codes can be developed to identify patterns more specifically

■ Coding means reducing the large amount of data into more manageable categories of concepts, themes, or types

Process of analysis

□ Stage 3: Comparing the data

- Once the data is coded (categorized), comparisons can be made to see whether themes or patterns are repeated across different data

- You may identify relationships and connections between sources of data

- At this stage, you are describing and displaying the data (rather than interpreting)

Process of analysis

- Stage 4: Building Interpretations
  - Here you move beyond describing, categorizing, coding and comparing to make sense of the meaning of the data
  - You develop theories which explain the patterns you see in the data (i.e., you answer the question "why")

Enhancing trustworthiness

- **Triangulation**: gathering different kinds of data, using different methods, considering different points-of-view

- **Member checks**: taking your data analysis and interpretations back to the participants to see if they support your findings

- **Peer examinations**: taking the data analysis/ interpretations to those familiar with the research context

Enhancing trustworthiness

- **Rival explanations**: Look for alternative interpretations or explanations

- **Monitoring researcher bias**: Examine your own beliefs and values about the situation being researched to raise awareness of "taken-for-granted" biases and assumptions

References and Citations in APA Style

Book

- **In-text citation:**

(Gibbons, 2009)

- **Reference:**

Gibbons, P. (2009). *English learners, academic literacy, and thinking*. Portsmouth, NH: Heineman.

Journal article

- **In-text citation:**

First citation:

    (López-Robertson, Long, & Turner-Nash, 2010)

Subsequent citations:

    (López-Robertson et al., 2010)

- **Reference:**

López-Robertson, J., Long, S., & Turner-Nash, K. (2010). First steps in constructing counter narratives of young children and their families. *Language Arts, 88*(2), 93-103.

Edited book

- **In-text citation:**

First citation:

    (García, Skutnabb-Kangas, & Torres-Guzman, 2006)

Subsequent citations:

    (García et al., 2006)

- **Reference:**

García, O., Skutnabb-Kangas, T., & Torres-Guzman, M. (Eds.). (2006). *Imagining multilingual schools: Languages in education and glocalization*. Clevedon, England: Multilingual Matters.

Chapter in an edited book

- **In-text citation:**
  (Cummins, 2009)

- **Reference:**

Cummins, J. (2009). Fundamental psycholinguistic and sociological principles underlying educational success for linguistic minority students. In T. Skutnabb-Kangas, R. Phillipson, A. K. Mohanty & M. Panda (Eds.), *Social justice through multilingual education* (pp. 19-35). Bristol, U.K.: Multilingual Matters.

Electronic source

- **In-text citation:**
  (Schleppegrell, 2009)
- **Reference:**

Schleppegrell, M. J. (2009). *Language in academic subject areas and classroom instruction: What is academic language and how can we teach it?* Retrieved July 13, 2010, from www7.nationalacademies.org/cfe/Paper_Mary_Schleppegrell.pdf

In-text citations

- **Paraphrase:**
  (Cummins, 2009)
- **Direct quote**:
  (Cummins, 2009, p. 20)
- **Quote of website material with no page numbers:**
  (Kasper, 1997, para. 6)
- **Indirect quote:**
  Jackson stated that... (as cited in Johns, 2001, p. 14).
  In this example, (Johns, 2001) should appear in your reference list

Sharing of Research Proposal

- Research Question

- Data Collection Methods

- Ideas for:
  - Data analysis
  - Potential obstacles and proposed solutions

Afternoon Tasks

Online Assignment-- due on May 9 (Tuesday) – late assignments will not be accepted!

- **Research Proposal:**
  - **Data Analysis Methods (5)**
  - **Potential obstacles & proposed solutions (6)**
  - **References (7)**
  - **Appendices (8)**