

Chapter 1

*note : there is no need to refer to the book , best of luck :)

* **Research :**

the notion of inquiring into , or investigation something in a systematic manner by which we know more about something than we did before engaging in the process .

research focused on discovery , insight , and understanding from the perspective of those being studied offers the greatest promise of making a difference in people's lives .

* **Researches are typically divided into :**

1- Basic research : motivated by intellectual interest in a phenomena , its goal >> the extension of knowledge

2- applied research : practitioners in these fields (fields of practice ; health , education , social works) deal with the everyday concerns of people's lives , is undertaken to improve the quality of practice of a particular discipline .

- applied social science research >> interested in speaking to an audience .

- **Forms of applied research :**

1) Evaluation studies : collects data or evidence on the worth or value of a program , process or technique .

- the main purpose : establish a basis for decision making > judgments > improve program > effectiveness > inform decisions about future programming .

- the difference between evaluation and research lies in the questions asked , not the methods used .

2) Action research : focus on facilitating change , is to address a specific problem in practice-based setting (such as classroom , workplace , program)

3) Appreciative inquiry : focus on facilitating change , is often used in organizational setting to tell stories of what is positive or appreciated and effective in those organizations , to facilitate innovation rather than focusing on problem .

Action research and Appreciative inquiry ; both of these kinds of research focus on **facilitating change** and typically **involve the participants** in the research process , thus blurring the distinction between change process and research >>> experiment a new strategy or intervention (change process) , while documenting what happens when trying a new strategy or intervention (research) .

* **The Nature of Qualitative Research :**

- **Qualitative research :** uses words as data , collected and analyzed in all sorts of ways , interested in understanding how people interpret their experiences , how they construct their world , and what meaning they attribute to their experiences .

- **Quantitative research :** uses numbers as data , analyze them using statistical techniques , focus on " how much " or " how many " , and results are usually presented in numerical form .

- **Experiment :** is a procedure undertaken to make a discovery , test a hypothesis or demonstrate a known fact ,, try to determine the cause of events and predict similar events in future .

- **Survey/ descriptive design :** a general view , examination or description of something , describes " what is " how variables are distributed across a population or phenomenon .

- intended to systematically describe the facts and characteristic of a given phenomenon or the relationships between events and phenomena .

* Where Does Qualitative Research come from ?

The antecedent to Qualitative research can be traced back to anthropology , sociology and various applied fields of study .

1) **Anthropologists and sociologists** 1920s-1930s were asking questions about people's lives , the social and cultural contexts in which they lived , the ways in which they understood their words , then went into " the field " >> observed what was going on , interviewed people , collected and analyzed artifacts , personal and public documents relevant to understanding what they were studying .

- Regarding the development of Qualitative research , 2 important mid-twentieth-century publications contributed to its emergence :

- 1) 1967 , sociologists Barney Glaser and Anselm Strauss published *The Discovery Of Grounded Theory ; Strategies For Qualitative Research* ,, made a case for building theory from inductively analyzing a social phenomenon , providing both a theoretical framework and practical strategies for doing qualitative research .
- 2) 1978 , monograph by Egon Guba , *Toward a Methodology of Naturalistic Inquiry in Educational Evaluation* the study was naturalistic , took place in a real world , no control or manipulation , it is a discovery-oriented research in which the findings are not predetermined .

2) The 1960s and 1970s saw a number of publications focusing on the methodology itself .

The late 1970s and early 1980s , growing number of publications in many fields / applied social science researches outside the traditional disciplines of anthropology and sociology (journalism , education , medicine, social work and law) contributing to the understanding of this form of inquiry .

- Today there are hundreds of books on various aspects of qualitative research

*Philosophical Perspective

help in understanding of the nature of qualitative research

- 1) **Positivist/ postpositivism** : assumes that reality exists "out there " , that is observable , stable , measurable .
knowledge gained from this study is labeled as " scientific " , include the establishment of "laws".
Experimental research : assumed a positivist stance .
 - Postpositivism : recognize that knowledge is relative rather than absolute but it is possible , using empirical evidence to distinguish between more and less plausible claims .
- 2) **Interpretive/ Constructivism** : most common type , assumes that reality is socially constructed ; there is no single , observable reality .
 - there are multiple realities or interpretation of a single event .
 - these researches do not find knowledge , they construct it .
 - **phenomenology** is a major orientation to social science , study of how people describe things and experience them through their senses .
 - **Symbolic interactionism** : focus on the meaning and interpretation , especially that which people create and share through their interactions ,, the importance of symbolic interactionism >> emphasis on the importance of symbols and interpretative process that undergird interactions as fundamental to understanding human behavior .

3) Critical research : uncovering the interpretation of people’s understanding of their world .

- the basic assumption : all thought is mediated by power relation that are historically and socially constructed .
- inquiry in this type must be connected to attempt to confront the injustice of a particular society .
- **draws from** : Feminist theory , critical race theory , postcolonial theory , queer theory , critical ethnography ...
- **the goal** : to critique and challenge , to transform and empower .
- research questions >> in the term of power ; who has it , how it is negotiated , what structures in society reinforce the current distribution of power

Critical research	Other types of researches
Challenges	Seeks merely to understand
Reads the situation in terms of conflict and oppression	Reads the situation in terms of interaction and community
Bring about change	Accepts the status quo

4) Post structuralism / Post modernism

- explanations for the way things are in the world are nothing but myths or grand narratives , there are multiple truths , no single " truth " .
- accepting the diversity of the world = no one element is privileged or more powerful than another .
- highly experimental , playful and creative , no two post modern studies look alike .
- most forms of qualitative research now have an established postmodern position .

	Positivist postpositivist	Interpretive constructivist	Critical	Postmodern poststructural
Purpose	Predict , control , generalize	Describe , understand interpret	Change ,emancipate empower	Deconstruct , problematize question , interrupt
Types	Experimental , survey quasi-experimental	Phenomenology , ethnography hermeneutic , grounded therapy naturalistic	Neo-marxist , feminist , race theory, ethnography , PAR participatory action research	Postcolonial , poststructural , postmodern , queer theory
Reality	Objective , external out there	Multiple realities , context- bound	Multiple realities , situated in political, social, cultural contexts (privileged)	Questions assumption that there is a place where reality resides , Is there a there there ?

** There is overlap in actual research designs and orientation , such as in " critical ethnography " and " Poststructural feminist research "

Definition Of Qualitative Research

*Basically , Qualitative researchers are interested in understanding the meaning people have constructed , how they interpret their experiences and what meaning they attribute to their experiences .

***Van Maanen 1979** : " Qualitative research is an umbrella term covering an array of interpretive techniques which seek to describe , decode , translate and otherwise come to terms with the meaning , not the frequency of certain more or less naturally occurring phenomena in social world "

* **Denzin and Lincoln 2013** : " Qualitative research is a situated activity that locates the observer in the world , consists of a set of interpretive , material practices that make the world visible " , they conclude with " qualitative research study things in their natural setting , attempting to make sense of , or interpret , phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them "

Characteristic Of Qualitative Research

1) Focus on Meaning and Understanding

The overall purposes of qualitative research are to achieve an understanding of how people make sense out of their lives , delineate the process of meaning-making , and describe how people interpret what they experience .

So Qualitative research is an effort to understand the nature of the setting / situation (not prediction) in their uniqueness as part of a particular context and interactions there .
 - what it means for participants to be in that setting , what their lives are like , what is going on for them , what their meaning are , what the world looks like in that particular setting
 then the analysis to be able to communicate that faithfully to others who are interested in that setting
 the analysis strives for depth of understanding .
 -the key concern is understanding the setting of interest from the participants' perspective (the emic or insider's perspective) not the researchers' (etic or outsider's view) .

2) Researcher as Primary Instrument

for data collection and analysis .

* Advantages :

since understanding is the goal of this research , the human instrument , which is able to be **immediately responsive and adaptive** , would seem to be the ideal means of collecting and analyzing data , other advantage are that they can **expand their understanding** through nonverbal communication , **process data immediately** , **clarify and summarize** material , **check** with respondents for accuracy of interpretation , and **explore** unusual or unanticipated responses .

*Disadvantage :

- human has **shortcomings and biases** .

3) An Inductive Process

researchers gather data to build concepts , hypotheses or theories rather than deductively testing hypotheses .

* inductively derived findings are in the form of : themes , categories , typologies , concepts , tentative hypotheses and theory

4) Rich Description

words and pictures are used rather than numbers , there are likely to be descriptions of context , the participants involved and the activates of interests . in addition , data in the form of quotes from documents , field notes and participant interviews , excerpts from videotapes , electronic communication or a combination of these contribute to the descriptive nature of qualitative research .

5) **The design is emergent and flexible** (usually but not always)

6) **Sample selection is usually (but not always) nonrandom , purposeful and small .**

7) **The investigator often spends a substantial amount of time in the natural setting /** intense contact with participants .

	Qualitative	Quantitative
Focus	Quality (nature , essence)	Quantity (how much , how many)
Philosophical roots	Phenomenology , symbolic interactionism , constructivism	Positivism , realism , logical empiricism
Associated phrases	Fieldwork , ethnography , naturalistic , grounded , constructivist	Experimental , emperical , statistical
Goal of investigation	Understanding , description , discovery , meaning , hypothesis generation	Prediction , control , description , conformation , hypothesis testing
Design	Flexible ,evolving , emergent	Predetermined , structured
Sample	Small , nonrandom , purposeful, theoretical	Large, random , representative
Data collection	Researcher as primary instrument , interviews , observations , documents	Inanimate instruments (scales , tests , surveys , questionnaires , computers)
Primary mode of analysis	Inductive , constant comparative method	Deductive , statistical
Finding	Comprehensive , holistic , expansive , richly descriptive	Precise , numerical

*** Competencies :**

- 1) a questioning stance with regard to your work and life context .
- 2) High tolerance for ambiguity
- 3) Being a careful observer
- 4) asking good questions
- 5) Thinking inductively
- 6) Comfort with writing , since finding are presented in words not numbers

Good Luck

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