

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

A Brief Overview

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Chemical Education Group Meeting
21. November 2000

Qualitative Research

- by the numbers
- statistical analysis of data
- data is based on samples and populations
- positivistic paradigm

Quantitative Research

- by the words
- analysis and interpretation of themes
- case based
- postpositivistic paradigm

RESEARCH PARADIGMS

10/22/2002

PARADIGM

- a type of cognitive framework
- a set of shared solutions to substantive problems

PARADIGM

Two Critical Questions

- what compromises different methodological paradigms or disciplinary matrices
 - beliefs
 - assumptions
 - values
 - aims of social inquiry, self, society, human agency
- how are these paradigms socially accomplished or constitutes

PARADIGM

- Ontology
 - the nature of reality
- Epistemology
 - how we know reality
- Axiology
 - the values of the paradigm
- Methodology
 - the implementation of the paradigm

PARADIGM

- Positivism
- Interpretivism
- Constructivism
- Race or culture based
- Feminism

POSITIVISM

Ontology

- focuses on establishing laws
- nomothetic
- assumes that reality is single, tangible, fragmentable and material

POSITIVISM

Epistemology

- asserts it has a value-free epistemology
- argues all sciences are basically the same

POSITIVISM

Axiology

- asserts it is value neutral
- goal is prediction, generalization, and control

POSITIVISM

Methodology

- scientific method
- random sampling

Interpretivism

Ontology

- idiographic
- systems relationships
- mutual causality

Interpretivism

Epistemology

- trustworthiness
- results are tentative
- focuses on individual meaning-making
- researcher interdependent with the research participants
- values tacit knowledge

Interpretivism

Axiology

- values the complex understanding of unique realities

Interpretivism

Methodology

- highlights the individual voice
- researcher as the primary instrument
- research done in a natural setting
- often reported in story form
- research design may change during the study

Constructivism

Ontology

- scripts that circulate among people
- assumes no ultimate truth exists
- assumes individuality is socially constructed

Constructivism

Epistemology

- believes that we know reality through the lens of our cultural and historically derived personal constructs

Constructivism

Axiology

- Values the deconstruction of historically and culturally essentialized realities

Constructivism

Methodology

- deconstruction of ideas and values that are common within the white male construct

Critical Theory

Ontology

- oppressed and oppressor relationship

Critical Theory

Epistemology

- we learn from those we research

Critical Theory

Axiology

- interested in “deep change” or transformation

Critical Theory

Methodology

- varies, all are acceptable

Race or Culture Based

Ontology

- assumes racism is endemic to most Institutions
- aspect of culture is part of ontology

Race or Culture Based

Epistemology

- assumes any of the paradigmatic epistemologies of a specific culture-based epistemology

Race or Culture Based

Axiology

- problematizes race and culture

Race or Culture Based

Methodology

- focuses on the culture of the research participants

Feminist

Ontology

- assumes sexism is endemic to most institutions

Feminist

Epistemology

- assumes any of the epistemologies

Feminist

Axiology

- always problematizes women's issues

Feminist

Methodology

- uses deconstruction of ideas and values that are common within the while male construct

Qualitative Research

“..... a willingness to construe knowledge and values from multiple perspectives without loss of commitment to one’s own values...”

Jerome Bruner

Qualitative Research

- Ethnography
- Case study research
- Naturalistic inquiry
- Ethnomethodology
- Life history
- Narrative inquiry

Qualitative Research

- events can be understood adequately only if they are seen in context
- the researcher immerses himself in the setting
- the contexts of inquiry are not contrived, they are natural
- nothing is predefined or taken for granted
- qualitative research is an interactive process in which the persons studied teach the researcher about their lives

Qualitative Research

- aim is to understand the experience as unified
- there is no one general method
- the process entails appraisal about what was studied

Qualitative Research

Ethnography

- born in anthropology
- field studies
- process and product of describing and interpreting cultural behavior
- centrality of culture as the analytic concept that informs the doing of ethnography

Qualitative Research

Case Study Research

- social inquiry
- the case itself is at center stage not the variables
- preferred method when the inquirer seeks answers to how or why questions
- used when the inquirer has little control over the events being studied

Qualitative Research

Naturalistic Inquiry

- natural setting
- inquirer must resist the over simplification
- the investigation of phenomena within and in relation to their naturally occurring contexts

Qualitative Research

Ethnomethodology

- the study of everyday practical reasoning
- the study of the processes whereby rules that cover interactional settings are constructed
- concerned with describing and portraying how people construct their own definitions of a social situation or the social construction of knowledge

Qualitative Research

Life History

- biographical method
- focus on the generation, analysis and presentation of the data of a life history - the unfolding of an individual's experiences over time
- interrelate the private and public, the personal and the social

Qualitative Research

Narrative Inquiry

- activities involved in working with the various kinds of stories of life experiences found in life histories, long interview, journals, diaries, memoirs, autobiographies, biographies....
- narrative and story form
- narrative ontology, narrative knowing, voice and representation

Qualitative Research

Basic processes and terminology

- interviewing
- triangulation
- member checking
- data coding
- theme development and grouping
- authenticity
- researcher as the instrument