

Qualitative Research Assignment

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MHST 603 – Facilitating Inquiry

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Abstract

Qualitative research seeks to understand the participants’ perspective on phenomena of interest and to convey meanings that participants construct regarding the phenomena. This paper provides a primer for qualitative research and reasons for when this type of research is appropriate. It also compares and contrasts two common methods of qualitative research, which are, grounded theory and case study.

Keywords: qualitative research, grounded theory, case study

Commented [JY1]: Qualitative research seeks to understand the participants’ perspective on phenomena of interest and to convey meanings that ...
High Bog Sentence
Sentence length 22 words
Bog Index 173 - Dreadful
Bog word score 14 - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
Glue words 36%
-

Commented [JY2]: This paper provides a primer for qualitative research and reasons for when this type of research is appropriate.
High Bog Sentence
Sentence length 18 words
Bog Index 106 - Bad
Bog word score 7 - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
Glue words 56% - Consider cutting glue words from this sentence.
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Commented [YJ3]: Avoid anthropomorphisms

Definition of Research

Leedy & Ormrod defines research as a “systemic process of collecting, analyzing and interpreting information –data- in order to increase our understanding of a phenomenon about which we are interested or concerned” (pg. 3). Research is what we do when we have a problem or question we would like to solve. Until the problem has been researched, the answer we have in mind remains little more than guess work, as we cannot prove it. Information and knowledge that is obtained through research studies is the basis of development of answers to the research question. This knowledge should be shared to ensure widespread benefits in our society. The process of collecting, analyzing and interpreting data allows people to plan and improve the ways of everyday life. The importance and role of research in our everyday lives cannot be underestimated.

Commented [JY4]: Leedy & Ormrod defines research as a "systemic process of collecting, analyzing and interpreting information –data- in orde...
- Sentence length - 33 words
- Bog Index - 117 - Bad
- Bog word score - 12 - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
- Glue words - 39%
- **High Bog Sentence**

Commented [JY5]: Until the problem has been researched, the answer we have in mind remains little more than guess work, as we cannot prove it.
- Sentence length - 23 words
- Bog Index - 26 - Excellent
- Bog word score - 2
- Glue words - 52% - Consider cutting glue words from this sentence.
- **High Glue Sentence**

Commented [JY6]: Information and knowledge that is obtained through research studies is the basis of development of answers to the research q...
- Sentence length - 20 words
- Bog Index - 93 - Poor
- Bog word score - 7 - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
- Glue words - 50%
- **High Bog Sentence**

Commented [JY7]: be shared
- Prefer active verbs
- **Passive Verbs**

Commented [JY8]: The importance and role of research in our everyday lives cannot be underestimated.
- Sentence length - 13 words
- Bog Index - 63 - Average
- Bog word score - 3
- Glue words - 62% - Consider cutting glue words from this sentence.
- **High Glue Sentence**

Commented [JY9]: It provides information about persons' lives, lived experiences, behaviors, emotions, and feelings as well as organizational...
- Sentence length - 25 words
- Bog Index - 128 - Bad
- Bog word score - 11 - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
- **High Bog Sentence**

Commented [JY10]: be statistically analyzed
- Prefer active verbs
- **Passive Verbs**

Commented [JY11]: However qualitative analysis is not quantifying of qualitative data but rather it is a non-mathematical process of interpret...
- Sentence length - 37 words
- Bog Index - 122 - Bad
- **High Bog Sentence**

Overview of Qualitative Research

Qualitative research produces findings not arrived by statistical procedures. It provides information about persons' lives, lived experiences, behaviors, emotions, and feelings as well as organizational functioning, social movements, cultural phenomena, and interactions between nations. Qualitative research can be confusing as it can mean different things to different people. Some researchers gather data via interviews and observations, which are normally associated with qualitative methods. However they code this data, which allows them to be statistically analyzed which in effect is quantifying qualitative data. However, qualitative analysis is not quantifying of qualitative data but rather it is a non-mathematical process of interpretation, carried out for discovering relationships in raw data and then organizing it in an explanatory scheme (Strauss & Corbin, 2009).

When to use Qualitative Research

There are many reasons for conducting qualitative research. One is preferences and/or experience of the researchers. Some individuals are temperamentally suited to doing this type of work. For example, researchers coming from certain disciplines or have philosophical orientations that usually make use of qualitative methods. Another reason could be the nature of the research problem. For example, trying to understand the meaning or nature of experience of persons with problems such as chronic disease and addiction. This type of research assists in finding out what people are thinking and doing (Strauss & Corbin, 2009).

Qualitative research focuses on phenomena that are occurring or have previously occurred in natural settings – that is in the “real world”. They also involve capturing and studying the complexity of those phenomena. As a general rule qualitative studies do not allow you to identify cause-and-effect-relationships. Qualitative research helps one to expand on what has been previously studied and serves an exploration purpose. It also helps in the understanding of complex multifaceted processes. It tests the validity of certain assumptions, thus serving a verification purpose. It enables you to develop new theories in relation to existing phenomena and to uncover problems related to those phenomena. Lastly, qualitative research provides tools to evaluate the effectiveness of certain processes and policies. There are five commonly used research methods: case study, ethnography, phenomenological study, grounded theory study and content analysis (Leedy & Ormrod, 2013). This paper will focus on comparing and contrasting two qualitative methods: grounded theory and case study.

Commented [JY12]: One is preferences and/or experience of the researchers. . . **High Glue Sentence**
Sentence length . 9 words .
Bog Index . 30 . - Excellent
Bog word score . 1 .
Glue words . 56% . - Consider cutting glue words from this sentence.

Commented [JY13]: Some individuals are temperamentally suited to doing this type of work. . . **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length . 11 words .
Bog Index . 162 . - Dreadful
Bog word score . 7 . - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
Glue words . 55% . - Consider cutting glue words from this sentence.

Commented [JY14]: are temperamentally suited . . **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY15]: Another reason could be the nature of the research problem. . . **High Glue Sentence**
Sentence length . 10 words .
Bog Index . 3 . - Excellent
Bog word score . 0 .
Glue words . 60% . - Consider cutting glue words from this sentence.

Commented [JY16]: been previously studied . . **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY17]: It enables you to develop new theories in relation to existing phenomena and to uncover problems related to those phenomena. . . **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length . 20 words .
Bog Index . 118 . - Bad
Bog word score . 9 . - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
Glue words . 40% .

Grounded Theory

Grounded theory is the most widely used and established qualitative method. A grounded theory study focuses on a process related to a particular topic including peoples' actions and interactions with the ultimate goal of developing a theory about the process. The intention of the researchers who developed grounded theory methodology was to provide a systematic approach to the analysis of qualitative data that would live up to the standards of "rigour" imposed by the quantitative paradigm. The main focus however was to turn the sociological research emphasis away from theory testing to theory generation and to provide a method for the development of theory that was "grounded" in, i.e. derived from a systematic analysis of qualitative or quantitative data (Kennedy & Lingard, 2006).

This design is appropriate where the research question involves social interactions or experiences and where the research aim is to explain a process, not to test or verify an existing theory. The degree to which researchers should avoid being influenced by previous relevant research is an area of ongoing debate. Opinions range from the position that grounded theorists should acknowledge the influence of prior relevant work to the suggestion that literature review should not even be performed until the final stage of data analysis. This design also utilizes an iterative approach. Such approaches involve cycles of simultaneous data collection and analysis in which the results of ongoing analysis inform the subsequent data collection. The initial analysis may trigger questions that require clarification or further exploration. Thus the iterative process is central to grounded theory design and is considered to be a major source of effectiveness for this methodology (Kennedy & Lingard, 2006).

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Commented [JY18]: A grounded theory study focuses on a process related to a particular topic including peoples' actions and interactions with ... **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length - 29 words -
Bog Index - 106 - Bad
Bog word score - 10 - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
Glue words - 41% -

Commented [JY19]: The intention of the researchers who developed grounded theory methodology was to provide a systematic approach to the analy... **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length - 36 words -
Bog Index - 131 - Dreadful
Bog word score - 14 - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
Glue words - 50% -

Commented [JY20]: The main focus however was to turn the sociological research emphasis away from theory testing to theory generation and to p... **Long Sentence**
Sentence length - 46 words - Edit long sentences to improve clarity.
Bog Index - 135 - Dreadful
Bog word score - 14 - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
Glue words - 46% -

Commented [JY21]: This design is appropriate where the research question involves social interactions or experiences and where the research ai... **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length - 31 words -
Bog Index - 83 - Poor

Commented [JY22]: Opinions range from the position that grounded theorists should acknowledge the influence of prior relevant work to the sugg... **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length - 34 words -
Bog Index - 92 - Poor

Commented [JY23]: be performed **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY24]: Such approaches involve cycles of simultaneous data collection and analysis in which the results of ongoing analysis inform ... **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length - 22 words -
Bog Index - 128 - Bad

Commented [JY25]: Thus the iterative process is central to grounded theory design and is considered to be a major source of effectiveness for ... **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length - 26 words -
Bog Index - 104 - Bad

Commented [JY26]: is considered **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Case Study

Case study research is an increasingly popular among qualitative researchers (Thomas, 2011). The case study design provides an intensive, in-depth method of inquiry focusing on a single real life case while utilizing a variety of sources of evidence to generate theories and hypotheses. The case is an object to be studied that is unique or particular. Classification of the case informs the development design and clarifies the research question. Initially there were three types of case study designs: intrinsic case, instrumental case and collective instrumental case. The intrinsic case is used to gain further insight of a single case rather than what it represents. An instrumental case study provides more information on an issue or is used to refine a theory. A collective instrumental case refers to a case in which more than one case can be studied simultaneously; however, each case study is concentrated, single inquiry and can be studied in it's own entirety (Hyett et al., 2014). Yin 2003, proposed three more types of case study that can form the conceptual framework. An exploratory case study debates the value of further research, and suggests various hypotheses. The explanatory framework explains causal arguments identified by the descriptive research. Lastly the descriptive case study describes the phenomena (McGloin, 2008).

While case study design has a variety of positive attributes, it is also filled with criticisms about the trustworthiness of data (Zucker, 2001). It has been argued that the qualitative researcher should implement a model to assess the trustworthiness of data when considering the case study approach. Generally four criteria of trustworthiness are utilized and include truth-value (how confident the researcher is with the truth of the findings), applicability (degree to which findings can be applied to other contexts), consistency (whether the findings would be

Commented [JY27]: The case study design provides an intensive, in-depth method of inquiry focusing on a single real life case while utilizing ... - **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length - 31 words -
Bog Index - 120 - Bad
Bog word score - 12 - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
Glue words - 35% -

Commented [JY28]: The case is an object to be studied that is unique or particular. - **High Glue Sentence**
Sentence length - 13 words -
Bog Index - 63 - Average
Bog word score - 3 -
Glue words - 62% - Consider cutting glue words from this sentence.

Commented [JY29]: A collective instrumental case refers to a case in which more than one case can be studied simultaneously; however each case... - **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length - 38 words -
Bog Index - 103 - Bad

Commented [JY30]: be studied - **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY31]: is concentrated - **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY32]: The explanatory framework explains causal arguments identified by the descriptive research. - **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length - 11 words -

Commented [JY33]: While case study design has a variety of positive attributes, it is also filled with criticisms about the trustworthiness of... - **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length - 23 words -

Commented [JY34]: It has been argued that the qualitative researcher should implement a model to assess the trustworthiness of data when consi... - **High Bog Sentence**

Commented [JY35]: been argued - **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY36]: Generally four criteria of trustworthiness are utilized and include truth-value (how confident the researcher is with the tr... - **Long Sentence**

Commented [JY37]: are utilized - **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY38]: be applied - **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

consistent if the study **were replicated** and neutrality (extent to which findings are result of the participants and not other influences) (McGloin, 2008).

Comparison

Although case study and grounded theory design have different goals, their roots are in sociology and they utilize similar strategies for data collection. The goal of grounded theory is to develop theories that explain particular situations and perceive and present another's world (Jacelon & O'Dell, 2005). The goal of case study design is to describe a contemporary situation within its real life context (Yin, 2003).

Experienced qualitative researchers have identified case study design as a standalone qualitative approach (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). Case study research has a level of flexibility that is not offered by grounded theory (Hyett et al., 2014). **Case** study is appropriate for in-depth exploration of real clinical situations. Grounded theory is an excellent tool for understanding the social processes, for example, when patients learn to manage new or chronic health conditions. Both methods provide insight for challenging and complex clinical questions (Jacelon & O'Dell, 2005).

Qualitative interviews with individual participants are the most commonly used method in grounded theory research. It can also utilize observational methods at one point, over time and in similar/different context. **Interviews** can be unstructured where questions asked in the interview **are not pre-determined** or semi-structured where all participants are asked open-ended questions. If a phenomena were a poorly understood topic, unstructured would be the appropriate choice. However, most grounded theory studies in healthcare research use semi-structured interviews. This design is also suited to focus group data collection and analysis

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Commented [JY39]: were replicated - **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY40]: Case study is appropriate for in-depth exploration of real clinical situations. - **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length - 11 words -
Bog Index - 162 - Dreadful
Bog word score - 7 - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
Glue words - 27% -

Commented [JY41]: Interviews can be unstructured where questions asked in the interview are not pre-determined or semi-structured where all pa... - **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length - 22 words -
Bog Index - 122 - Bad
Bog word score - 10 - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
Glue words - 50% -

Commented [JY42]: are not pre-determined - **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

(Hennink, 2014). Focus groups allow participants to respond to ideas shared by other members of the group and encourage reluctant participants to be interviewed on their own. However, the quality of data generated from focus groups is dependent on the make up of the group and the group facilitator skills and thus is a limitation (Foley & Timonen, 2015). Similarly in case study design, there are three methods of data collection, which are utilized. These include observations, interviews and appropriate written documents and/or audiovisual materials.

Findings in grounded theory design are coded and presented in the form of categories supported by excerpts obtained directly from the participants, and identifying interrelationships. The final stage is the construction of a theory from the categories and interrelationships. Similarly, in case study data is analyzed via categorization and interpretation using common themes (Leedy & Ormrod, 2013). Both designs also utilize a process called triangulation, in which more than one data source is employed to gain insights from different perspectives, which in turn adds to the richness of the phenomena being studied (Kennedy & Lingard, 2006).

Conclusion

Qualitative research methods are used when the potential answer to a question requires an explanation, not a straightforward yes/no. Generally, qualitative research focuses on cases rather than variables and the emphasis is on understanding differences versus calculating the mean of responses. It is basically concerned with the point of view of the individuals under study (Sullivan, & Sargeant, 2011). Both the grounded theory and case study methods have strengths and limitations. The most appropriate method would be determined by the research question that needs to be answered.

Commented [JY43]: However, the quality of data generated from focus groups is dependent on the make up of the group and the group facilitator ... **High Bog Sentence**
Sentence length : 31 words
Bog Index : 86 - Poor
Bog word score : 8 - Edit the highlighted words to improve readability.
Glue words : 52% - Consider cutting glue words from this sentence.

Commented [JY44]: are utilized **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY45]: Findings in grounded theory design are coded and presented in the form of categories supported by excerpts obtained directly... **High Bog Sentence**

Commented [JY46]: The final stage is the construction of a theory from the categories and interrelationships. **High Glue Sentence**

Commented [JY47]: is analyzed **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY48]: Both designs also utilize a process called triangulation, in which more than one data source is employed to gain insights fr... **High Bog Sentence**

Commented [JY49]: being studied **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY50]: Qualitative research methods are used when the potential answer to a question requires an explanation, not a straightforward... **High Bog Sentence**

Commented [JY51]: are used **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY52]: Generally, qualitative research focuses on cases rather than variables and the emphasis is on understanding differences vers... **High Bog Sentence**

Commented [JY53]: It is basically concerned with the point of view of the individuals under study (Sullivan, & Sargeant, 2011). **High Bog Sentence**

Commented [JY54]: is basically concerned **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY55]: The most appropriate method would be determined by the research question that needs to be answered. **High Glue Sentence**

Commented [JY56]: be determined **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

Commented [JY57]: be answered **Passive Verbs**
Prefer active verbs

References

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Thomas, G. (2011). A typology for the case study in social science following a review of definition, discourse, and structure. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 17(6), 511–521. Retrieved from <http://doi.org/10.1177/1077800411409884>

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Statistical Summary - arishamo_202526_assignsubmission_file_arishamo_2911571_MHST603_Assignment_1_Qualitative_R...

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Words in Sentences	1,655						
/ Sentences	86						
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Passive Verbs	38						
x 100 / Sentences	1.16						
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x 1,000 / Words	0.595						
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+ Word Bog	78		up to 30				
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+ Specialist	5						
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+ Conversational	135						
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+ Word Difficulty	9.1						
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Abbreviations	2						
+ Difficult Words	1						
+ Jargon Phrases	18						
/ Total Words	1,680						
[-] Glue	42%	Average	up to 40%			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Glue Words	699						
/ Total Words	1,680						
Task: Academic Paper		Audience: Specialist		Author: StyleWriter			