

### **Chapter 3: Qualitative Research Design and Data Collection**

#### Glossary:

**Accumulative techniques:** checking within and across contexts for the same findings; integrating findings from a number of studies to enable wider conclusions to be made.

**Debriefing:** part of ethical procedures; discussing the full aims of the research with participants after they have taken part in a study; ensuring participants receive appropriate aftercare and information following participation in research.

**Epistemological reflexivity:** the process of reflecting upon the ways in which the epistemological and theoretical frameworks utilised by the researcher have affected the research process and phenomenon under investigation.

**Focused observation:** the identification of a particular aspect of a phenomenon as the focus for intensive observation; goes beyond pure description; the researcher is able to test out theoretical ideas against reality.

**Hypothesis:** a claim that is typically derived from existing theory which can be tested against empirical evidence; a hypothesis can either be rejected or retained

**Informed consent:** part of ethical procedures; providing participants with full information about the research process so that they can give their consent to take part in the research before any data collection takes place.

**Interview agenda:** typically a small number of open-ended questions to facilitate an interview; used to provide triggers to enable participants to share their views and experiences.

**Methodological notes:** a form of notes taken during participant observation; notes written about the process of observation itself, reflecting on the researcher's role during the research and their relationship with other participants, noting any problems encountered in the field.

**Naturalistic data:** data that is not coded, summarised, categorised or 'reduced' at the point of data collection; the type of data most suited to qualitative research.

**Participant observation:** a method of data collection that often takes place in natural settings; the observations tend not to be systematic, and require the researcher to engage in a variety of activities including participation, documentation, informal interviewing and reflection.

**Participant validation:** obtaining feedback from participants on a study's findings to increase a study's validity

**Personal reflexivity:** the process of reflecting upon the ways in which a researcher's own values, experiences, interests, beliefs, political commitments, wider aims in life and social identities have shaped their research

**Reflexivity:** the practice by which researchers reflect upon their own standpoint in relation to the phenomenon they are studying and attempt to identify the ways in which such a standpoint has shaped the research process and findings.

**Reliability:** obtaining the same results on different occasions; when the same data is collected and analysed by different researchers and the same findings are generated.

**Representativeness:** ensuring that participants in a study share the same characteristics as the general population to enable generalisations

**Research question:** typically open-ended, requiring detailed description and/or explanation of a phenomenon; cannot be answered with a simple 'yes' or 'no'.

**Semi-structured interviewing:** the questions asked by the researcher function as triggers that encourage participants to talk; provides an opportunity for the researcher to hear participants talk about a particular aspect of their life or experience

**Substantive notes:** a form of notes taken during participant observation; notes concerning the observations made including description of settings, events and people, quotations and/or summaries of what people have said.

**Validity:** the extent to which the research describes, measures or explains what it aims to describe, measure or explain.