

Chapter 7: Grounded Theory Methodology

Glossary

Analytic labels: the labels for categories which are at a higher level of abstraction from the data; they interpret rather than simply describe the data

Axial coding: a method of coding developed by Strauss & Corbin (1990) designed to sensitize the researcher to the role of 'process'.

Categories: These designate the grouping together of instances that share central features or characteristics with one another

Coding: the process by which categories are identified

Coding paradigm: aims to sensitize the researcher to particular ways in which categories may be linked with one another

Constant comparative analysis: involves moving back and forth between the identification of similarities among and differences between emerging categories; ensures that the researcher does not merely build up categories but also breaks them down again into smaller units of meaning

Content analysis: a method of data analysis which makes use of categories that are defined before data analysis commences and where the categories are designed to be mutually exclusive

Descriptive labels: the labels for categories which are at a low level of abstraction from the data; simple labels

Grounded theory: as a method, involves the progressive identification and integration of categories of meaning from data; as theory, is the end-product of the analytical process in the form of an explanatory framework with which to understand the phenomenon under investigation.

In vivo labels: labels which utilize words or phrases used by the participants

Memo-writing: keeping a written record of theory development throughout the process of data collection and analysis.

Negative case analysis: the researcher looks for instances that do not fit, to enable the qualification and elaboration of the emerging theory

Social constructionist grounded theory: any categories used within the analytical process are constructed by the researcher (and do not simply emerge)

Symbolic interactionist perspective: 'the world' is a product of human participation and negotiation; social realities are negotiated by human actors and peoples' interpretations of events shape their consequences.