

☑ ME-107, general information

Select one alternative

Yes

No

Besvart

1 ME-107, part I

Fill in your answer here

2) Thematic analysis is an data analysis method mostly used in qualitative research. After a researcher has conducted his/her data, he goes through all of the notes and interviews and highlights some key words. Then the researcher label all of these key words before he categorize them. This technique is called coding, which basically is to put a label on something. The concept of this analysis is to get a hold of the themes of all of the data, what is the main topics that has shown up through out the data gathering. After one researcher has done this analysis, another researchers (or more) should be able to have the same data and do the key words highlighting, labeling and coding, and get the same categories and result as the first one. No matter who do the thematic analysis, they should get the same result, only then is the research credible. These categories might be narrow or broad, depending on what you prefer, but the main goal is to find the main themes in your data. For example, if your research is about coffee bean production in Brazil, then you can't have one label saying "coffee bean", because that will be too broad since that is basically what your entire research is about, but maybe different types of coffee beans could be labels instead.

3) Interpretivism, or constructivism, is a reserach approach mosly common for qualitative researchers. It is considered the opposite of positivism and is concerned about *how* social realities are constructed. Unlike positivism, interpretivists states that social realities are multiple and contextual, and that there is not one true social reality. They are not concerned about what people say, but they look at *how* and *why* they say what they say. Interactions and social context is important, because they want to know what og how people, location and time influences the way poeple construct their view of the world. For example, in an interview, the interviewer is not only focusing on what the interviewee tells about his/hers experiences and meanings, but how he says it. Both the location where the interview takes place, and the interviewer, has an impact on how the interviewee constructs his world. That means that in an interview process, the interviewer and interviewee construct a perspective of the world. This is because, every time we talk to someone about our opinions or experiences, we take into consideration who that other is. The words we use, the way we talk, and the details we focus on depends on who we are talking to. Most likely, the story being told will be a bit different if the interviewee where telling it to a family member, instead of an unfamiliar researcher. What type of researcher you are, can also have an impact on how the interviewee construct this social reality. With that I mean, if you are a passive or active listener. If you just sit there in silence, the outcome might be different than if you activley respond with follow-up questions and words like "mm" and "yeah". You can also be a active listener to different degrees. It is important to stay objective, and not start to talk about your own opinions because it might effect how the interviewee responds. Moreover, the location might have an impact on how perspectives are constructed. Is it a location where the interviewee feel comfortable, or not? Another thing interpretivists takes into consideration, is the interviewees background story. Who is this? Because this is a factor that will influence how the perspective is constructed.

So, in other words, interpretivism is an appraoch that focus on why and how all these multiple social realities are constructed in different contexts and interactions.

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2 ME-107, part II

Fill in your answer here

Research proposal

Today, all over the world, there are poeple who had to leave their home country in order to be safe. Norway, as a democratic and inclusive country, is a popular destination for many refugees. This is a case I find very interesting and it is very relevant in the world we live in today. Because of this, I would like to do a research about refugees in Kristiansand. I will have my main focus on how refugees are welcomed to Norway, how they

will be taken care of and included in the society the first few months, and if and how they get help to overcome their struggles caused by this event. Central questions will be for example: how early does the integration process start and is there any way we can better this process; and refugees goes through a lot when they are forced to leave their country, do we help them through these issues that might cause? I think these questions are important because Norway is all about equality, and is supposed to be a warm and welcoming country for everyone. When refugees first come to Norway, they might be sad, angry, scared, even traumatized, because they just left their home country, friends and family behind. In this situation they are in, I think it is better that Norway take them in and help them through the hard times, instead of just give them a roof and basically say "get over your problems". I believe this research is important to get knowledge about how well refugees are integrated and taken care of in the early stages of their arrival to Norway, so that flaws will come to sight and we might be able to better the situation. I hope, that with this research, Norway will be better at welcoming refugees and help them through their struggles and make them feel like one of us, so that the society as a whole, will be better. To back up my statements, and to give a little bit of background story, I would have included a literature review for you as well, but I don't have access to any literature right now. Because I study and live in Kristiansand, me and my supervisor agreed that this city will be my focus.

For this research I will use an interpretivism approach, because I will believe that there is more than one true perspective of the world, and many stories to be told. I think that every refugee has their own interpretation of Norway and have different experiences and opinions about this topic and different needs for help. As an interpretivist I believe the best methodology to use is qualitative research methods because I am looking for opinions, meanings, experiences and perspectives, not numerable social facts that can be used for generalizations and statistics. To find the right people to talk to I would mostly use snowball sampling. That means that I find one or two people to talk to, and then ask them if they know someone else I should talk to. For this sampling, I will start with working with refugees in the city of Kristiansand. That way I get to talk to someone who works with this, and maybe s/he can help me get in contact with some refugees willing to participate in this research. Further, I will use methods as interviews and ethnographic research to conduct data. I would like to use ethnographic research as a method to observe through their eyes. With this method, I get to see what they do, how they interact, architecture, use of time, documents and texts and everything they produce. I will sit on the outside looking in, and studying everything that is their view of the world. As well as I would like to use the participatory observation method. I would like to live with them over a couple of weeks to see how they live, and get to experience what they experience to get a better understanding of their role in the society. This is most likely the method I would like to begin with, so that I afterwards can build my interviews on what I have observed. There are several forms of interviews: structured, semi-structured, unstructured and open-ended interviews. As a student and unexperienced researcher, I would feel more comfortable if I came to an interview prepared. Also, if I don't feel confident during the interview, the interviewee might notice that and it may have an impact on how they answer to my questions. That's why I feel like a semi-structured interview might fit best for this research, so that I can prepare the questions before the interview, and that way, I know what to ask and I don't forget the questions or get stuck during the interview. The downside of this, however, is that there might be some relevant topics I am not aware of and therefore, won't ask about it. As I get more experienced, and more confident, I would like to use more unstructured or open-ended interviews. That means that I can just show up with some key words or one main topic and then "follow the flow" during the interview. This way, the interview is more open and questions arise as the interviewee answers. The direction depends on what the interviewee answer, and what topics the I would like to hear more about or put an end to. I might also consider focus groups, or group interviews. This way I can gather a group of 8-10 people and create a discussion about this theme, so that maybe more opinions comes to light. What is good about this, is that some refugees might feel more comfortable when they are with a group with other refugees, than if they are alone with me. However, in such focus groups, there might be one or two taking control of the discussion, while the rest feel dominated and won't dare to share their opinions. That is why it is important to not have a focus group that is too big. Because if you have for example 30 people in one room, the chances are, several of them won't be comfortable talking.

The data analysis will happen both during and after the data gathering. This is because it might help me during the data gathering, to see what the next step is and open up access to new insight. I will use the conversation analysis to analyze the interviews, so that I don't only know what they say, but try to analyze how and why they say what they say. For this, I need to focus on how they talk and pauses they take, as well as how I respond to what they say. Am I an passive listener who just sits there in silence or do I respond and, in that case, how do I respond? I will also do a discourse analysis, to look at the context; who are they, where are they coming from, what is their background story, where are we, when did this take place?

While doing this research, there are several ethical issues that are important to be aware of. First of all I need informed consent from all of the participants. This means that I need to inform them about what my research is about and what I will use it for. The issue here is that they might think or say they understand, but they don't really get your research. That is why it is important to explain it simple, and not too detailed and theoretical, cause that might be too advanced for them. It is also important that I do what I can to keep them safe and out of harm, which might be difficult cause you never know. But at least make sure they are anonymous. Another point that is important to remember is my own safety. For example, if I am interviewing a man alone, who wants to be in a private location, and then locking the door, might be a bad sign.

During this research, I expect to find positive and negative sides of the integration of refugees the first few months in Norway. I believe I will find that flaws in the system might cause issues with integration og refugees in the long run. I also expect to be able to provide som suggestions for change, so that we can better the process and all together better the society.

This findings will be presented for the University of Agder with a research report. The research is expected to take 12 weeks (three months). One week for preparation and gathering some background knowledge before I would like to start my ethnographic research in week two. I will stay with the refugees for two weeks before I, in week four, start the interview process. After week 8, I expect to be done with the data gathering and most of the data analysis, and will focus on the report writing.

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