

**ME-107, general information**

Select one alternative

 Yes No

Besvart

1 **ME-107, part I**

Fill in your answer here

## 1) Grounded theory

Grounded theory is based on the act of going into the field and creating your argument as you go. There is no pre-determined values and it allows for new theory to be constructed. It uses an inductive method, rather than a deductive method. An inductive method is focusing on obtaining new information, not simply testing already existing data. A deductive method is used in quantitative research, where the goal is to test out a hypothesis. In grounded theory you review your data as you go, and you adapt according to your findings. What you thought would be your main argument, might end up being a sub-argument, and a completely new argument may evolve based on your findings. This theory is important, and a great contribution to the construction of new theory. When the researcher is open to changes, and spontaneous regarding the answers received, this allows for new information to be acknowledged and written down. Using grounded theory in the field means going over your data as you collect them. For example, if you are conducting a research on HIV and cultural practices in Africa, you might not know exactly what you will find, or what the reasons are, so grounded theory would be a good tool. It will be useful to analyse your data, and try to find the main argument after each interview. Which words are they using, are they naming towns? Do they correlate HIV with cultural practices? Compare the interviews as you go. You might find out that your pre-conceived main argument doesn't reflect the reality at all, and by using grounded theory, you are able to adapt and reconstruct your focus, as you go. If we chose to use a deductive method, and we wanted to test out the hypothesis: "HIV contamination is due to cultural practices", the hypothesis would either be confirmed or denied. However, if it was denied, the research would give zero answers to the actual reason of HIV contamination.

## 3) Interpretivism

Interpretivism is often referred to as constructionism, and is the opposite of positivism. Interpretivism and positivism are two different ways of approaching research methods. Which approach you take will determine the outcome of your results. The intentions, and ways of conducting research is different. Which method to use also depends on which problem you seek to solve. Interpretivism intends to understand why people or groups do as they do, and how they go about doing it. It focuses on values and meanings, not just "hard facts". When looking at reality, an interpretivist does not seek to find one truth about reality, but rather how the person perceives reality. Interpretivists also acknowledge that there are several "truths", and seeks to represent someone's understanding of reality. How is reality understood, and how is the representation of reality constructed? What lies behind this construction, and who is involved in constructing it? Interpretivism is used in qualitative methods, where one seeks to find in-depth understanding about social phenomenon. Qualitative research methods do not seek to generalise, but rather to find that which is unique. It is an intensive method, using few units and many variables. In opposition to positivism and naturalism, the interviewer and object interact, and their relationship/interaction is considered an important factor in how "facts" are represented. In naturalism, the stories told are viewed as a natural representation of reality. Constructivists believe that the stories told are constructed representations of reality. The methods used are often semi-structured or unstructured interviews, and this allows for an interaction between interviewer and object, and the interviewer is an active listener. Credibility is an important factor in interpretivism. One truth is not the goal, but it is important to acknowledge that not all representations of reality are credible. If the object contradicts him/herself in the story, it can not be considered valid. An example of where we would use a positivist approach is finding out the correlation between gender and wages. You would seek to find "one truth", that being, does men or women earn the most? However, if you seek to understand why there is a difference, or how this affects men and women respectively, you would have to approach the problem from an interpretivist view. You would then conduct several interviews, and you would obtain someone's understanding of the relation between gender and wages. This could not be claimed a universal truth however, as another person could have a completely different view on the matter.

Besvart

## 2 ME-107, part II

Fill in your answer here

### ***Research project on the refugee situation in Kristiansand***

#### **- Introduction**

Kristiansand is a municipality with around 80 000 inhabitants located in the south of Norway. Kristiansand has several homes/centers for asylum seekers and refugees, and many institutions, as well as NGO's working with the integration of the refugees. The municipality is in charge of housing, schooling and legal counselling, while Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) provide informal "integration programs". Red Cross has a program called "a good neighbour" where a family receives a norwegian contact person who helps them with everyday challenges in the neighbourhood. Save the children has an activity group that offers children from the asylum institutions the opportunity to participate in activities once a week. These activities include going to the cinema, the playground, doing BBQ's and so on. Other programs also include help with homework, get-togethers for youth and language-cafes.

I will in this text describe the lay out of my research project, and explain how I will go about conducting it. My contribution to knowledge about this topic is a bachelor in development studies, as well as experience working with refugees in Kristiansand.

#### **- Literature review**

In the planning phase of conducting a research project it is important to find secondary sources related to your topic. You need to conduct a research in a field where some work has been done before, if not it will be hard to compare your findings with that of other researchers. In the first phase of your project you should find five to ten good sources that allows you to understand the situation, in order to ask the right questions when conducting interviews. If you do not know about the legal framework, or the institutions involved, or what exactly a refugee is, doing a research on this topic would not exactly construct contributing data. I would look at books and articles about the refugee situation. Which problems are related to the situation, and what are the challenges? I would outline the institutions and NGOs involved, and find different views and theories related to integration.

#### **- Research question**

It is important that the research question reflects the research topic. It should not be too broad or too narrow. It should not be possible to answer the question with one sentence, and it should not ask something that is common-sense knowledge. The research question tells the reader what it is you are going to explain in your text/which problem you tend to solve, and it is therefore important that you answer your research question in your text. However, it is possible, and I argue, important to change the research question as you go, if you realise it does not reflect what you find. It is important to establish a research question in the planning stage so that you know what it is you are looking for, but if necessary, change it as you go. So, on the basis of this, my research question is:

Which actors/institutions are used in Kristiansand to integrate refugees and is it efficient?

### **-Methodology**

In this section I will explain which methods I am going to use to conduct my research, and why I believe these are the best methods for obtaining the information I am seeking. I will take an interpretivist approach, using qualitative research methods such as semi-structured interviews and participatory observation. I will also use focus groups as a method when interviewing the refugees. The reason I think this is a good method for my research is that refugees are part of a vulnerable group, and the frame around group discussion can feel more secure. In a focus group, the participants are asked to talk about a given theme. Instead of just relying on my ability to ask the right questions, using a focus group is a good method in this research project. I will analyse secondary sources and compare them with my findings. As a final note, I will use grounded theory, meaning I construct my argument as I go. Since I do not have a hypothesis to test out, and not a preconceived argument, I believe that entering the field open minded, and creating my argument as I go, will allow a better research project and conclusion. My sampling of information will be non-random, meaning I will sample a selection of the population with certain characteristics. I will ensure that the sample is representative of the group. It will be a representative selection of people working in NGOs, state institutions and refugees. I will look at different institutions and organisations, and talk to several different people. I will conduct interviews of refugees to understand their perception of integration, and their opinion about the efficiency of the system. The method of sampling will be the snowball method, where I will contact managers of NGOs and those in charge of institutions, which will then put me in contact with relevant informants.

### **- Data analysis**

I will analyse the data from the interviews taking an interpretivist approach, meaning analysing their representation of reality, while acknowledging that it will be one of many truths. Because it is hard to generalise with qualitative methods, I rely on comparing my data with pre-existing research in the field. Communication and discourse analysis means including what happens around and during the interview, and focuses on how things are being said, not just what is being said. To ensure a good analysis of all the details in the interviews and group discussions, I will use a voice recorder. I will include my understanding of the answers in the analysis, and reflect upon their understanding of the situation, as well as my interpretation of their understanding.

### **- Ethical considerations**

When conducting research it is important to understand that you are dealing with real life situations, and people within these situations. There are many ethical considerations, and I will reflect upon them to ensure my research is ethical. There are four main principles of ethics, and those are 1. autonomy 2. beneficence 3. non-maleficence and 4. justice. Number one means that while conducting research you should at all times respect the person and his decisions for his own life. You might not agree to the way s/he is living his/her life, but you have to respect it. Creating autonomy is also important, and involves allowing and creating a space in which the person being interviewed is respected. Number two, your research should aim to do good. Why are you conducting this research? Is it to get ahead in your career, or do you actually care to improve someone's situation? By reflecting on your intentions, and ensuring you have the right intentions, your research project will likely be more ethical. Number three means not doing harm. This includes the fact that not only do you have to have good intentions, but you also have to avoid doing any harm to those involved. Reflect on how you are going to conduct your research, and if getting information includes harming someone, seek to find another way. Number four includes providing fairness and equality. Be fair in your interpretation, and put your bias to the side.

I will conduct my research in an ethical manner, and under all times respect autonomy, do good, and not do harm. I will obtain an informed consent from all those involved, and ensure that I inform everyone involved about my study. I will explain what the information will be used for, why they are a part of the study, and how it may benefit them. I will allow them, and explain to them that they are allowed to leave the study at any time if they wish to do so. Refugees are considered a vulnerable group, and extra pre-caution will therefore be taken. While conducting the interviews and asking about their perception of Norwegian integration and the institutions in their lives I will try my best not to provoke stress or difficult emotions. If this does happen, I will advise them in who to talk to. I have reflected on my intentions and the aim of the research is to improve/secure a good and

efficient apparatus for integration in Kristiansand. This could ultimately benefit those involved in the study.

#### **- Findings**

I hope that my findings can be used to improve the integration and the organisations/institutions involved with this. I hope that by using the methods I have chosen I will get a clear view on refugees' reality, as well as the opinions of people working with refugees. How do they perceive the system? Do they have any recommendations on how to improve the system? I will compare my findings with secondary sources, that being books, articles and documents on refugees, settlement, integration, voluntarism and state institutions. I will look at my data analysis and reflect on the main argument. I will consider how it relates to previous research and theories concerning refugees and integration, and how my contribution to knowledge affects the interpretation of the findings.

#### **- Conclusion/recommendations**

I will answer the research question as far as it's possible, and draw a conclusion based on a comparison on my data and previous research findings. Based on what the objects in my study have said, together with literature on the topic and previous research, I will recommend ways of improving the integration of refugees in Kristiansand. This research will contribute to relevant knowledge about the refugee situation in Kristiansand because of the in-depth understanding my methods will obtain. Understanding how the system works from the point of view of the people working in it, as well as those affected by it will be an important contribution in attempting to improve it. By interviewing different actors, those working in state-led institutions, volunteers in NGO's and the refugees themselves I will acquire a broad understanding, and I will be able to compare the data with previous research and theories. My background as a volunteer with refugees and student at University of Agder in development studies will allow my analyses to be rooted in understanding and quality arguments.

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