



Book Review: Janet Mola Okoko, Scott Tunison, Keith D. Walker (Editors), *Varieties of Qualitative Research Methods: Selected Contextual Perspectives* (Springer Texts in Education), 1st ed., 2023). Springer. 495 Pages, ISBN 978-3-031-04394-9 (eBook)

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Varieties of Qualitative Research Methods: Selected Contextual Perspectives is a book that compiles various concepts related to qualitative research. The book has 75 chapters written by 53 authors from different parts of the world, and it is edited by three Canadian editors: Janet Mola Okoko, Scott Tunison, and Keith D. Walker, who are all associated with the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan. The editors noted that as the world becomes more interconnected, there is a need for qualitative research to become more diverse and inclusive of different ways of knowing and inquiry. The field of qualitative research has become much larger, with many nuances, varieties, complementary ways of knowing, and new methods to explore. To cover such a wide range of topics, the editors have identified the best authors who can provide reputable practice and scholarly experience on each concept or method discussed in the book.

The topics discussed in the book haven't been thoroughly investigated, but the book gives readers additional sources to explore these topics further. The book also includes references and links to online resources that are linked to the different concepts and methods discussed. This allows readers to access more information and descriptions, encouraging them to adapt various methods in a complementary manner. The book is organized into five main themes: namely: (i) theoretical perspectives (7 chapters) (ii) methodological frameworks/ approaches to research (22 chapters) (iii) data collection methods (16 chapters) a (iv) data analysis (19 chapters) and (v) indigenous methodologies (10 chapters).

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The book's chapters are arranged in alphabetical order according to their titles and follow a specific outline. Each chapter begins with a short historical overview of the concept, followed by a clear description of it. Readers are then presented with potential applications and benefits of the concept. Finally, each chapter concludes by discussing the strengths and limitations of the concept, and provides readers with a list of references and exercises. These features enable readers to grasp the intricate details of the 74 qualitative research concepts covered in the book.

1. Action Research
2. Actor-Network Theory
3. Affinity Research Approach
4. Appreciative Inquiry
5. Archival Research
6. Arts-Based Inquiry
7. Asset Mapping
8. Autoethnography
9. Biographic Narrative Interpretive Method
10. Case Study
11. Coding Qualitative Data
12. Comparative Analysis
13. Content Analysis
14. Critical Ethnography
15. Critical Race Theory
16. Critical Theory
17. Cultural Domain Analysis
18. Decolonizing Methodologies: A Pacific Island Lens
19. Decolonizing Autoethnography
20. Deliberative Public Engagement
21. Discursive Positioning
22. Document Analysis
23. Duo-ethnographic Methodology
24. Electronic Delphi Method
25. Embodied Research Methodologies
26. Ethnomethodology
27. Fa'afaletui Framework
28. Facet Theory Research Approach
29. Feminist Autoethnography
30. Focus Groups
31. Force-Field Analysis
32. Grounded Theory
33. Harnessing Insights with NVivo
34. Hermeneutics
35. Hermeneutic Phenomenology
36. Indigenous Métissage
37. Indigenous Participatory Action Research (PAR)
38. Interpretation and Expert Panels
39. Interpretive Analysis
40. Interpretive Description
41. Institutional Ethnography

42. Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis
43. Kakala Research Framework
44. Kaupapa Maori
45. Life History Narrative
46. Manual Transcription
47. Melanesian Tok Stori Research
48. Métissage
49. Metaphor Analysis
50. Narrative Inquiry
51. Naturalistic Decision-Making Method
52. Nominal Group Research
53. Observational Study
54. Online Focus Groups
55. Participatory Learning and Action
56. Phenomenography
57. Phenomenological Studies
58. Photo Elicitation Interviews
59. Photo Voice
60. Portraiture
61. Qualitative Longitudinal Research
62. Realist Analysis
63. Reception Theory
64. Reflective Journaling
65. Reflexive Bracketing
66. Rhizoanalysis
67. Situational Analysis/SWOT
68. Social Network Analysis
69. Structural Narrative Analysis
70. Symbolic Interactionism
71. Thematic Analysis
72. Transect Walk Research Method
73. Videovoice
74. World Café

The aim of this review is to objectively evaluate a book by using examples from it to illustrate important points. The overall purpose of the review is to assist readers in deciding if they should read the book, and provide constructive feedback to its editors and contributors. This aligns with Dahal's (2023) view that book reviews are critical assessments that summarize a book's content and assess its value in terms of relevance and quality, ultimately helping readers determine if it is worth reading.

As a reader, I have mixed feelings about this review. While the book covers 74 qualitative research concepts and offers helpful collections to capture their nuances, it is silent on other important qualitative research concepts. After summarizing the book's main points, I offered an evaluation in the later section of my observations. The book's strength lies in its coverage of these 74 concepts, which can aid readers in understanding them deeply. To guide my assessment, I considered

questions such as whether the editors and contributors achieved their goals with the book, whether it was informative, persuasive or fictional, and whether the writing was clear, engaging, and easy to follow. However, the book's limitation is that most of the contributors are from Canada, which may be too narrow for other contexts outside of Canada to contextualize research issues globally. Despite this weakness, I would still recommend this book to other readers looking to evaluate the core ideas of qualitative research, as it is a valuable resource in this emerging field.

The book's strength lies in its structure, where each chapter starts with a brief historical overview of the concept and follows it up with a concise description of the concept and its application process. The readers are then presented with examples of how the concept can be applied and its benefits, and finally, each chapter concludes with an assessment of the concept's strengths and limitations, as well as a list of references used by the authors. I believe that this makes the book a useful resource for researchers who want to explore different qualitative research concepts in their current and future projects. While readers are free to disagree with the editors and contributors' perspectives, it cannot be denied that the book opens important avenues for debate and discussion in the field of qualitative research concepts.

In summary, the book makes a significant contribution to literature on qualitative research concepts and is fascinating and thought-provoking overall. However, it does not explore topics in depth but rather serves as a starting point for readers to delve deeper into these concepts using additional sources and conversations provided in the book's relevant literature and resources. Additionally, the book introduces various methods for readers to consider rather than instructing them on how different concepts or methods might align or complement one another. Nonetheless, I believe that this book is worth reading to gain an understanding of different qualitative research concepts and contains a strong set of qualitative research tools and approaches due to the diversity and expertise of its authors. The book's accessibility and contents make it a valuable resource for research practitioners, academics, students, and instructors of foundational research courses

Reference

Dahal, N. (2023). Is doing research for people or on people? A book review of Emancipatory and Participatory Research for Emerging Educational Researchers: Theory and Case Studies of Research in Disabled Communities. *The Qualitative Report*, 28(1), 69-74.
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