

○ Seventh Edition

Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences

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From Chapter 1 of Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches, 7/e. W. Lawrence Neuman. Copyright © 2011 by Pearson Education. This text considers both the methodology and methods of social science research. The terms may seem to be synonyms, but methodology is broader and envelops methods. Methodology means understanding the entire research process including its social-organizational context, philosophical assumptions, ethical principles, and the political impact of new knowledge from the research enterprise. Methods refer to the collection of specific techniques we use in a study to select cases, measure and observe social life, gather and refine data, analyze data, and report on results. The two are closely linked. Qualitative research comprises of the following methods: logic, ethnography, discourse analysis, case study, open-ended interview, participant observation, counseling, therapy, grounded theory, biography, comparative method, introspection, casuistry, focus group, literary criticism, meditation practice, historical research, etc. [Cibangu, 2012]. Recently interest in social sciences of qualitative research is growing remarkably. The rapid rise of qualitative research to prominence in scientific communities; considerable debate has ensued regarding epistemological, philosophical, and methodological issues [Spencer et al., 2003]. Literature Review. This study analyzes the qualitative research methodology for the new researchers. Qualitative methods similarly can result either in improved social scientific understanding or in meaningless gibberish. This last chapter is designed to enable inexperienced researchers to offer up their noodles for inspection by others in an understandable fashion in other words, to write up the research so that it will be disseminated. Identifying the purpose of the writing: Arranging the noodles. The reliability of the research data, for example, may depend on demonstrating that an appropriate setting for the study has been selected. In some instances, settings are intricately related to the data and the analytic strategies and may possibly contaminate the research. QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES BRUCE L. BERG California State University, Long Beach S1111-c23 ALLYN AND BACON Boston London Toronto Sydney Tokyo Singapore Series Editor: Sarah L. Kelbaugh Editor in Chief Also, the transcription of URLs can result in unintended typographical errors. The publisher would appreciate being notified of any problems with URLs so that they may be corrected in subsequent editions. Thank you. of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Berg, Bruce Lawrence Qualitative research methods for the social sciences / Bruce L. Berg. -- 4th ed. p. cm. Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 0-205-31847-9 1. Social sciences-Research-Methodology.