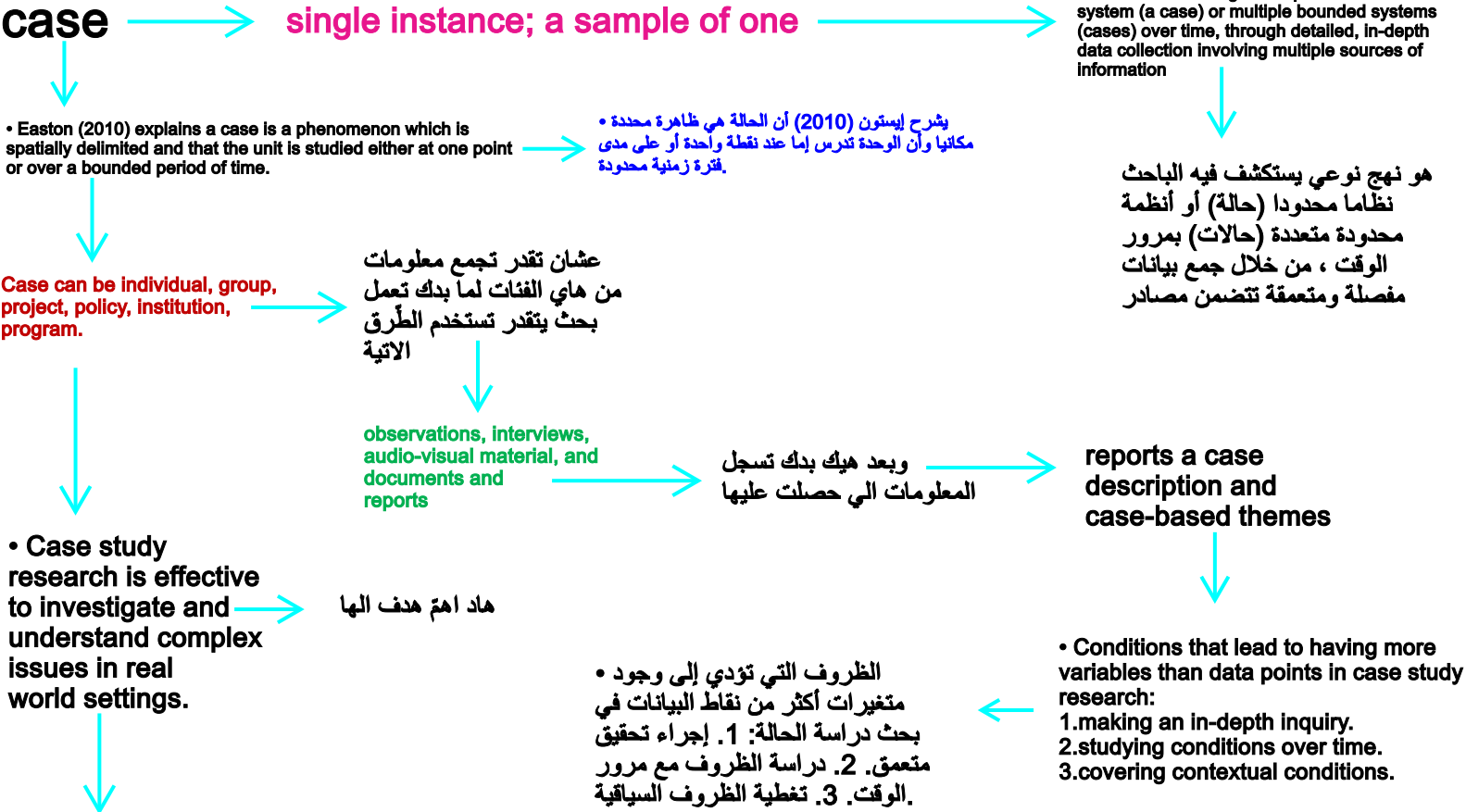


Lec 3 part one

Case study research- What is a case?



NOTE : Case study research is not exclusively concerned with qualitative methods.

A case study can be considered qualitative in the sense that it studies a smaller sample of something, but in some ways the case study can also be considered a quantitative or mixed-methods study.

• The case usually describes a series of events that reflect the activity or problem as it happened.

power of case study research

use multiple sources and techniques for comprehensive depth and breadth of inquiry.

• **Triangulation is a must.**

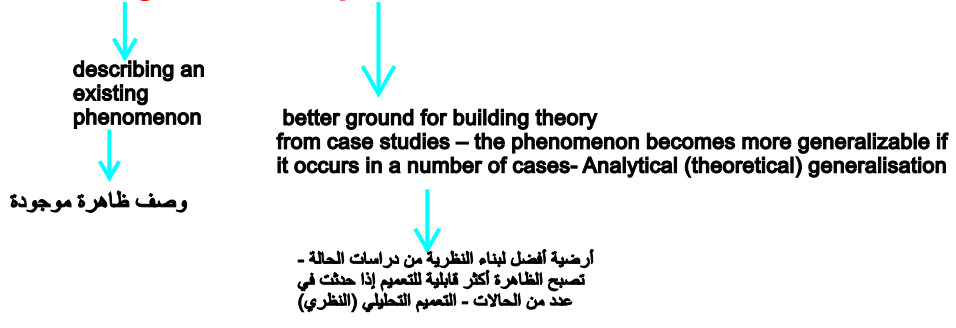
<p><u>Data triangulation</u></p> <p>Data is collected at different times or from different sources in the study of a phenomenon.</p>	<p><u>Methodological triangulation</u></p> <p>Different methods of data collection, commonly both qualitative and quantitative are combined in the study.</p>
<p><u>Investigator triangulation</u></p> <p>Several researchers collect data independently on the same phenomenon and compare their findings.</p>	<p><u>Triangulation of theories</u></p> <p>The research phenomenon is examined from different theoretical perspectives, disciplines or sub-disciplines.</p>

Four distinct types of triangulation

• The importance of "...maintaining 'empirical"

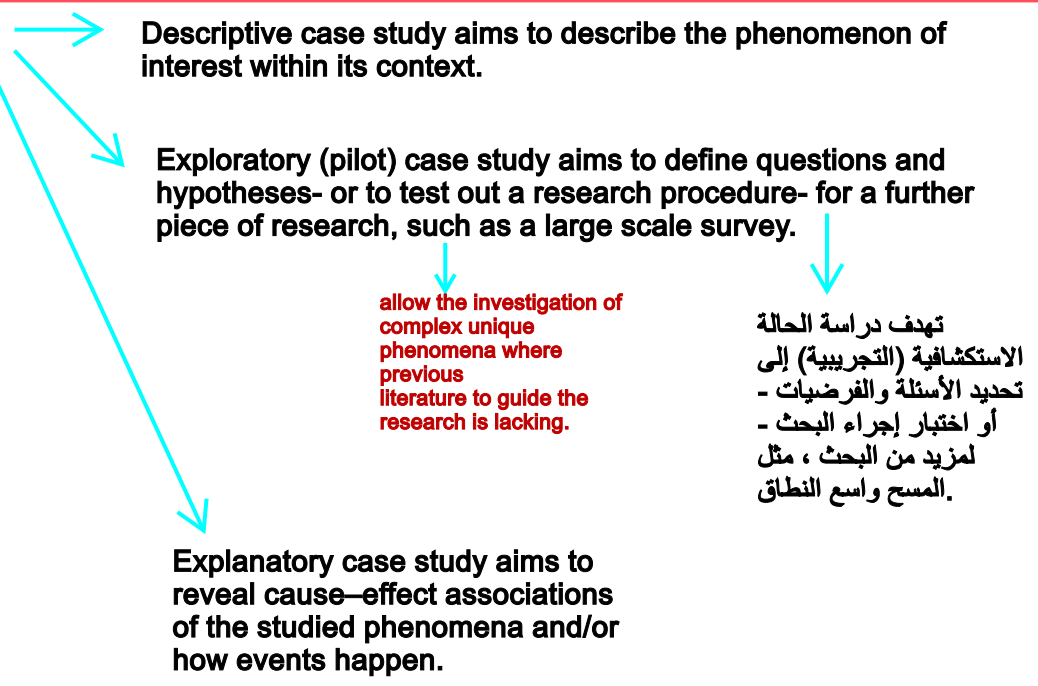
- One cannot replicate a case study since it is spatially and temporally bounded.

case study could be single or multiple



generalisation → Quantitative

Types of case study



How to perform a case study?

- Determine and define the research questions.
- Select the cases and determine data-gathering and analysis techniques.
- Prepare to collect data.
- Collect data in the field.
- Evaluate and analyse the data.
- Prepare the report

• Good' research questions are those which will enable you to achieve your aim and which are capable of being answered in the research setting.

Determine and Define the Research Questions

pre-defined boundary which clarifies the nature and time period covered by the case study (i.e. its scope, beginning and end), the relevant social group, organisation or geographical area of interest to the investigator, the types of evidence to be collected, and the priorities for data collection and analysis.

defining the case

Step 2: Select the Cases and Determine Data-Gathering and Analysis Techniques

• Case can be called as Unit of Analysis.

involves selecting the instruments and other datagathering strategies that will be used.

Step 3: Prepare to collect the data

Preparation for the vast amounts of data prior to collection will save the researcher much time and frustration later

The importance of piloting.

the researcher will generate large amounts of data from multiple sources.

Step 4: Collect data in the field

- Data collection is emergent.
- The importance of field notes.
- Time to end data collection (time and budgetary limitations).

- a. Exhaustion of sources: Data sources (e.g., key informants, document analysis) can be recycled and tapped many times, but at some point, it should become clear that little more information or relevance will be gained from further engagement with them.
- b. Saturation of categories: Eventually, the categories used to code data appear to be definitively established. When continuing data collection produces only tiny increments of new information about categories in comparison to the effort expended to get them, the researcher can feel confident about ending data collection.
- c. Overextension: Even if new information is still coming in, the researcher might develop a sense that the new information is far removed from the central core of viable categories that have emerged and does not contribute usefully to the emergence of additional viable categories

Step 5: Evaluate and Analyse the data

- Triangulation.

Step 6: Prepare the report

provide the reader with enough contextual information to understand the processes that were followed and how the conclusions were

Limitations of case study

- The large quantity of data, combined with the limited timeframe available for some researches may impact on the depth of analysis of the data within the available time and resources.
- Deciding the "boundaries" of a case-how it might be constrained in terms of time, events, and processes-may be challenging.
- Large quantity of data may veer away from the research focus.
- Providing little basis for generalisation.
- Use large number of cases

past paper

1-The criteria by which the researcher develops a sense that the new knowledge is far removed from the central core of viable categories that have initially emerged is called:

- a. Exhaustion of resources.
- b. Saturation of categories.
- c. Overextension.
- d. Consensus.
- e. Halo effect.

ANS : C

2-Case study performed before implementing a large-scale investigation is known as:

- a. Descriptive illustrative.
- b. Exploratory.
- c. Critical Instance.
- d. Explanatory.
- e. Cumulative.

ANS : B

3-Triangulation is:

- a. The relationship between the aim and objectives of the study and the literature review carried out for the study.
- b. A stage of the literature reviewing process.
- c. The use of more than one than one approach to answering the research question, to responding to the research statement.
- d. The relationship between the research project, the researcher and the research supervisor.
- e. The attempt to dispute prior findings

ANS : C

4-Triangulation means:

- a. Conducting your research in a pyramid.
- b. Revisiting your data until you run out of ideas.
- c. Using trigonometry in your research.
- d. Conducting research over three months.
- e. Verifying your results by cross-checking with other methods of research

ANS : E

5-All of the following features characterize case study research except:

- a. Triangulation is a must.
- b. Case study is not exclusively concerned with qualitative research methods.
- c. Number of variables of interest far outstrips number of data points.
- d. Similar to phenomenology, case study uses constant comparative method to analyse data.
- e. Bounded system

ANS : D

6-Which of the following is considered as a key challenge for case study research?

- a. Large quantity of data may veer away from the research focus.**
- b. The need for axial and selective coding.**
- c. The need for covert observation.**
- d. The need for data horizontalization and reflexivity.**
- e. The possibility of the researcher "going native."**

ANS : A

7-The step of case study research that "Piloting" relates to is:

- a. Prepare to collect the data.**
- b. Evaluate and analyse the data.**
- c. Caseselection.**
- d. Theoretical sampling.**
- e. Data collection in the field.**

ANS : A

8-Qualitative research approach that can be used to make analytical (theoretical) generalization is:

- a. Ethnography.**
- b. Phenomenology.**
- c. Case study.**
- d. Grounded Theory.**
- e. Narrative research.**

ANS : C

A design that is described as bounded:

- case study**

Collection of data from two clinics at the same time is considered as:

- triangulation**