

Grounded Theory

- The overarching goal of grounded theory is to develop theory. Therefore, grounded theory studies may be carried out related to research phenomena or objects, which lack a (sufficient) theoretical foundation.

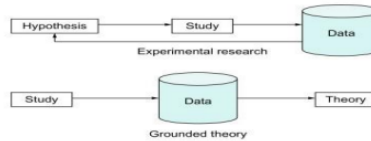
A key idea is that this theory-development does not come "off the shelf," but rather is generated or "grounded" in data from participants who have experienced the process (developed theories are "grounded" in the collected data (see limitations: GT avoids literature review).

- It may be, that no theory exists for the phenomena under study or that the existing theories are insufficient in that
 - o they lack important concepts;
 - o the relationships among the concepts are not elaborated enough;
 - o the relevance of the concepts and their relationships has not been corroborated for the population or the context under study.

- Grounded theorists not only code data for concepts (e.g., older adults recognize the importance of preventative approaches to health, most commonly mentioned being the winter flu vaccine) but also identify relationships between concepts/categories (i.e., variables) to build substantive theory (e.g., social class features as the strongest explanation of the likelihood of seeking flu vaccination in the sample)

GT is a research method that operates almost in a reverse fashion from traditional research and at first may appear to be in contradiction to the scientific method.

reverse-engineered" hypothesis.



Grounded Theory Design- The systematic Design

- Open Coding: properties and dimensionalized properties.
- Axial Coding: researcher selects one open coding category and places it at the center as the Central Phenomenon and then relates all other categories to it.
- Selective Coding: writing a theory based on the interrelationship of the categories from axial coding

الترميز المفتوح: الخصائص والخصائص ذات الأبعاد.

الترميز المحوري: يختار الباحث فئة ترميز مفتوحة واحدة ويضعها في المركز كظاهرة مركزية ثم يربط جميع الفئات الأخرى بها.

الترميز الانتقائي: كتابة نظرية تستند إلى العلاقة المتبادلة بين الفئات من الترميز المحوري

Categories have properties

- And are dimensionalized
- o properties presented on a continuum
- Like colour has
 - o Properties - hue, tone, shade, intensity
 - o Dimensions - dark, light etc. are dimensions of shade.
- E.g. watching has frequency, duration, extent, intensity.
- information passing has amount of info., manner of passing etc

Definition of coding

Process in which « codes » are given to parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs

Process in which data are fractured, conceptualized and reordered in a new way

Coding- quantitative/qualitative

- The main categorizing strategy in qualitative research is coding.

the goal of coding is not to count things, but to "fracture" (Strauss 1987, p. 29) the data and rearrange them into categories that facilitate comparison between things in the same category and that aid in the development of theoretical concepts."

Open coding defined

Open coding refers to the initial phase of the coding process in the grounded theory approach to qualitative research (generating theory from data).

- The process of open coding begins with the collection of raw data

Detailed word-by-word and line-by-line analysis is conducted by researchers asking what is going on

The researcher discovers, names, defines, and develops as many ideas and concepts.

Axial coding Defined

- Axial coding is a stage in grounded theory analysis after open coding, where the researcher seeks to make links and find relationships between the concepts and categories derived from open coding.
- Strauss and Corbin (1990): 'The next step (axial coding) is the process of determining hypotheses about the relationships between a category and its subcategories, for example, conditions, context, action/interaction strategies and consequences' (p. 467).
- 'As our goal was not to create a whole new theory, we only used open and axial coding to identify the main categories and to make connections between categories, hereby identifying causal conditions, context, strategies and intervening conditions (Strauss and Corbin, 1990)' (p. 34).
- 'Rather than look for any and all kind of relations, grounded theorists emphasize causal relationships, and fit things into a basic frame of generic relationships.'

- Aims to integrate codes around the axes of central categories'; the essence of axial coding is the interconnectedness of categories. Hence codes are explored, their interrelationships are examined, and codes and categories are compared.
- The word 'axial' used by Strauss and Corbin (1998) is intended to put an axis through data. This axis connects identified categories in open coding. Axial coding puts categories back together in order to explore theoretical possibilities.

Axial coding process

- Put the model together
 - Exploring relations among categories, and making connections between them (i.e., Cause and Effect)
 - Specifying the moderating conditions, and intervening states that may play a role in shaping outcomes.
- Specify model discursively:

When I have (condition) arthritic pain (phenomenon), I take aspirin (strategy).
After a while,
I feel better (consequence).
- Look for confirmation in the data & look for possible exceptions.
 - Exceptions don't refute model but may suggest additional moderators.



Model in axial coding

Model=

= Causal conditions => Central Phenomenon => context => intervening conditions => Action/ interaction strategies => Consequences.