

Characteristics of Effective Qualitative Data Analysis

Transparent Analysis

- It should be clear how you analyzed/interpreted your data
- For example, if you categorized data, you need to be clear about how you formed these categories

Credibility of Data

- More than one person analyzing/interpreting data
- Attempt to reach agreement on interpretations
- No obvious bias in interpretation

Negative Cases

- A predominant pattern/trend may be noted BUT exceptions, where evidence, are noted
- Evidence that a balanced perspective was taken

Triangulation

- multiple sources of data collected to support conclusions offered

Participant Check of Data

- participants are asked to double-check researcher's interpretations of their answers

Rich Description

- you get a good sense of what the data looks like and where it comes from
- very detailed examples are provided to illustrate points

Caveats

- reporting any biases in data collection, analysis, and/or interpretation of the data

Resources

Gay et. al (2009) Educational Research (9th edition).

McMillan & Schumacher (2010). Research in Education (7th Edition).

Patton (2002). Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods (3rd Edition).

Miles & Huberman (1994) Qualitative Data Analysis (2nd Edition)

