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Naturally Occurring Talk

The following two articles debate whether naturally occurring material should be the basic data for qualitative research. Susan Speer raises several reservations about the value of this assumption.

DEBATE

Discourse Studies, 4 (4): 511–25 (2002):

<http://dis.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/4/4/511>

'Natural' and 'contrived' data: a sustainable distinction?

Susan A. Speer, Brunel University

In the paper below, Jonathan Potter replies to Susan Speer, arguing that naturally occurring data remain highly relevant to qualitative research.

DEBATE

Discourse Studies, 4 (4): 539–42 (2002):

<http://dis.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/4/4/539>

Two kinds of natural

Jonathan Potter, Loughborough University

EXERCISE

- Is your research based on naturally occurring data?
- If so, why?
- If not, why not?
- If you worked with a different sort of data (naturally occurring or otherwise) how would that impact on your definition of your research topic and the kind of conclusions you could reach?

http:

LINKS

Conversation Analysis

Conversation analysis resources from Talk Bank:

<http://talkbank.org/CABank/>

The International Institute for Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis:

www.iiemca.org/

Emanuel A. Schegloff's transcription training module:

www.sscnet.ucla.edu/soc/faculty/schegloff/TranscriptionProject/

Loughborough University conversation analysis site:

www-staff.lboro.ac.uk/~ssca1/sitemenu.htm

http:

LINKS

Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis overview from The University of Texas at Austin:

www.gslis.utexas.edu/~palmquis/courses/discourse.htm

Discourse analysis online – an interactive online journal:

<http://extra.shu.ac.uk/daol/>

Critical discourse analysis from Brett Dellinger, University of Turku:

<http://users.utu.fi/bredelli/cda.html>

Electronic Bibliography on Discourse Analysis:

www.discourse-analysis.com/

Discourse in Society – website of Teun A. van Dijk:

www.discourses.org/

Discourse analysis online:

www.shu.ac.uk/daol

The Loughborough Discourse and Rhetoric Group website includes an up-to-date bibliography, information about methods, and examples of transcription alongside sound and video files. Many articles can be downloaded directly:

www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/ss/centres/darg/dargindex.htm

Qualitative research usually involves careful recording and transcription. This paper discusses the practical and theoretical choices you make when you transcribe your data.

Qualitative Inquiry, 5 (1): 64–86 (1999):
<http://qix.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/5/1/64>

Transcription in Research and Practice: From Standardization of Technique to Interpretive Positionings

Judith C. Lapadat and Anne C. Lindsay, University of Northern British Columbia



TIP

Like so many activities when doing qualitative research, choosing a transcription method is never a purely technical matter. Transcription is saturated with theoretical assumptions.

EXERCISE

- What method of recording your data are you using?
- What are the practical reasons for doing things this way?
- What are the theoretical consequences?
- What alternative transcription methods might be useful in your research?

In this paper, Celia Kitzinger offers a non-technical introduction to feminist conversation analysis, illustrated with interviews with undergraduate, MA and PhD students that she has supervised. This is an opportunity to read students speaking in their own words about what it is that has drawn them to conversation analysis as an intellectual and political endeavour.

Feminism Psychology, 17: 133 (2007):
<http://fap.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/17/2/133>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Feminist Conversation Analysis: Research by Students at the University of York, UK

Edited by Celia Kitzinger

Editor's Introduction: The Promise of Conversation Analysis for Feminist Research



In this response to Martyn Hammersley, Jonathan Potter, a leading exponent of discourse analysis (DA), shows how his approach, based on a constructionist model, can generate theory.

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Discourse & Society, 14 (6): 783–94 (2003):
<http://das.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/14/6/783>

Discursive Psychology: Between Method and Paradigm

Jonathan Potter, Loughborough University (j.a.potter@lboro.ac.uk)

Key words: constructionism • discourse analysis • discursive psychology
• ethnography • methods • paradigms • reflexivity

The Australian Institute for Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis:
<http://aiemca.net/>

Videos on the history of ethnomethodology and some examples of the use of conversation analysis in different research projects and practical fields of work.