Memoing as a Tool for Reflexive Analysis

TQR 9th Annual Conference

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American Cancer Society

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Treatment of Memoing in Publications

Memoing as a Reflexive Tool

Memos in Team Analysis

Memoing Tools in MAXQDA
Analytic and Methodological Memos and Diagrams

Following each interview, a memo was created summarizing the interview and commenting on theoretical concepts. Methodological memos were created to clarify methods, direct theoretical sampling approaches, and define the dimensions and characteristics of the emerging codes. Analytic memos were created to expand on theoretical concepts. A weekly update memo began the process of moving concepts from codes to themes and categories. These memos and coded segments formed the basis for the creation of a diagram designed to visualize the process, resulting in the formation of the theory.


From Participant 7: I know I've mentioned it but I think the most important thing about recovery was my family, a lot of people don’t have that and that’s a shame. This was more so than the medication even or anything. The way my family would rally around me made all the difference.

Memo: He feels grateful to have a supportive family as many group members do not have this support. ???? Does the group become their family????

The above memo was originally coded as “Functions of the group that family does not provide.” It eventually became part of the category “Community.”

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Audit Trails
Mental Repositories

- questions
- observations
- thoughts
- biases
- feelings
- mental state
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Memoing Tools in MAXQDA
The Project

Who? International development volunteers

What? Readjustment coming home

Cultural adaptation

Identities

Nationalism
Transnationalism
Cosmopolitanism
The Process

Transcription
Codebook development
Memo her observations about participants at the end of each transcript

Codebook refinement
Intercoder agreement
Memo his observations about specific interview content as he coded
She was rambly, hard to steer back on course. I was also tired, which didn't help.

She's been actively sought out by [org] to do presentations since coming home.
- Possible community of returned volunteers?

-Saying worked not lived - interesting distinction
- Unrelated but using 9/11 as time marker
- Transferring $ via phone just starting to become a thing here - could do that there years ago
- Tailoring conversations to fit what they thought people wanted to hear
“I kind of forgot how small talk and friendliness people have, like at the grocery store. Or just someone saying, have a nice day, and they kind of seem like they mean it. And talking to salespeople on the phone and actually being able to understand them fully and communicate with them easily. So that’s been surprising. I just chat everyone up now [laughs].

So, I don’t know if I forgot about that, but it’s just sort of a comparative thing from India where there was such just a language barrier, but now it’s like wow, everyone’s really friendly.”

The informant seems like a creature of habit. She enjoys familiar things like small talk and always understanding people on the phone.

Perhaps this mentality keeps her from being a global citizen.
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He’s assuming that being a global citizen cannot involve an appreciation for the things of home, but theoretically it is about appreciating all things, regardless of origin. Don’t have to distance self from home to connect outside of it necessarily.
“The lack of different foods and stuff that I was used to forced me to sort of be creative. Like, if I really wanted mayonnaise, I would have to learn how to make mayonnaise [laughs], or figuring out how to use the local vegetables to make food more familiar to us. And learning how to cook Indian food was cool too, but you can’t really eat that two years in a row.”

Preparing American food was way for informant to connect back to home culture. Her statement that "you can't really eat Indian food two years in a row" implies that she might not have integrated well into the host culture.
Conversation today comparing Mindy & Stacey. He thinks Stacey is trying to make India conform to the US & Mindy is really trying to integrate.

Talked about what adaptation is and things that affect how much a person can adapt. E.g., he thinks it’s ok to have someone cook for you (instead of learning to cook local food) if you can’t cook.

I posed adaptability might also be a skill that some have more/less of than others. ...
... Discussed how he's looking at adaptation in absolute terms - how much you adapted is determined by how engrained you are in the host culture by the end.

Alternative is to use relative terms - how much each individual adapted from his or her baseline before volunteering.

Mindy may have become more engrained in her host culture, but she may not have had to adapt as much from her baseline to get there.
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Types of Memos

Code

Document

In-document

Free
Organizing and Using Memos

Sorting & strategic use

Titles

Icons
Questions?