Methodology of a Qualitative Study of Film

Reflections on an Alternative Representation

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Pilot study context

Data were compiled for a pilot study focused on how teachers use film with adolescents.

Participants included a middle grades science teacher, a middle grades history teacher, and a high school history teacher who was serving as an administrator.

I conducted one 45-60 minute interview with each participant.
Arts based research is...

“engaged in for a purpose often associated with artistic activity: arts-based research is meant to enhance perspectives pertaining to certain human activities”

“defined by the presence of certain aesthetic qualities or design elements that infuse the inquiry project”

(Barone & Eisner, 1997, p. 95)
Research as Art?

Collins (1992), writing from the perspective of a researcher and musician, noted that qualitative research in itself might be considered an art form.

Given the question of whether or not to use poetry as a means of analysis, Cahnmann (2013) responded, “why not?” (p. 35), and suggested that analysis is not a closed concept.

A sort of bricolage (Kincheloe, 2001)?
A “Process” Statement: Problematizing the Problem Statement

Research has suggested that qualitative analysis can be done in a variety of creative ways (Bogumil, Capous Desyllas, Lara, & Reshetnikov, 2015; Cahnmann, 2013; Lahman et al., 2010).

Examples from professional literature have considered a multiplicity of methods, as I will illustrate throughout the description of my own processes.
Researcher as Poet

The Truth About Snails

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PUBLICATIONS AND PRIZES

Poetry in Research

McCullis (2013) suggested that the nature of poetry aligns well with qualitative research, either as products created by participants or as beginning points to spark responses to elicit and gather data.

Hopper and Sanford (2008) noted that poetry produced from a three-year project captured complexities of experience, and suggested that poetry can accomplish this representation uniquely.

Cahnmann (2003) suggested that researchers can gain a “heightened form of language” from poetic analysis, including use of metaphor and rhythm (p. 31).
Representation Beyond Poetry

• Photography in tourism research  
  (Rydzik, Pritchard, Morgan, & Sedgley, 2012)
• Music and other literary genres  
  (Carson, 2017; Gunaratnam, 2007)
• Film, charts, and diagrams  
  (Eisner, 1997)
• LEGO blocks and illustrations  
  (Pressner, 2013)
• Comic strips, documentary films, and blogs  
  (Bogumil et al., 2013; Sousanis, 2015)
• Interactive larger installations  
  (Lapum, Ruttonsha, Church, Yau, & David, 2011)
Choosing Colors

Carroggio De Molina (2014) discussed the way stains and colors can form a representation of what the artist wishes to convey.

Rose/warm light red – caring
Green – earth/world
Yellow – illumination/learning
## Coding after Data Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storying</th>
<th>Filtering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band of Brothers personal</td>
<td>I wouldn’t have shown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greatest portrayals of human life</td>
<td>Finding a good movie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story elements</td>
<td>They don’t miss the message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You know the story</td>
<td>I want it to stand out for them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of the American story</td>
<td>Even if it’s a struggle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story elements</td>
<td>Mindful of which class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I wanted structure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Poetic Representations for Three Participants

The Seer Poetic Representation

A three-year vision, swirling with dreams, now compounded in a sigh, building rapport, finding that voice through elements of story, being careful not to miss the message, I know I’m not alone.

Other participants included “The Organizer” and “The Traveler.”
The Final Product

Themes
- Care and Connection
- Invitation to Sight
- Invitation to Story
- Living in a Digital World

Intentional Planning/Integration
Closing Questions

How might an artistic representation open up opportunities to see data in new ways?

What is the process statement that undergirds the problem statements our research addresses?

Does the process statement always look the same, or does it depend on the context of our work?
References


References


Lapum, J., Ruttonsha, P., Church, K., Yau, T., & David, A.M. (2011). Employing the arts in research as an analytical tool and dissemination method: Interpreting experience through the aesthetic. *Qualitative Inquiry, 18*(1), 100-115.


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