

Reading Guide Week 2

Chapter 5

What is a paradigm?

- An accepted set of theories, procedures, and assumptions about how researchers look at the world

What is the difference between methodology and method?

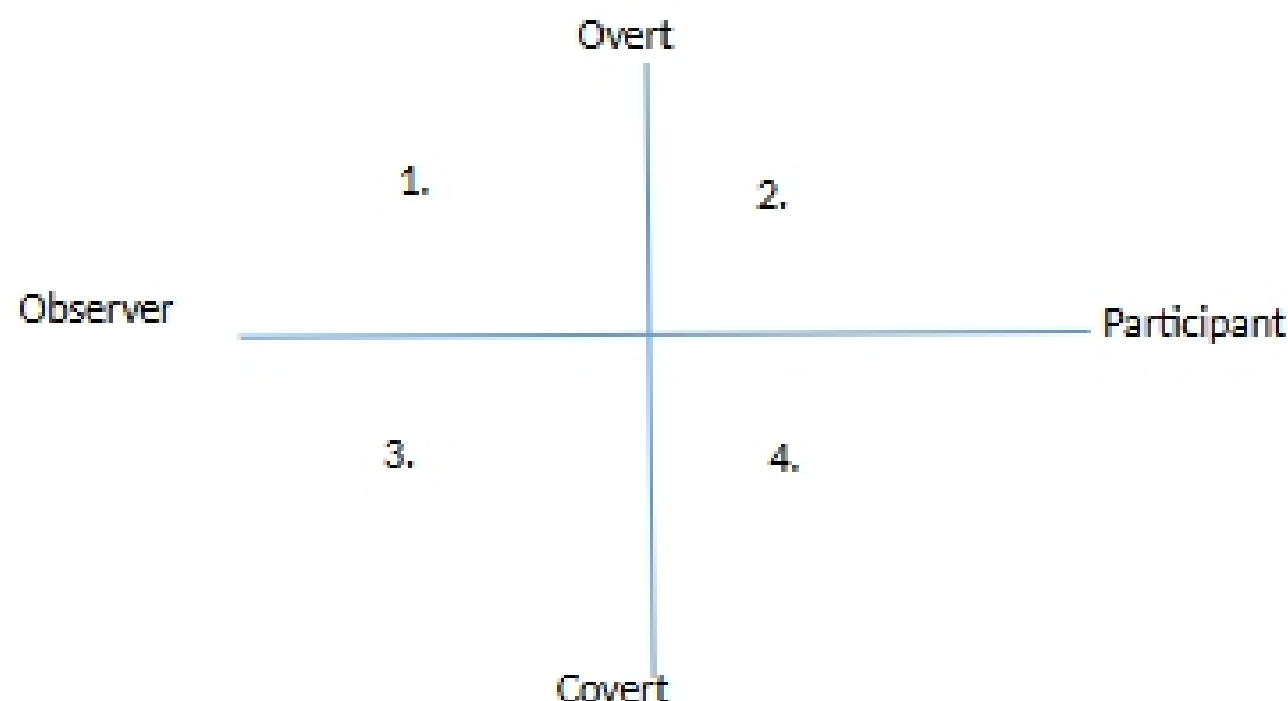
- Methodology is the study of methods and the underpinning philosophical assumptions of the research process itself
 - Different research questions suggest different methodologies
 - Deals with the question of why
- Method is a specific technique for gathering information following the assumptions of the chosen methodology

Please describe the constant comparison technique. Be sure to list and describe the four steps associated with this process.

1. Comparatively assigning incidents to categories
2. Elaborating and refining categories
3. Searching for relationships and themes among categories
4. Simplifying and integrating data into a coherent theoretical structure

Please list and describe the four quadrants of field observation.

1. Overt Observation
 - a. The researcher is identified when the study begins, and those under observation are aware that they are being studied
2. Overt Participation
 - a. Those being observed also know the researcher, but unlike 1. The researcher goes beyond the observer role and becomes a participant in the situation
3. The researchers role is limited to that of observer but those under observation are not aware they are being studied
4. The researcher participates in the process under investigation but is not identified as a researcher



Please describe the funnel technique.

- Sometimes followed in sequencing focus group questions
- Moderator starts with general questions then moves to more specific topics

What are the three analytic strategies associated with case studies?

- Pattern-Matching Strategy
 - An empirically based pattern is compared with one or more predicted patterns
- Explanation building
 - The researcher tries to construct an explanation about the case by making statements about the cause or causes of the phenomenon under study
- Time-series Analysis
 - The investigator tries to compare a series of data points to some theoretical trend that was predicted before the research or to some alternative trend