MATRIC NUMBER: 16/MHS02/029

 Qualitative research strategy is commonly called the interpretative researches that rely heavily on “thick” verbal descriptions of a particular social context being studied.

Explain the following concepts used in qualitative research:

1. Trustworthiness

2. Saturation of data

3. Content analysis approach

4. In-depth interview guide

**TRUSTWORTHINESS**

The establishing of trustworthiness was according to the strategies promoted by Lincoln and Guba. Trustworthiness or rigor of a study refers to the degree of confidence in data, interpretation, and methods used to ensure the quality of a study. Trustworthiness of a study can be determined in terms of the study's credibility, dependability, confirmability, transferability, and authenticity.

Trustworthiness is all about establishing these four things, which are described in more detail below;

**Credibility** is the how confident the qualitative researcher is in the truth of the research study’s findings.  This boils down to the question of “How do you know that your findings are true and accurate?” Qualitative researchers can use triangulation to show the research study’s findings are credible.

**Transferability** is how the qualitative researcher demonstrates that the research study’s findings are applicable to other contexts.  In this case, “other contexts” can mean similar situations, similar populations, and similar phenomena. Qualitative researchers can use thick description to show that the research study’s findings can be applicable to other contexts, circumstances, and situations.

**Confirmability** This involves making sure that researcher bias does not skew the interpretation of what the research participants said to fit a certain narrative. To establish confirm ability, qualitative researchers can provide an audit trail, which highlights every step of data analysis that was made in order to provide a rationale for the decisions made. This helps establish that the research study’s findings accurately portray participants’ responses.

**Dependability** is the extent that the study could be repeated by other researchers and that the findings would be consistent. In other words, if a person wanted to replicate your study, they should have enough information from your research report to do so and obtain similar findings as your study did. A qualitative researcher can use inquiry audit in order to establish dependability, which requires an outside person to review and examine the research process and the data analysis in order to ensure that the findings are consistent and could be repeated.

 **SATURATION OF DATA**

Data saturation refers to the point in the research process when no new information is discovered in data analysis, and this redundancy signals to researchers that data collection may cease. Saturation means that a researcher can be reasonably assured that further data collection would yield similar results and serve to confirm emerging themes and conclusions. When researchers can claim that they have collected enough data to achieve their research purpose, they should report how, when, and to what degree they achieved data saturation.

**CONTENT ANALYSIS APPROACH**

Content analysis is a widely used qualitative research technique. Rather than being a single method, current applications of content analysis show three distinct approaches: conventional, directed, or summative. All three approaches are used to interpret meaning from the content of text data and, hence, adhere to the naturalistic paradigm. The major differences among the approaches are coding schemes, origins of codes, and threats to trustworthiness. In conventional content analysis, coding categories are derived directly from the text data. With a directed approach, analysis starts with a theory or relevant research findings as guidance for initial codes. A summative content analysis involves counting and comparisons, usually of keywords or content, followed by the interpretation of the underlying context.

**IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE**

A qualitative data collection method, in-depth interviews offer the opportunity to capture rich, descriptive data about how people think and behave, and unfolding complex processes. They can be used as a standalone research method or as part of a multi method design, depending on the needs of the research.

In depth interviews are normally carried out face to face so that a rapport can be created with respondents. Body language is also used to add a high level of understanding to the answers. Telephones can also be used by a skilled researcher with little loss of data and at a tenth of the cost.

The style of the interview depends on the interviewer. Successful in-depth interviewers listen rather than talk. They have a clear line of questioning and use body language to build rapport. The interview is more of a guided conversation than a staccato question and answer session.