

Assignment 2: Qualitative Coding

Due: March 2nd BEFORE class

Overview

In this assignment, you will perform qualitative coding on a real dataset to gain experience with how to process data from qualitative interviews. Use the assigned readings and slides from class to make sure you use the method properly.

Be sure to make an early start on this assignment. It is intended to be time-consuming. It will take you time and effort to process and code the data on your own, discuss with your partner, iterate, and come up with your final narrative!

Requirements

This assignment has two parts. Part A will be completed **alone**. Part B will be done in **pairs**. Each pair of students will turn in **ONE final report** that contains answers to **BOTH** parts A and B.

Question: What are the tensions, benefits, challenges, and opportunities for researchers and practitioners working in global development projects to work together for the benefit of their target communities?

The dataset that you will use for this assignment consists of real world data collected from practitioners who work in global development organizations. Your task is to use inductive coding to analyze this data set and develop a narrative that answers the above research question.

Part A

1. Download the dataset for the assignment. It consists of an Excel spreadsheet that contains the questions asked and 20 participant responses.
2. **On your own**, use the inductive analysis method to code and analyze the data.
 - a. Read through the entire data set a few times.
 - b. Reformat the data however you like to make it easier to process/code.
 - c. Perform your initial coding, generating 30-40 categories.
 - d. Go through your codes and data again, reducing overlap and redundancy, combining related codes, etc. until you have 15-20 codes.
 - e. Keep iterating on the data until you have roughly 3-8 high-level “themes”. NOTE: You will likely have several “sub-categories” within each major theme.

Make sure you document your process as you go! You will need to turn in evidence of the intermediate steps in your coding and analysis!

Part B

1. Find a partner.
2. Compare your codes/themes with your partner’s codes/themes. They will mostly likely be different.
3. Work together to reach a consensus between your two sets of codes/themes. Discuss which are the most important to keep and which can be dropped, changed, or consolidated. You may need to rework your codes/themes based on each other’s findings.
4. Develop a narrative that explains your data.

- a. Start with a summary paragraph that contains your high-level takeaways (e.g., 1-2 sentences for each major theme).
- b. Then have a subsection for each of your main themes, with 2-3 paragraphs explaining your findings around each theme. You **are** allowed to use quotes from the data to highlight what you mean. **This does not mean you can just list raw quotes with no explanation!** Note that you **will** be graded on the clarity and quality of your technical writing.

Report Guidelines

You will submit a report documenting your work on this assignment. **You must follow the report structure given below** (points will be deducted if you do not use this structure.)

1. (Part A) Show how you performed inductive coding on your own (so, two per pair).
 - a. List your initial 30-40 codes.
 - b. Show how you reduced them to 15-20 codes (and list these).
 - c. Show how you further reduced them to 3-8 high level themes (and list these).
 - d. Include photos/screenshots of your process. i.e., raw data marked with codes, different clustering of codes into themes, etc.
2. (Part B) Show how you and your partner worked together to further analyze the data and develop a narrative that explains your findings.
 - a. Compare and contrast your individual codings of the data. What was the same and what was different?
 - b. Describe your process for merging your two individual codes/themes into a final set of themes. What did you lose? What did you gain? What were the challenges involved in reconciling your individual codings?
 - c. List your team's final 3-8 high-level themes and any subcategories within each theme.
 - d. Write your final narrative that explains your themes, findings, trends etc.

Grading Criteria

- You will be graded using the report structure given above. In addition, there will be extra points assigned for:
 - Evidence that you spent time and effort applying the inductive analysis method properly
 - Overall quality of your analysis and technical writing
 - **Points will be deducted if you fail to follow instructions!**