The documentary method of video-interaction-analysis as access to practical knowledge of the actors by “Gestural-communicative engagement for relational and interactional embodiment with people with dementia”

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Summary

• Introduction and background of my investigation
• Research field and questions
• Objective of the investigation
• Presentation of the documentary method (DM) according to Bohnsack
• Participants
• Methodological framework and modification of the DM
• Challenges and advantages of the DM for research and practice
Background

• People with advanced dementia suffer from cognitive losses in planning, the decline in everyday skills and loss of orientation (Bartholomeyczik et al., 2006).

• These people are thereby in an asymmetrical relationship with their caregiver/companion, which is characterized by high dependency (Panke-Kochinke, 2014, Sachweh, 2009, Schwerdt, 2007).
Background

• How can a professional carer of a person with advanced dementia communicate when words do not interfere with communication?

• How is it possible to make offers such as food intake or just standing up from the chair without "handing" people directly when the person has no physical movement restrictions?

• How can a person with advanced dementia be supported in everyday activities in their quest for autonomy and self-regulation?
"When a nursing practitioner symbolically simulates an action by means of symbolic gestures, with the aim of providing a person with advanced dementia with a reference to an action."
Research Question

HOW is the verbal and non-verbal interaction between nurses and persons with advanced dementia using gestural- communicative engagement?
Objectives

- To reconstruct the incorporated action routine of two nurse practitioners to gestural-communicative engagements.
- To explore the interaction behavior of involved persons.
The Documentary Method (DM)

Theoretical basis of DM

Bohnsack (2009) developed the DM oriented to the "sociology of knowledge " as founded by Karl Mannheim (1952) in the 1920s.

Mannheim endeavored to develop a theoretical as well as a methodologically controlled approach to those areas of knowledge that are oriented towards our everyday practice (Bohnsack, 2009)
The knowledge which is appropriated in this practice, and which at the same time orientates this practice, is a prereflexive and "atheoretical knowledge" in Mannheim's conceptuality (Mannheim, 1964, S. 100).

The central concept of Mannheims theory is the "conjunctive space of experience" (Mannheim, 1980, S. 216).

In it, he describes what happens in natural human interactions in practice (Bohnsack, Nentwig-Gesemann, & Nohl, 2013; Przyborski, 2004).
The Documentary Method (DM)

- With the category of “atheoretical knowledge”, the DM opens the door to a structure of sense which is represented by the actors themselves, without being the object of their reflection.

- Thus the observers - and this is crucial - do not presume that they know more than the actors in the field, but that those actors themselves do not really know what they exactly know“ (Bohnsack, 2009, S. 19).
The Documentary Method (DM)

- Here we refer also to a praxeological sociology of knowledge and to the praxeology according to Bourdieu (1976) and his theory of practice.
- Following Bohnsack, this is connected to a broader understanding of constructivism which also describes the production and construction of the world in everyday practice (in contrast to a more restrictive understanding of qualitative and interpretative research in the US) (Bohnsack, 2009).
Analytic Steps of DM

**Step 1**
- **Selection of the case**
- **Formulating Interpretation**
  Transkription-protocoll by pre-iconographic description
- **Reflecting Interpretation (RI)**
  Identification of the „modus operandi“, the specific action and orientation frame

**Step 2**
- **Looking for a comparative case**
  Go through step 1
Analytic Steps of DM

**Step 3**
- **Comparative analysis**
  The comparison of cases is a methodical control and constitutes the basis of the conjunctive abstraction and typification.
- **Reflective Interpretation**

**Step 4**
- **Praxeologic typification**
- **Comparative analysis**
  Question about the structure, according to the modus operandi, the generic principle of the practical action and its process of emergence
- **Reflective Interpretation**
Analytic Steps of DM

5. step

- **meaning-genetic typification**
- The analytic process results in so-called socio-genetic interpretation.
- **Socio-genetic typification**
  - tries to answer the question of what the orientation is typical for.
  - This type refers to the “space of experience”, e.g. gestural-communicative engagement of people with dementia.

- **Type** must be understood as the overlap of genetic principles (characteristics) (Vogt 2004).

**results**

- Empirically elaborated characteristics result in a "typological axis“ (Vogt 2004, S. 66).
Data Collection
Central Case
Positions of interacting persons
Situation in the bathroom (P7)

A: nurse practitioner
B: person with dementia
K1: camera 1 (focus on nurse practitioner)
K2: camera 2 (focus on person with dementia)

Spiegelbild
reflection

Spiegel vor Waschbecken
mirror in front of the sink

A: Pflegeexpertin
B: Person mit Demenz
K1: Kamera 1 (filmt Pflegeexpertin)
K2: Kamera 2 (filmt Person mit Demenz)
Comparative Case
Positions of interacting persons
Situation at the dining table (P54)

Situation am Esstisch (P54)

A: nurse practitioner
B: person with dementia
K1: camera 1 (focus on person with dementia)
K2: camera 2 (focus on nurse practitioner)
Data analysis
Synchronisation of the videos
Synchronisation of the videos
Central Case

• Person with dementia: Mrs. Baum
• Nurse practitioner A
• Topic „rinse mouth“
• Date: 13.09.2011
• Timeframe: 12:33.01 – 13:11:07
• Total: 38 seconds
Selection of the videosequence (Central Case)

• a sequence starts when the nurse calls for an action, the action is gesturally communicated and the person with dementia realizes the action.

• sequence ends up when the end of an action is reached (e.g., rinse out mouth and spit, bite off a bread).
Central Case
Methodologic Procedure

In DM there is distinction made between

- **what** this presented thematically; this is being analyzed by *formulative interpretation*,
- **how** this presentation is being made; this is being analyzed by *reflective interpretation*

- Formulative Interpretation
  - In two formats (own development)
Annotationstool ELAN
(EUDICO Linguistic Annotator)
Modification of the Software ELAN

AMbE1 (-------------------) Mouth sharpens, opens and closes.
AMbE2 (-------) The mouth is half opened, both rows of teeth are visible.
Data Analysis

formulative interpretation
pre-iconografic description

summary

...A closes the mouth and simulates four distinct rinsing movements...
Data Analysis

**formulative interpretation**
pre-iconografic Interpretation

**summary**
A closes the mouth and simulates four distinct rinsing movements …

**reflective interpretation**
…In particular, nurse practitioner A emphasizes the sequence of actions clearly and isolated,…

**structuring by attribution**
…(7AG1) nurse practitioner A emphasizes the sequence of actions clearly and isolated …

(7AG1 = Simulating gesture in real time)
Central case
Simulating Gestures in Real-Time
Research Method

formulative interpretation

pre-iconografic interpretation

summary

A closes the mouth and simulates four distinct rinsing movements...

Structuring by attribution

...(7AG1) nurse practitioner A emphasizes the sequence of actions clearly and isolated...

(7AG1 = Simulating gesture in real time)

discourse organization central case

Reciprocal interaction organization
Mind-oriented-responsive mode
Person with dementia-oriented-responsive mode

comparison of cases

reflective Interpretation

...In particular, nurse practitioner A emphasizes the sequence of actions clearly and isolated,...
Central Result

The nurse practitioner takes the conductive and communicative responsibility for designing the interaction.
Characteristics of professional communicative responsibility

- Conductive communicative responsibility
  - Visually observing pending attention
  - Cognitive availability to structure the action

- In a most active way
- Responsiveness with expectation
Pending Attention
Methodic Challenges

Videography
• Technical installation, Camera setup, certainty in the field, pretest

Data analysis
• Video-editing software
• Managing the software ELAN
• Modification of the transcription rules
• Analysis of frames – very time-consuming
Methodic challenges

DM

• complex -> different settings of analysis

• training of researchers:
  What is documented in the data, not the subjective perceptions and experiences of the researcher

• Learning the terminology of DM
Methodologic / Methodic Advantages for Research

**videography**

- less invasive method of data collection
- detailed analysis of audio-visual data
- sequenciality and simultaneity
- Reproductability of basic data
- Decreased level of detail for the description of empirical data (formulative interpretation)
- Microanalysis of empirical data
- Exchange of frame, slow motion and real time
Methodologic /Methodic Advantages for Research

DM

- Opens the view of the performative of social everyday reality
- The use of nonverbal and verbal communication as implicit and incorporated practical knowledge can be made visible and thereby verbalized.
- Elaboration of the interlacing of sequentiality and simultaneity in interactions is made possible.
- allows the separation of "basic data" and interpretation, the researcher can thereby develop a sense of strangeness.
- Ensures confirmability and transparency through differentiated methodological analysis steps
- The interpretations can be traced back to the basic data by their detailed and differentiated descriptions
Methodologic /Methodic Advantages for Research

DM versus other approaches
• methodic and methodologically controlled access to implicit and incorporated knowledge and their frames of orientation

DM versus other methods
• The motive of an action is not observable.
• It could be analyzed in a speculative way by introspection
• Interviews provide information about theories of action, not about the action itself
Advantages for Practice

- Description of practical knowledge
- An explanatory and descriptive approach to interaction practices
- Contribution to a conscious and reflective approach
„We can only hope to get close to reality when we penetrate their lowest layer.“

(Siegfried Kracauer 1889-1966)
References