

# Phenomenological, ground theory and ethnographic differences

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Grounded and Phenomenology Theories Grounded and Phenomenology Theories The qualitative research design uses grounded theory and phenomenology theory as the two major approaches. The two approaches have several similarities in aspects such as data collection techniques and analysis. Both approaches aim to interpret real situations. The researchers spend much of the study time interacting with their study population. Both approaches enhance the validity of the findings by analyzing data from the perspective of the participants. Collecting neutral information from the respondents in interviews and or case studies reduces bias. Bias may arise from existing knowledge on the same issues, thus reducing objectivity of the study.

Despite the strong similarities, grounded theory and phenomenology have several differences. One of the differences is based on sources of data and method of data collection. Grounded theory utilizes any data and explanations that contribute to knowledge acquisition in a particular study. In essence, grounded theory admits any information that is relevant to the study. Methods used in data collection include interviews, observations, and secondary sources. On the other hand, a phenomenological approach uses data from people who have real life experience with the question at hand (Grove, Burns & Gray, 2012). The approach discriminates data from other sources. This means that the approach uses historical facts. Thus, data is often extracted using interviews.

The discussion shows that the two approaches have a high similarity index. The similarity is visible in data collection and analysis in that both methods seek to make conclusions based on descriptions from the raw information.

However, the approaches are different in terms of sources of data. Grounded theory utilizes data from any sources whereas phenomenological data uses data from persons who have experience with the aspect under study.

#### Reference

Burns, N., Grove, S. K., & Gray, J. (2012). *The practice of nursing research: Appraisal, synthesis, and generation of evidence*. St. Louis, Mo: Saunders/Elsevier.