

**The results of a Qualitative Study
can offer “*Scientific Evidences*”
generalized theoretically by
the Structural Constructivism perspective**

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Main Issue

- Generalization of the Results as Scientific Evidences:
- Definition of “Science” :
What is “Science”?
- “Interpretation of the Text”: i.e.,
Can we believe such subjective interpretation?

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Structural Constructivism

Saijyo, T (2005) : “What is the structural constructivism”,
Kita-ohji Shobo.

to dissolve the Subject-Object Issue
as a hyper-meta theory

- Difficulty of mutual understanding
between different epistemologies: i.e.,
Quantitative study: Positivism, Objectivism,
Qualitative study: Social Constructivism, etc.

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Core Concepts of Structural Constructivism

- Later half Husserlian Phenomenology:
by E. Husserl and S. Takeda
Modern Meaning of the Transcendental Phenomenology:
Principles of Thinking/ Interest-Correlativity
- Structuralist Philosophy of Science: by K. Ikeda
“What is the Structuralist Biology ?, Kaimei-sha (1988)”
“Science is an attempt to pursue the identity.”
- Saussure’s Theory of General Linguistics
Social Construction of Parole
Structure of Languge in Individual Brain

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Interest-Correlativity

<Existence, Meaning, Value>
appear related to
<Body, Desire, Interest, Purpose>

(modified slide: Saijyo, 2005)

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Selection of Study Methods

According to the Structural Constructivism:

- Research Question
- Phenomenon of Interest
- Purpose of the Study
- Interpretation of the Results
- Generalization of the Results

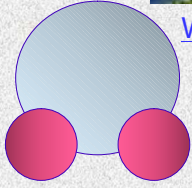
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Structuralist Philosophy of Science

- The reality of the external world is at least non-self-evident.
- Science is an attempt to decipher the variant in terms of the invariant.
- Science is to pursue the identity.
- The usefulness and value of the scientific theory depends on the degree of fitness to the phenomenon in question.

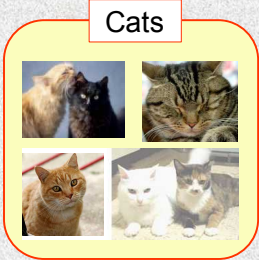
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What is the "Identity"?



Water

Water is H₂O.



Cats

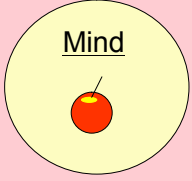
Does a "Cat" exist?

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Qualitative or Quantitative?


Phenomena

Mind



Internal World

Thing



External World

→ ←

← Common Understanding →

Small Large

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Various Scientific Theories

Relationship among Things: Equation
"E=MC²": Invention of Theory

Large

Common Understanding

Small

↑
↓

Quantitative

Qualitative

"Meditation may reduce own stress."

Relationship among Concepts: Statement

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Scientific Result Ensures Its Evidence?

Quantitative or Qualitative Study
Is Based on the Equivalent Theory by
Structuralist Philosophy of Science

↓

Structural Constructivism
the Use of Interest Correlativity

does not Ensure Its Evidence!

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Evidence and Generalization

Statistical and Analytical Generalizations:
Yin, R.K.(1994) Case Study Research: Design and Methods, London: Sage

- Quantitative Study --- Statistical Generalization
Distribution, Estimation, Test, etc.
- Qualitative Study --- Analytical Generalization
Generalization and Development of Theory

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Criticism to Qualitative Study

Qualitative Study

1. Number of cases is a few and arbitrary.
2. Interpretation of text is subjective.

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Quantitative Study

Evidence Based Approach
by the Use of Statistics

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Necessity of Common Understanding

- Common Understanding by Structural Constructivism

But not Enough, we need More.

- Logical Explanations:
 - What meanings does the subjective interpretation have?
 - Can we have the basis of text interpretation?
 - Can we generalize the results obtained?

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Validity of Discourse Interpretation

• Recognition Issue

• Understanding Issue

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Issue of Interpretation of Language

Two "Same Word"s don't have always the same meaning!

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Credibility Structure of Langue

Takeda, S (2001): To Linguistic Thinking – Deconstruction and Phenomenology, Kai-shobo, 128.

"Certainty" is generally based on the nature coming itself. (*ibid*, 166)

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General Linguistics by Saussure (1857-1913)

- Langue is structured socially by "Parole".
- Langue is structured in a brain by the repetition of "Parole".
- Langue is arbitrary.
- Langue is discriminative.
- Langue is negative.

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Fundamental Assumptions of Text Interpretation

- Langue is structured socially by “Parole”.
 - The structure of individual langue is identical or parallel in a society respectively.
 - The structure of the recognition about specific phenomenon is identical or parallel in the researcher and informant respectively.
 - Individuals with the same langue must have the same internal structure as well as the langue.
- (Ikeda, K(1998):Adventure of Structuralist Philosophy of Science, 93-94, Kodansha)

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Is the Assumption of the Identity about Recognition Structure Correct?

- We cannot prove it directly from the principle.
- Informant and researcher can have a conversation about something.
- Our senses of value about the truth, goodness, and beauty, seem to be similar each other.
- Our emotions about love, hate, sorrow, happiness, and so on, seem to be similar each other.

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Another Evidence?

Criticism to the Results of Qualitative Study:

“What’s new?”
“ I knew such a thing already.”



Identical or Parallel Structure of the Recognition

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Ex. When people living with HIV/AIDS knows his/her infection the first time...

- Fear to death
- Misgiving about social discrimination
- Anxiety for the future of children
- Distrust of spouse
-



To some extent, why can we expect the results even if we don't make a survey?

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Meanings from “I knew it already”

- The concept exists as a common sense in the society.
- The phenomena can be explained by the use of the identical or parallel structure of the recognition.
- Not all concepts are structured identically or parallel because of people’s different experiences.

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Representativeness

Basic Assumptions for Qualitative Study:

- Researcher and informant must have the identical or parallel recognition structure about specific phenomenon.
- The recognition structure about the phenomenon must be common in the community.



Each Individual usually can represent the “population” for the recognition structure.

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Basis of Analytical Generalization

- Assumption of the identical or parallel recognition structure for text interpretation.
- Even distinctive phenomena must have some common facts.

(Ikeda, K(1998):Adventure of Structuralist Philosophy of Science, 31-34, Kodansha)

The model obtained should be evaluated by the degree of the explanation of the phenomenon.

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Summary

Main issue is the generalization of the results of a qualitative study, even though the analytical generalization can be always done as Yin (1994) pointed out. We try to prove the generalization by the structural constructivism by Saijyo (2005) .

- The credibility of the text interpretation and the model construction depends on two issues; 1) recognition and 2) understanding the meanings. By the general linguistics by Saussure, these issues can be explained rationally by the concept of structural language system constructed in an individual brain but structured socially by "parole".
- The results can be always "scientific evidences" from the view point of the structural philosophy of science.

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