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Subjective text interpretation in a qualitative study
is not so “subjective”

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Although quantitative researchers frequently criticize the text interpretations in qualitative researches for their subjective results, it is not so subjective, because the language system in the brain must be structured systematically from viewpoints of linguistic structuralism and semantics. Therefore we cannot interpret the texts to be subjective.

If we are endowed with the universal grammar in our brains and our language system is generative as N. Chomsky insisted, it should be thought that our individual language systems are quite similar.

K. Machida (2011) proposed that each sentence has a unique linguistic structure making for the meaning in semantics view including theme, subject, complement, predicate, time, space, fact and fiction, and so on. Therefore the existence of linguistic structure of the sentence could control our free interpretations, and could operate to make a limited interpretation of the text by contraries.

A. Wierzbicka (1996) suggested that each language has about 60 special words called “Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM)”, which construct the core meaning area of each language in common without regard to the kind of language. The words included in NSM are the final words which are irreducible core of all natural languages. The existence of NSM in all languages strongly suggests that we might have common linguistic interpretation system in our brains.

These reasons described above could show “Subjective text interpretation is not so subjective”.