

Brief Contents

**Introduction: An Intensive Study of
Case Study Research Methods xi**

- 1. The Unique Case 1**
- 2. Research Questions 15**
- 3. The Nature of Qualitative Research 35**
- 4. Data Gathering 49**
- 5. Analysis and Interpretation 71**
- 6. Case Researcher Roles 91**
- 7. Triangulation 107**
- 8. Writing the Report 121**
- 9. Reflections 133**
- 10. Harper School 137**
- Bibliography 161**
- Glossary-Index 169**
- About the Author 175**

Contents

Introduction: An Intensive Study of Case Study Research Methods xi

Orientation, *Assignment to read Harper report, note to instructors,*
suggestions for reading assignments, acknowledgments xii

1. The Unique Case 1

Intrinsic and instrumental study, *Nature of the case,*
collective case study 3

Selection of cases, *Choosing Harper, representativeness* 4

Producing generalizations, *Petite and grand, particularity* 7

Emphasis on interpretation, *Foreshadowing questions, observations,*
assertions 8

Workshop: *Criteria for selection of cases* 13

2. Research Questions 15

Conceptual structure, *Problems within contexts* 16

Stating issues, *Facilitating organizations and reporting* 18

Evolution of issue questions, *Progressive focussing, etic and emic issues* 20

Topical information questions, *Issues for NCTM Standards* 25

Questions calling for coded data, *Flanders, interaction analysis, computer coding* 29

Workshop: Observe "Examination" 33

3. The Nature of Qualitative Research 35

Experiential understanding, *History, Dilthey, explanation and understanding, thick description* 37

Interpretation as method, *Assertions* 40

Other characteristics of qualitative research, *Scales and episodes, patterns, narratives* 43

Recognition of faults, *Subjectivity, cost* 45

Workshop: More or less special characteristics 47

4. Data Gathering 49

Organizing the data gathering, *CSSE observation guide, checklists, data sources* 51

Access and permissions, *Confidentiality, terminating fieldwork, ethics* 57

Observation, *Bill Love's class, logs, taping* 60

Description of contexts, *Vicarious experience* 63

Interview, *Surrogate observers, piloting, immediate write-up* 64

Document review, *Search for issue-related data* 68

Workshop: Interview observers of an interview 69

5. Analysis and Interpretation 71

Categorical aggregation or direct interpretation, *The Thought Fox, protocols* 74

Correspondence and patterns, *Coding and issue identification, Larry Ecker's art class, winnowing* 78

Naturalistic generalizations, *Reader population of cases as basis for generalization, vicarious experience* 85

Workshop: Analyze Mexico City classroom observation 88

6. Case Researcher Roles 91

The case researcher as teacher, *Anticipating reader needs* 91

The case researcher as advocate, *Jonathan Kozol, researcher values* 93

The case researcher as evaluator, *Quality and effectiveness* 95

The case researcher as biographer, *Life histories* 96

The case researcher as interpreter, *René Magritte* 97

Constructivism, *Three realities, the rationalist-constructivist view* 99

Relativity, *Contextuality, other role choices, ethics* 102

Workshop: Fieldwork implication of roles 104

7. Triangulation 107

Validation, *Consequential validity, navigation* 108

Targets for triangulation, *Uncontestable description, need for triangulation* 110

Triangulation protocols, *Norman Denzin, Campbell & Fiske* 112

Member checking, *Mr. Free* 115

Workshop: Role play school board members 116

8. Writing the Report 121

- Organizing the report early on, *Outlining, page allocation* 122
- Readers, *Empirical and model readers, vicarious experience* 125
- Storytelling, *Sequences, Van Maanen's tales* 127
- Vignettes, *Narrative fraud, Burbank fieldtrip* 128
- Workshop: *Checklist for evaluating a manuscript* 130

9. Reflections 133

10. Harper School 137

- School and Community 138
- School Improvement 143
- The Local School Council 148
- Shadow Study of a Sixth Grader 150
- Other Issues 154
- Implementation of Reform 158

Bibliography 161

Glossary-Index 169

About the Author 175