

Analysis of Field Notes and other Data Sources

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1. Determine Unit--such as a word, a sentence, a paragraph, time, frame, etc.
2. Code Various Units--can have multiple codes for a unit (codes are not mutually exclusive, at least at first, but work towards exhaustive coding, at least eventually). Theory--preexisting or emergent--influences coding, but can push self to code broadly, thus less bound by theory. May need to code same data several times--computers definitely help.
3. Develop Categories, Subcategories, Superordinate Categories. These require definitions. Categories and definitions will probably need to be revised many times as you continue analysis. Keep track of the revisions and reasons for revisions of categories and definitions in theoretical notes (revisions occur because data indicates that previous definitions were not sufficient).
4. Give Examples of Categories in your theoretical notes, indexed specifically to pages, line numbers, etc. of field notes/video data/other sources of data. Include exemplars--best examples that represent the core of the category. Also include outliers--poor examples, but nevertheless examples of the category, as they define the limits of the category.
5. Linkages Between Categories need to be specified, and also note the kinds of linkages involved. Consider these kinds of linkages, among others:
 - Time
 - Space
 - Causation
 - Social/Interpersonal
 - [many others are possible]