Obser-view seen as a data generating method and a learning space

Different types of qualitative interviews are described in publications about methods for generating data in qualitative research (e.g. Kvale 2007; Kruuse 2007; Denzin & Lincoln (eds.) 2000). Different types of observation are also described (e.g. Kristiansen & Krogstrup 1999). Both interviews and observation are acknowledged and used methods for generating data in qualitative research.

Obser-view is a method for data generating, which is almost not described in literature about methodology, even though it is a method which in that respect is able to enrich both interview and observation. The obser-view is able to connect interview and observation, and gives the researcher a deeper understanding of the empirical data than it is possible to get separately from respectively interview and observation. Obser-view is a method which includes a common reflection process between participant and researcher. The focus of the reflection is situations they both have been part of, but each in their way, during the researcher's observation of the participant. The role of the researcher is to be a catalyst for the reflection. Understood that way the obser-view also becomes a learning space.

In the presentation I will tell how I, by request from the participants, developed the obser-view both as a method for generating data and as a learning space, in a qualitative research project (Kragelund 2006). The purpose of the presentation is to show how the three methods: observation, obser-view and inter-view are combined in a qualitative research project, and how the combination is able to increase the internal validity in qualitative research (Polit & Beck 2004:431), because each method gives a different perspective on data.

References


