Assignment 8: Reflection (needs to be integrated in order 00172124)

Read the first three chapters in the GO-GN Research Methods Handbook. In these chapters you can read about philosophical views on science and about consistency within research. In a reflection report (maximum 500 words) you write how you can find this consistency in your research. For this you can discuss the specific sections below:

- Research paradigm

- Methodology

- Strategy

- Methods of data collection

As a researcher you of course have the freedom to choose your own concepts, as long as you make them explicit and substantiate them. Even if you see that the consistency in your research is not quite right, you indicate that.

**Example reflection report**

Reflection

Prior to starting my master’s study, my understanding of research and how it should be efficiently conducted was rather limited. Fortunately, this has positively changed through the course of the past year and has resulted in a more efficient and systematic process for researching learning questions at my current workplace. For example, the research plan proposed above is the result of a preliminary research where a data was collected in order to explore the underlying cause of my students’ low scores for the English subject.

As a result of the preliminary research, the conclusion was made that the lack of vocabulary could be the underlying cause of my students’ low academic achievement. Consequently, this research proposes teaching vocabulary exclusively and to examine its effects on student skills and motivation. This thus means that the research falls under the critical paradigm as it aims to instigate changes in my teaching practices which can result in a (positive) change in my students’ learning and their attitude towards learning (Scotland, 2012). You do an excellent job here connecting the specifics of your intervention with research literature, and specifically the paradigm under which you perceive your research to fall.

Consequently, an action research strategy was chosen as it fits within the critical paradigm and aims to improve the teaching process (van Swet & Munneke, 2017). Within action research, a regulative cycle is followed which entails that the experienced problem is analysed. This is followed by proposing a solution or intervention which is then tested and it effectiveness is evaluated (van Swet & Munneke, 2017). The steps in this regulative cycle have been followed systematically (with exception of the intervention which is to follow after the approval of this proposal) as data was collected to investigate a problem. Afterwards, a solution has been proposed which follows logically from the hypothesis made in the problem exploration phase. Furthermore, to ensure that implementing the intervention occurs in a systematic and reliable manner, a detailed research proposal has been written which is based on ample theory relevant to problem at hand as well as includes all the designed interventions to be carried out by the researcher. The interventions designed are also based on theory relevant to teaching vocabulary exclusively and are thus well grounded.

In addition, this form of research requires reflective skills from the researcher (van Swet & Munneke, 2017) in order to gain better insight of the problem at hand and whether the data collected from the intervention shows positive change—yes, it is good that you acknowledge this key step in the process. Furthermore, the researcher is expected to be objective and transparent when reflecting on the data collected whether it is quantitative or qualitative data (van Swet & Munneke, 2017). Finally, collecting qualitative data will increase the validity of the data collected and ensures an objective interpretation of the collected quantitative data (Baarda, et al., 2013; Bell & Waters, 2014).

In conclusion, a systematic approach is targeted during this action research. The process began with data collection which was followed by forming a research question. As a result, an intervention has been designed which is based on grounded theory. The following step will be to implement the intervention, collect data to help answer the research question, and analyse this data objectively in order to understand whether the designed intervention was successful or not. This is a sophisticated account of your process in which you integrate literature in the discussion of your journey as a researcher throughout.