TRANSCRIBING AND CODING P.A.R.T. SESSION SESSION 2

May 3rd and 5th, 10 to 12 Library Classroom

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Topics for the Two Sessions

- What is transcription?
 - Best Practices: Approaches, Accuracy and Transcription Rules
- Take Home Transcription Exercise: rules, transcribing, checking
- What is thematic Coding?
 - Best Practices: Approaches, Codebook
- In-class Coding Exercise

Concordance Comparison: Two independent transcribers

In Word, Click on Review Tab

- Select Compare Compare
 - In window, browse to select one transcript as original and the second as revised document.

Compare differences

Coding

We are talking about Thematic Coding

- What is Thematic Coding?
 - Labelling, with a word or short phrase, that summarizes,
 reduces or condenses (language or image-based) data
 - Categorizing, Organizing
 - Interpretation
 - The first step of analyzing for patterns
 - Theory testing

Why Code?

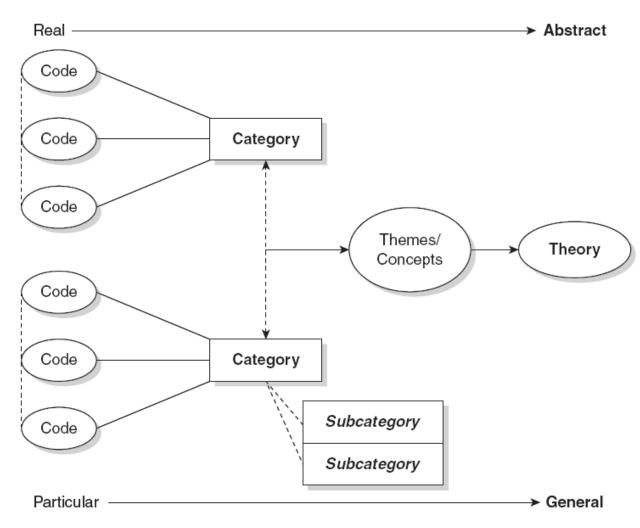
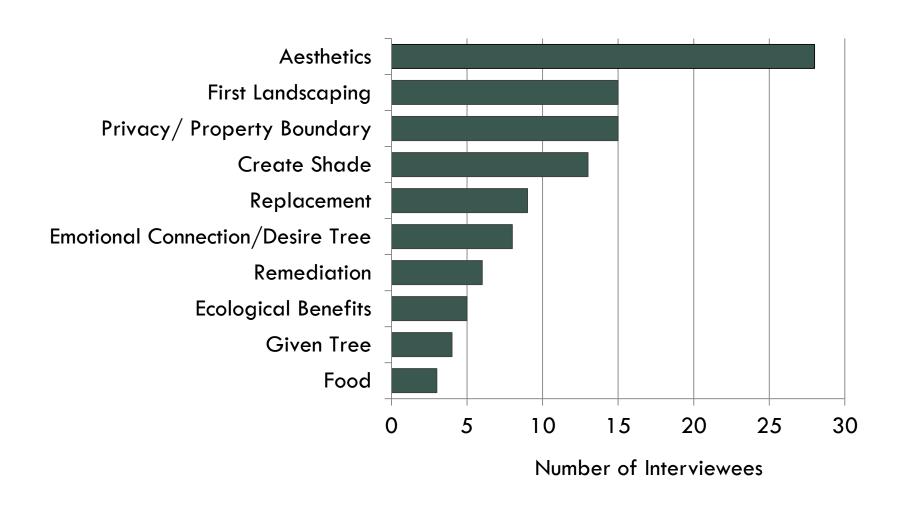


FIGURE 1.1 A streamlined codes-to-theory model for qualitative inquiry

Coded Analysis from transcripts: Reasons for Planting



What can be coded?

- Interview data
- Focus group data
- Field notes
- Emails, webpages
- Movies or TV
- Any language (or image)-based data

Coding is interpretation so.....

The purpose of the research should guide the coding

"There's just no place in this country for illegal immigrants. Round them up and send those criminals back to where they came from."

- Grounded theorist code: No place
- Descriptive Coding: Immigration Issues
- Values Coding: Xenophobia

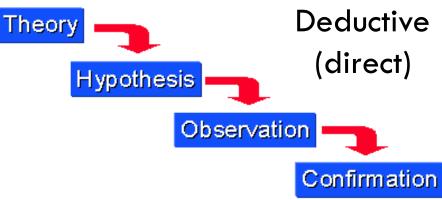
The Codebook

- □ It should have a working list of all codes
 - Include any hierarchical classifications
- It should have detailed definitions of what each code represents; what is included and what is not included

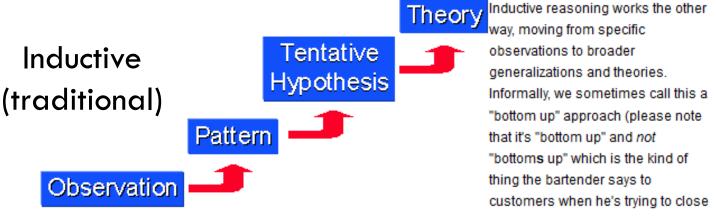
It may be shared among research projects, have been written over time, or you may need to create one for the specific project

Deductive versus Inductive

Deductive reasoning works from the more general to the more specific. Sometimes this is informally called a "top-down" approach. We might begin with thinking up a theory about our topic of interest. We then narrow that down into more specific hypotheses that we can test. We narrow down even further when we



collect observations to address the hypotheses. This ultimately leads us to be able to test the hypotheses with specific data -- a confirmation (or not) of our original theories.



for the night!). In inductive reasoning, we begin with specific observations and measures, begin to detect

Workflow: Deductive Approach

- Determine code names and definitions based on the theory your using/hypothesis testing
- 2. Browse transcripts to get a general sense- see the type of language associated with each code
- Read transcript carefully and apply codes based on the pre-determined definition
 - Reflect as you go if codes have been appropriately defined.

Workflow: Inductive Approach

- Use an iterative approach to coding
 - 1. Start with an initial list of code names and definitions
 - 2. Quickly review all transcripts
 - Update list
 - 4. Carefully start coding transcripts
 - 5. Update list of code names and definitions
 - 6. Repeat....

Coding Exercise

Download words file from:

http://sites.utm.utoronto.ca/conway/content/p
art-transcription

Open it in Word and enable editing

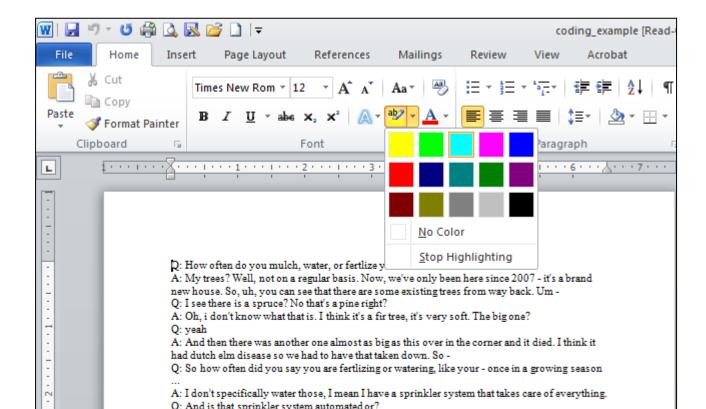
Descriptive coding

Tree Removal = Yellow highlight

Tree Planting = Red

City or Street Trees = Green

Fertilizer = Turquoise



Workflow: Inductive Approach

- How do you figure out what should be given a code?
 - It's common/repeated throughout
 - It's surprising
 - The participant/text says it is important
 - It is a link to theory/concept/other text
- Apply codes to everything rather than fewer codes to less text

Workflow: Inductive Approach

- Once iterative code process is complete:
 - Go through codes and text and determine which codes can be dropped, or combined
 - Determine if there are clusters or hierarchies of codes

How to be a good coder?

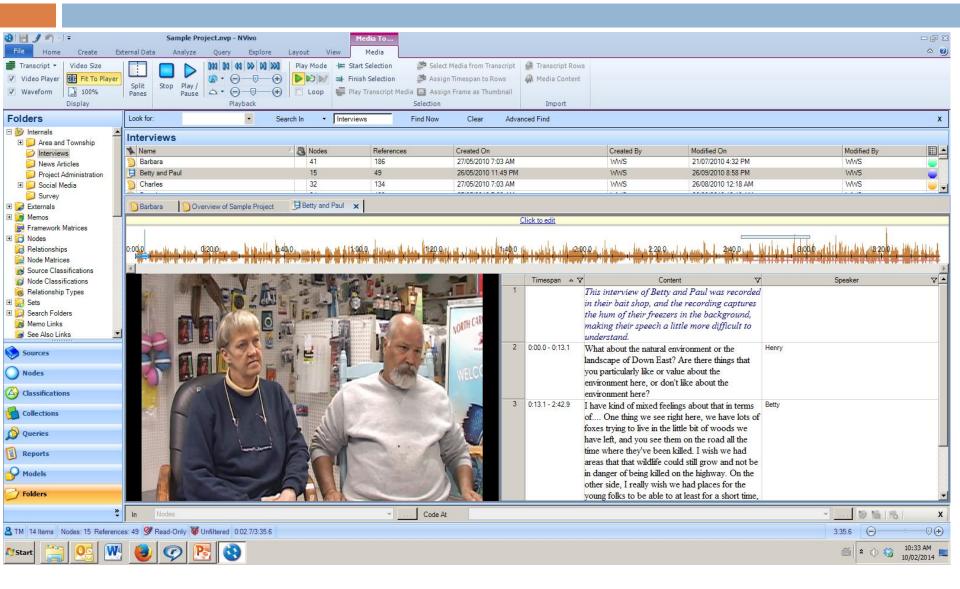
- Organized
- Perseverance: time consuming
- Deal with Ambiguity: text often won't sort into tidy coded clumps
- Be flexible: be willing to re-do code labelling/definition
- Creative
- Ethical
- Precise with vocabulary

How to actually code

In word document, with two columns: one for the text
 and one for the code

In specialized software: highlight text and enter label

Transcription and Coding Software



What happens to coded materials?

- Use to identify themes, including frequency of different themes
 - May involve comparing and contrasting
 - May be proof for or against a theory

- Use to examine relationship between codes or themes
 - Hierarchies, clusters, visual diagrams

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