

## Chapter 2

# Beyond the Explicit Lies the Implicit

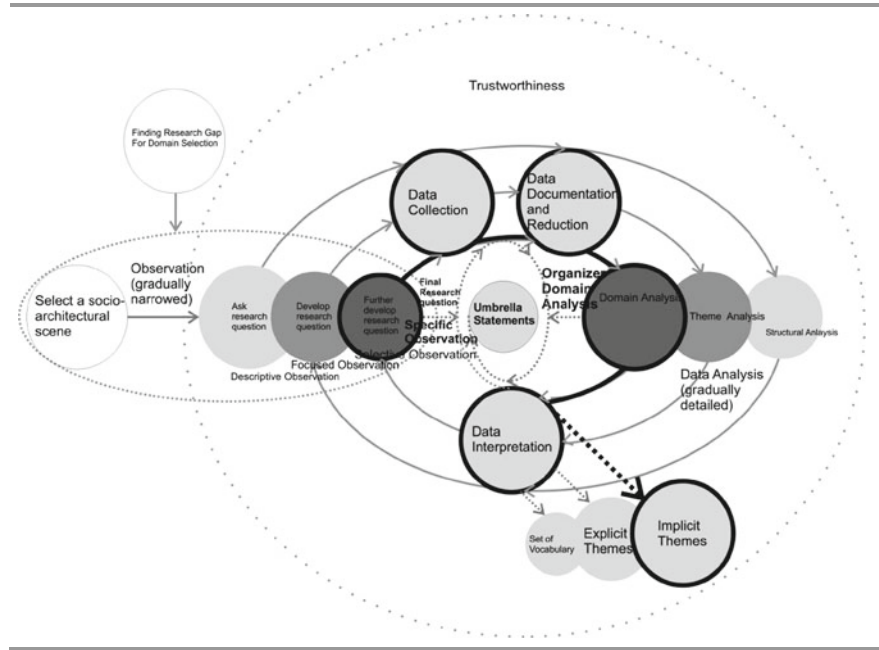
**Abstract** This chapter gives the hint of shifting the paradigm of the research. From a rather straightforward questionnaire survey, it adopted the ethnographic method and searched for something implicit that no formal data collection method can offer. The data came in stories, and the findings started to emerge as themes. A theme matrix is shown at the end to give the reader a preview of what to expect later on.

**Keywords** Ethnography • Explicit reasons • Implicit reasons • Transformation • Theme analysis

### 2.1 Ethnography as the Method of Study

Ethnographic method of study may not necessarily follow any consistent step-by-step guideline. Different ethnographers have described their methods which vary significantly. However, one thing they all emphasized is the trustworthiness of the researcher in the community. If the researcher cannot be trusted, the collected information may not be acceptable. Most researchers also agreed that being a member of community is a privilege for such research, especially during data collection and interpretation, though gradually becoming a part of them for the purpose of the research can also work significantly. Considering the classical basic methods of research, which are Data Collection, Documentation, Analysis, and Interpretation, ethnographic studies may not follow a systematic path or cycle of work flow (Spradley 1980). Many researchers emphasized that for qualitative research such as ethnography, a straightforward pathway may not be recommendable. Therefore, researchers derive their own method or steps according to the need of the research.

For this study, it started with a straight-line path of data collection, documentation, analysis, and interpretation. However, at the end of this path, the objectives were reset, and another cycle was conducted, with a change in technics.



**Fig. 2.1** An example of cyclic method of Analysis (*Source* Author)

For example, a structured questionnaire searching for explicit reasons during the second cycle was replaced by informal interviews when search for implicit reasons became objective during the third cycle. Theoretically, these cycles can go on and on, however, this research continued one more cycle after finding implicit reasons when it categorized them into certain themes that concluded it. Figure 2.1 gives an idea of the methodological framework of the research. The figure also shows that the cycles can be stopped at a certain point depending on the researcher’s decision, and umbrella statements can be drawn to conclude the study (shown in dotted circle in the center).

A “Domain Analysis” was carried out by Khan (2014) in search of behavioral patterns of transformation. It discovered several domains, which consisted of themes to describe the transformation incidents. These themes were related to the physical behavioral patterns of transformation. As a continuation of that study, explicit reasons of transformation were identified in Chap. 1. However, the relationship between the explicit reasons and the behavioral patterns appeared non-conclusive and in fact insignificant, when search for the implicit reasons began. Therefore, such attempts were not made further.

However, it was tempting to relate particular transformation incidents to explicit and implicit reasons. This is in order to find whether there can be any consistent relationship between explicit and implicit reasons. This was done at the end of the study after constructing the themes and domains of implicit reasons.

**Table 2.1** Implicit theme and domain matrix

	Domain	Themes
Major	Exercise of power and control	2
	Emergent learning	4
	Management techniques	7
	Post-mature-family concerns	2
Minor	Transformation has symbolic expression	3
	Sociocultural norms	1
	Mid-family crisis	4
Meta	The whole history reflects the gradual change of values of life as it matures	1

(Source Author)

2.2 Theme Matrix

The themes were initially categorized according to their frequency. The major themes were those that occurred frequently, and the minor ones were those that were less frequent but had the potential to be extremely significant. Finally, meta-themes were identified as those that were related to the whole history of transformation of the houses. A list of the domains are shown here (Table 2.1), which can give the reader a preview of the chapters to follow.

References

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