

Dialogue Paper 1 Assignment

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Synopsis of Article

Lincon & Guba are seeking to look at the similarities, differences, and conflicts that are present between theories such as positivist, postpositivist, critical theory, constructivist theory and participatory theories. I will go through their work and share their thoughts and mine on the various approaches found in Lincon & Guba's chapter titled "Paradigmatic Controversies, Contradictions, And Emerging Confluences". This quote sums up most of the article, "Foundational criteria are discovered; nonfoundational criteria are negotiated. It is the case, however, that most realists are also foundationalists, and many nonfoundationalists or antifoundationalists are relativists (pg. 176). As I will show below in the Thinking Hat Process, positivist and postpositivist would be the "realist" and the remaining approaches would follow more of a "relativists" way of seeing the world.

Thinking Hat Process by Edward Bono

Blue Hat-- Management and Organization of the Thinking Process

- As I go through this article by Lincon & Guba, I will be intentional about seeking the ideas found in each of the "Hat" thoughts indicated by the various hat colors.
- I will consider the variety of concepts the authors have shared and try to work through the benefits, potential setbacks, and try to glean the value to be gained through their work.
- I will take the time to consider the various processes shared and to gain values where found and not throw out what I do not align with but rather save it to mind as variations in how others see and process the world.

- I will ask questions like why the various approaches are so drastically different with some seeing facts being found (realist) where others seem to imply generalities (relativist) that change depending on the direction of the wind or direction from which you are looking (or angle of the light shining through the crystal).
- Many of the concepts are disturbing to me based on the lack of foundational integrity that can be seen throughout the structures of the approaches discussed.

White Hat-- Neutral and Objective

- Lincon & Guba indicate they come to research from a Constructivist approach.
- The **Positivist Approach** sees the world as being black and white (“naive realism”). They see facts as being “apprehendable”, findings to be truth, typically use more quantitative principles, they do not count feeling (opinion) as an influencer, seeks to verify hypothesis, and there are hard (established) facts by which all things are measured and understood.
- The **Postpositivist Approach** is similar but a bit less certain of the information gathered as leading to distinct facts (“critical realism”). Their findings, are “probably true”, may include qualitative research, seeking to falsify hypothesis and see hypothesis not proven false as being probably true, and avoids influence by researcher.
- The **Critical Theory Approach** is apt to use historical ideals such as social, political, cultural, economic, ethnic, and gender values that are open to subjectivism that can use dialogue to refine, may seek to bring about “emancipation” or “restitution”, utilize “historical revisionism”, desires to be a “transformative intellectual” and desires to

advocate and to be an activist, sees no universal standard of truth or fact, and has a desire to be altruistic and to bring about empowerment.

- The **Constructivist Approach** is relativistic and takes on a stance of creating reality as it is influenced or experienced by each individual, it is very fluid and subjective, uses dialogue to interact with various views of reality, claims to be trustworthy and authentic, sees no guiding standard of truth or fact, seeks to be altruistic and to promote empowerment.
- The **Participatory Approach** has aspects of both subjective and objective realities that are influenced by the mind and by the cosmos. Considers aspects of experiential, propositional, and practical knowledge, while seeking practicality. Learns through participation in the work of research. This approach also works to “transform the world in the service of human flourishing.” It also falls in the group of theories that see themselves as being incommensurable (having no common standard or measurement).

Yellow Hat-- Positive and Optimistic

- The **Positivist Approach**—This is a well-reasoned approach in that it does not consider opinion but seeks to utilize the facts to arrive at a conclusion or thought process that would be repeatable and is seen as fact based.
- The **Postpositivist Approach**—This concept does well to remain faithful to fact finding or being able to arrive at truth, but not being dogmatic about the certainty of their understanding of the data and their drawn conclusions.
- The **Critical Theory Approach**—This thought process is one that is very appealing to many who do not desire to live life within previously clearly defined boxes. It allows for

thought that is more generalized and open to artistic interpretation that would be desirous of some people or people groups. The fact that it is altruistic and desire to empower people is a strength to be admired. It also seems like a strength that dialogue is used to sort through and consider the information gathered. It is a tool that may help question the status quo and begin refinement or easing of some of the very strictly held ideas of some that are believed to be based in facts but are also born of subjectivity.

- The **Constructivist Approach**—This approach is not restrained by facts or commonly held understandings of reality. It allows each individual researcher to see an event through their own personal lens and to be free to share their reality unburdened by what has been.
- The **Participatory Approach**—This idea seems to attempt to take on a balanced approach to research in that it is both subjective and objective. I have respect for a thought process that acknowledges that though we are seeking to be objective, we are also human and will be subjective at times. The approach chooses to look very formally at data as well as to utilize basic observational skills that may be skewed by life experience. The approach has a built-in desire for “human flourishing”. Further, it is valuable to consider the tenets of practicality when doing research.

Black Hat-- Negative Assessment

- The **Positivist Approach**—This approach is lacking because it does not consider emotions and seemingly tries to develop one truth that is succinct and applicable to all regardless of various circumstances.

- The **Postpositivist Approach**—This group could have more faith in the data collected to be able to draw more distinct outcomes but could also learn from some of the other theories to be more flexible as well.
- The **Critical Theory Approach**—This approach is very concerning to me due to the apparent lack of a standard of consistency of facts or steady interpretation of the same data. It is so subjective that it may be tempting to begin to call down up and up down due to the perspectives of the researcher. It does not seem as though research conducted in this manner is lacking something worthy of consideration when seeking to bring about evidence-based practice to the counseling world.
- The **Constructivist Approach**—This method is not one that I would utilize. It seems ridiculous to be looking at research from a stance that seems to be okay with creating an individual reality based on personal desires or even on a group-based desire pattern. Further, the idea that truth is unobtainable is contrary to facts of the universe.
- The **Participatory Approach**-- It falls in the group of theories that see themselves as being incommensurable (having no common standard or measurement). Without a standard to be measured, it would be impossible to replicate the findings in a meaningful way, nor would it matter if you did replicate it when being tossed to and fro by every wind in this research paradigm.

Green Hat-- Creativity and New Ideas (Where will this idea get us?)

- The **Positivist Approach**—This approach should hold true to its general stance while also coming across as more compassionate towards those who have life challenges that

keep them from being able to see the world as a nice set of general edicts that can be followed with out complication.

- The **Postpositivist Approach**—This approach seems to attempt to balance distinct fact finding and the absence of the ability to know truth. It should be an approach that can be tolerated by the very strict as well as the looser research styles.
- The **Critical Theory Approach**—I cannot think of anything creative to add to this process because it seems to already paint with a very wide brush that give license to the researcher to interpret data most any way, they believe to be good even if all other scholarly work has denied or refuted such principle. It seems this idea will lead research in a completely unusable direction.
- The **Constructivist Approach**—This theory seems to be all about being creative and having new ideas. This concept is one that will lead our world to questioning basic facts (e.g., male and female, gender roles, and potentially cause people to believe there are countless genders that are based on one's feelings verses facts that are grounded in reality).
- The **Participatory Approach**—This idea seems to have an air of balance while also lacking a firm foundation from which to build by seeing it as being incommensurable. It would be helpful to use some of the principles while also being able to adhere to standards of logic and reasoning that have been the foundation of research and human existence since the beginning of time.

Red Hat-- Emotional View

- The **Positivist Approach**—This approach may be seen as unfair and even unkind by some people who do not fit into the nice, neat boxes the approach desires that all should exist within.
- The **Postpositivist Approach**—This approach may still be seen as unfair and even unkind by some people who do not fit into the nice, neat boxes the approach desires that all should exist within but should be a bit more tolerant.
- The **Critical Theory Approach**—This seems like a dumpster fire of a way to go about research! It concerns me at the deepest level that the lack of non-subjective standards are being used by groups of researchers who have the implicit desire to shape the counseling world.
- The **Constructivist Approach**—This idea is even worse than a dumpster fire! It will cause chaos and will lead many people down diverse paths that will bring about deprecating results that will lead to higher instances of division among families and society at large. When you have your truth, I have my truth, and no standard of truth that guides us, this can only lead to anarchy or at best disunity among the masses.
- The **Participatory Approach**—I think I like this approach while having some concerns about its lack of a foundational standard that is common and measurable. It is very frustrating to think people are trying to do research while throwing out (diminishing) established laws and principles established throughout time.

Reflective Summary of Learning

What I have seen is that this work provides several insights to how I could go about the qualitative research process. It seems clear that there are some approaches that are lacking in

foundation and therefore lend themselves to a high level of subjectivity (relativism). However, it may also be the case that some concepts are too ridged and therefore lend themselves to being overly ridged which may cause the researcher to overlook potential benefits (realist). I believe without a doubt that we should question everything, but I further believe we must all be grounded in and on basic accepted principles of truth that are indeed immutable. I firmly see the need for a balance approach even though the vast differences in the theories seem incompatible. A premise given by the authors Lincon & Guba (2000), indicate that the postmodernist approaches will “overtake modernist assumptions of an objective reality, as indeed, to some extent, it has already done in the physical sciences” (pg.178). It is one thing to attempt to make social constructs fluid, but we have crossed lines reasonability when we begin to make subjective things like physical science subjective. I will seek to be balanced in my research.

References

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