



## THE QUALITATIVE RESEARCHER AS A *BRICOLEUR* AND A BEDSPREAD MAKER

Giovana Calcagno Gomes<sup>1</sup>

The first researches with qualitative approach were developed under the positivist focus in the decades of 1920 and 1930. A number each time larger of qualitative researchers in the field of health is observed. In the nursing area this type of research has been gradually increasing, a fact which is proved by the crescent number of articles, papers and thesis in this approach with the use of different methods in the search for improvement in the care of nursing.

The qualitative research has had an important role in the construction of knowledge regarding the beliefs, experiences, ways of life, meanings, allowing the free expression of the perceptions and the subjectivity of the human beings, emphasizing the reality of the participants, thus providing them the right to expresses themselves. It originally came from a concern to understand the other, providing visibility to the experienced world, to their daily lives.

Along his development the researcher becomes a *bricoleur*, the one who works with his own hands, dealing with the unpredictable, collecting and re-signifying objects, in a complex process of creation. Under such perspective, the researcher redefines the objects of the investigation. The *bricoleur* maker is apt to perform a great number of different tasks, making use of a restrict set of utensils and materials which are available to him. The *bricoleur* makes a new object from new pieces or fragments of other objects, putting everything he finds together and which he uses for the object he is making<sup>(1)</sup>.

The qualitative researcher begins to be analyzed as a *bricoleur* learning to extract contents from different subjects, using a variety of interpretative practices, *making bedspreads*, thus forming assembly. This maker of bedspreads sews, edits and reunites pieces of the reality, different voices, perspectives, experiences, narratives, reports, points of view in a dialogical text, providing them with interpretative sense<sup>(2)</sup>.

The qualitative research presupposes the ability of the use of different methods of data collection and analysis, joining them in a triangle in the attempt to assure the comprehension of the phenomenon profoundly investigated. As a *bricoleur*, the qualitative researcher needs to take over the challenge to transit through several interpretative paradigms according to the object of the study focused, appropriating different methods and theories, creating something new, which allows a different view, thus producing new knowledge<sup>(3)</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>RN, Professor, Nursing School, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, Ad hoc consultant of Rev Rene. Rio Grande, RS, Brazil. E-mail: giovanacalcagno@furg.br

The product of the work of the *bricoleur* is a bedspread, a reflexive assembly, a creative *bricolage* in which all the data collected are explored, translated and reconstructed through the use of methods and theories<sup>(4)</sup>. These domains characterize different types of *bricoleur* researches: theoretical, methodological, interpretative, political, narrative, conscious of the existence of diverse research approaches and possibilities of results<sup>(2)</sup>.

Every qualitative researcher nurse needs to face the challenge of being a *bricoleur* and make bedspread, warming with them the knowledge of the area, thus improving nursing as social practice and the nursing care we perform. Shall we make a bedspread?

## REFERENCES

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