

Content analysis of transcript of 3rd interview

List of raw data themes

I was playing soccer and a girl was coming in for a shot
I along with another defender from my team went up to try and stop the ball.
It was pretty important, um it wasn't part of our like league
we were playing a number like four seed and we were like number two seed
we were playing for our title.
(the injury) It was pretty bad
I got a concussion and I hurt my jaw
it was probably one of the worst concussions I have had so far
This is my thirteenth year (of playing this sport).
I'm on a high school varsity team
I also play on another like semi-competitive team
everyone kind of just goes for the ball
it wasn't really a foul or anything
I don't really remember it
people say it was like my own team mate that kicked me.(smiling)
but I don't really blame her,
she was just trying to stop the goal
I was really frustrated
later I had to be pulled out of the game
that's frustrating and also I couldn't eat solid foods for a long time
I really like to eat so that's [hesitates] that's angering
not being able to eat what I wanted to.
I thought I just got like bruised
but then I found I got concussion
and I also hurt my jaw, so I didn't really know.(the extent of my injury)
I usually play through injuries
I've never gotten seriously hurt. So it's easy to keep going

Linking raw data themes together

Raw Data Themes	Higher Order Themes
<p>I was playing soccer and a girl was coming in for a shot I along with another defender from my team went up to try and stop the ball. It was pretty important, um it wasn't part of our like league we were playing a number like four seed and we were like number two seed we were playing for our title</p>	<p>meaning of the football match to the player</p>
<p>(the injury) It was pretty bad I got a concussion and I hurt my jaw it was probably one of the worst concussions I have had so far</p>	<p>experience of her injury</p>
<p>This is my thirteenth year (of playing this sport). I'm on a high school varsity team I also play on another like semi-competitive team</p>	<p>experience of playing football</p>
<p>everyone kind of just goes for the ball it wasn't really a foul or anything I don't really remember it people say it was like my own team mate that kicked me.(smiling) but I don't really blame her, she was just trying to stop the goal</p>	<p>feelings about the accident</p>
<p>I was really frustrated later I had to be pulled out of the game that's frustrating and also I couldn't eat solid foods for a long time I really like to eat so that's [hesitates] that's angering not being able to eat what I wanted to.</p>	<p>negative consequences of the accident</p>
<p>I thought I just got like bruised but then I found I got concussion and I also hurt my jaw, so I didn't really know.(the extent of my injury) I usually play through injuries I've never gotten seriously hurt. So it's easy to keep going</p>	<p>effects of concussion and injury</p>

An Interpretation of the content analysis

The footballer is committed to her game and realizes the importance of her position as the goalkeeper for her team. She is also aware that the opposing team is ranked two places below her own. There is no league title at stake but winning the match is still important, as it is a matter of pride.

Although her injury is serious enough for her to have sustained the worst concussion in her life, she accepts that such accidents can happen in sport. No blame is attached to anyone even if it was one of her own team who kicked her. She even manages to smile at the image of her teammate trying to save a goal but injuring her in the attempt.

What clearly concerns the player is the fact that she had to retire from playing in the game. She found this frustrating since with her previous injuries she had kept going and in this key match she was unable to continue. She would have felt that she had let herself down and she had let the team down. The commitment that players feel to their team is essential if the team is to succeed. By having to retire from playing this participant would feel that she lacked sufficient commitment or loyalty to her colleagues.

Interestingly she also remembers that the injury to her jaw had prevented her from eating solid foods for a considerable time. This inability to eat what she wanted caused her to suffer, a point that was confirmed by the hesitation she expressed at this point. She demonstrated real anger for this experience whereas she appeared to feel more regret than anger when she was unable to continue playing. There is possibly a contradictory aspect to her character when frustration felt in lacking a choice of food causes more anger than having to retire hurt from the field of play.

Comments on interpretations of content analysis

There is no 'correct' interpretation for any specific content analysis. As in real life, individuals can make different but equally acceptable interpretations of material. What matters is that the interpretation is based on the themes identified in the qualitative content analysis, that it is reasonably valid and that it involves some element of creativity on the part of the interpreter. It should not be a simple reiteration of what the interviewee has already said since this would negate the active interpretation required.

In the initial reading of the interview the researcher should endeavour to empathise with the interviewee and this feeling of empathy should continue as the raw data themes are selected. However when the process of placing raw data into **linked** themes begins then the researcher uses his or her own interpretation. This interpretation continues in the next column that is headed 'higher order themes'.

The final and most critical stage is to write a short discussion that forms an interpretation of what the qualitative content analysis reveals. There may be a temptation just to record the facts of the interview, or simply to describe the experiences of the interviewee but express these in different words. This temptation should be avoided. An active and more creative process of interpretation is involved.

As psychologists we know that the process of say visual perception does just this – we perceive the same scene differently from other individuals because we bring a different interpretation to the scene, one that is based on our own memories and experiences. We create our own unique interpretation and this process involves adding something to the scene or subtracting something from the scene in order to make it more real or more acceptable to us. There is nothing unusual in this, we do it all the time that we are conscious. Qualitative content analysis uses a similar interpretive approach but one dependent upon the written word.