"Thick Description" as a Qualitative Method

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Abstract:

The precise use of qualitative research methods is one of the issues of Iranian research. The aim of this article is to apply Clifford Geertz's " thick description" and give it a methodological aspect. This research, relying on Geertz's interpretive theory of symbolism, will provide a methodological scheme to the qualitative researcher to use the fat description method correctly. In this research, the ambiguity in the definitions and theoretical view of this technique is removed and a general scheme of the methodology will be given to researchers in the main sections of "specifying the research field", "acquaintance with the natives and cultural immersion", "brief description", and finally, " thick description". This research shows that the qualitative research method of "fat description" is a type of scholarly writing that goes beyond description and observation and expresses the context, area, time, geography, factors surrounding the depth of history and everything that openly and secretly leads to the emergence of a specific behavior or event. Therefore, in this qualitative research method, the basis of analysis is a description that goes beyond the superficial and contemporary level.

Keywords: Clifford Geertz, thick description, qualitative research, interpretive theory of symbolism.

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