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Title

Living with Traumatic Brain Injury: Narrative Analysis of a Survivor's Photographs and Interview

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Learning Objectives

After viewing this poster, participants will be able to:

1. List three types of narrative analysis methods useful for analyzing qualitative research data (photographs and interview text).
2. Describe some challenges faced by a TBI survivor and the strategies employed to address these challenges.
3. Articulate living with traumatic brain injury from a survivor's perspective.

References

1. Becker, H. (1986). "Photography and Sociology," in Becker *Doing Things Together* (Evanston, ILL: Northwestern University Press), pp. 221-271
2. Gee, J. P. (1991). A linguistic approach to narrative. *Journal of Narrative and Life History/Narrative Inquiry*, 1, pp.15-39
3. Mishler, E. (2004). Historians of the self: Restorying lives, revising identities. *Research in Human Development*, 1(1&2), pp. 101-121

Abstract

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a serious problem affecting not only injured individuals but also their families and communities. The lived experience of people with TBI can inform peers, families, providers, and policymakers of issues related to living with this injury and facilitators and barriers to recovery from the patient's perspective.^{1,2} In an exploratory study intended to inform a dissertation proposal, a TBI survivor took photographs of living with her injury and the people and circumstances that have helped and slowed her recovery, and discussed her photographs with the researcher. This poster presents an analysis of the study data (images and text) using three narrative analysis methods—looking at the details of an individual photograph,³ structuring the interview text into its discourse units,⁴ and grouping the respondent's series of photographs into

¹ Prigatano, G. P. (2000). Neuropsychology, the patient's experience, and the political forces within our field. *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, 15, 1, 71-82.

² Rich, M., Lamola, S., Gordon, J., & R. Chalfen. (2000). Video intervention/prevention assessment: A patient-centered methodology for understanding the adolescent illness experience. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 27, 155-165.

³ Becker, H. (1986). "Photography and Sociology," in Becker *Doing Things Together* (Evanston, ILL: Northwestern University Press), pp. 221-271.

⁴ Gee, J. P. (1991). A linguistic approach to narrative. *Journal of Narrative and Life History/Narrative Inquiry*, 1, pp.15-39.

plot categories (problem, action, and resolution).⁵ The analysis provides a glimpse of the impact of a TBI on an individual's perceptions of self and her feelings of connection (and disconnection), hints at the usefulness of the photograph in helping this survivor to articulate living with a brain injury and sum up her experience, brings out movement in her healing over time, and reveals her hopes for the future.

⁵ Mishler, E. (2004). Historians of the self: Restorying lives, revising identities. *Research in Human Development*, 1(1&2), pp. 101-121.