

Best Practice in Qualitative Research Methods with Linguistically Diverse Participants: A Narrative Review

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BACKGROUND

There is a growing recognition in the scientific community of a need to include participants from underrepresented communities, such as those who are linguistically diverse or whose primary language preference is a language other than English. Conducting qualitative research across languages requires methodological adaptations to ensure scientific rigor and accurate findings.

PURPOSE

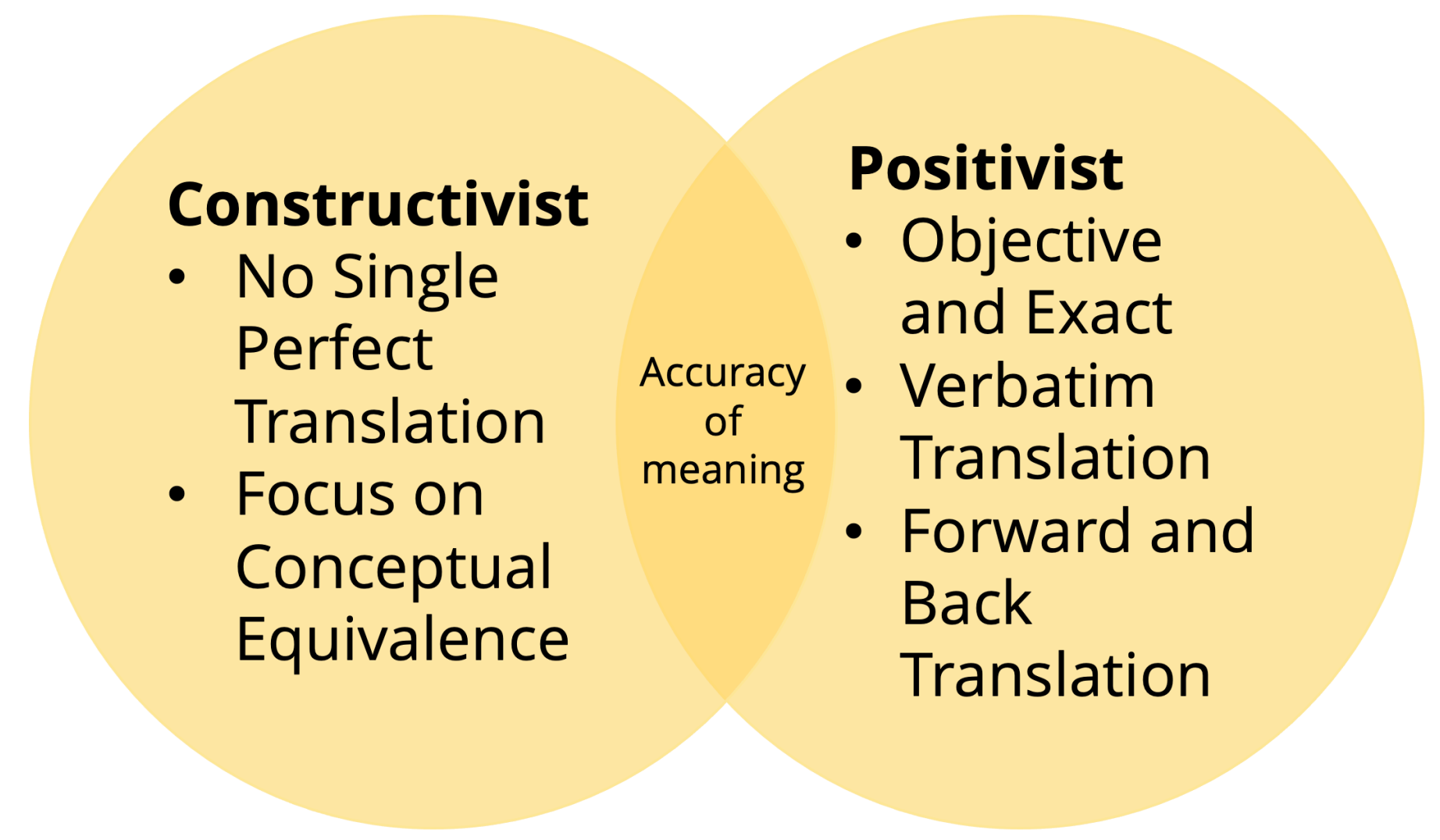
To identify recommended methodological approaches to conducting qualitative research with linguistically diverse populations

METHODS

- Literature search of PubMed, CINAHL, and Web of Science
- Keywords: "Limited English Proficiency," "Qualitative Methods," and "Linguistically Diverse"
- Years 2000-2022
- Two researchers came to consensus on inclusion of articles for full text review

RESULTS

Epistemological Paradigms



Planning Phase

- Partner with a Community Advisory Board with respect and equal power
- Use purposive snowball sampling
- Leverage community relationships to help with recruitment
- Ensure research documents are culturally and linguistically appropriate
- Include bilingual team members or interpreters/translators

Data Collection Phase

- Consider the cultural norms of participants when assigning an interviewer or focus group leader
- Consider translators/interpreter's lens on effect on meaning
- Pilot interview guides to test for cultural and language accuracy for intended meaning

Data Analysis Phase

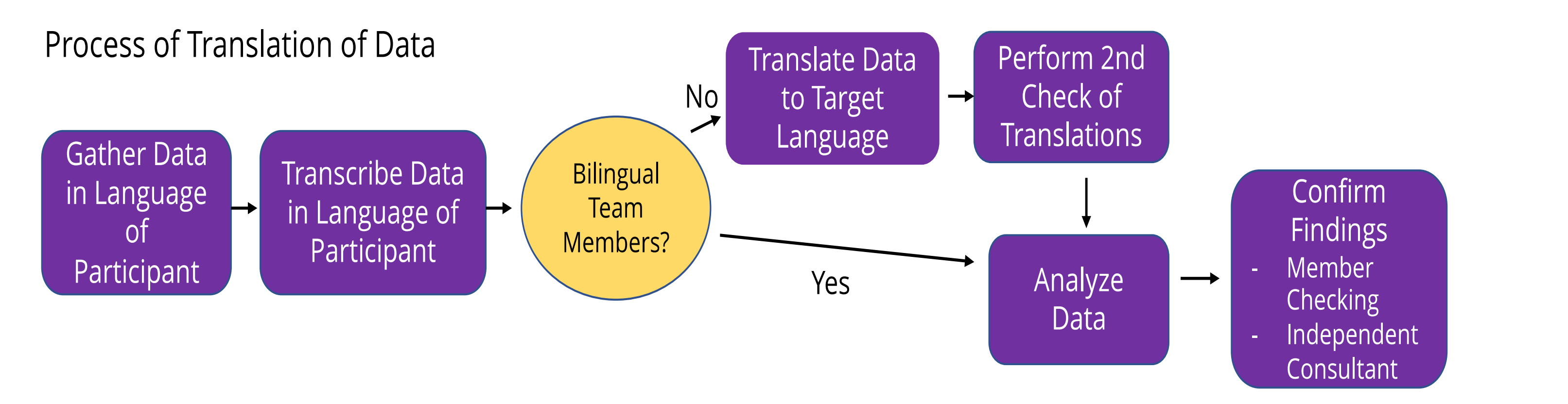
- Understand each team member's lens/positionality
- Phenomenology should be avoided by monolingual researchers
- Use frequent team meetings to discuss interpretation/translation

Concepts

- **Verbatim Translation:** literal word for word
- **Forward Translation:** source language to target language
- **Back Translation:** target language back to source language
- **Conceptual Equivalence:** word/phrase chosen represents the same concept across languages
- **Transliteration:** no exact translation exists, but chosen word/phrase is as close as possible
- **Sequential Translation:** transcribing data in the source language first, then translate transcription

Translation

- Verbatim translation with back translation preferred by positivists
- Conceptual equivalence preferred by constructivists



Enhancing Rigor

- Ensure all team members are performing reflexivity to assess biases
- Use tools like note-taking and audit trails
- Perform member checking
- Use an independent consultant to check accuracy of translations and/or findings

DISCUSSION

- Multiple steps should be taken to ensure accuracy of translation and interpretation of meaning
- Not adjusting research methods to account for translating meaning across languages and cultures threatens the rigor and validity of research findings

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