

## Chapter 5

# Data Analysis

This chapter presents the data analysis procedures we used once we collected the information for this study. It describes the approach to analyse the data, the steps we followed, the triangulation process and the categories of analysis.

### 5.1 Approach for the Data Analysis

As this research is considered as a qualitative study, which is defined by Denzin and Lincoln (2005) as a “situated activity that locates the observer in the world” (p.3), we followed a qualitative data analysis. It is a process that describes, interprets and comprehends information. According to Patton (2002), qualitative data analysis is characterised by being a systematic process where the researcher can be in closer contact with the participants and each case of study is particular. Also, because of that, the enquiry of the research is seen as an intricate event where any situation can happen. It is understood from a *holistic perspective*: “The whole phenomenon under study is understood as a complex system that is more than the sum of its parts; focus on complex interdependencies and system dynamics that cannot meaningfully be reduced to a few discrete variables and linear, cause effect relationships” (Patton, 2002, p. 41).

Another feature is that the process of analysis is *inductive*. For the author, the discovery of the details that form patterns and their connections, starts exploring and after confirming findings based on theoretical principles. Finally, in terms of Patton (2002), qualitative data research is

*reflective*; the *voice* and *perspective* of the researcher must be credible and authentic in order to validate the data gathered.

## 5.2 Steps to Analyse Data

The data analysis for this investigation was focused on the three principles of the Grounded Theory described by Urquhart (2013). At the first stage, we went through the data gathered. We underlined all relevant information that was found. This phase accounts for the first step, which is the “Open Coding”. Glaser (1978; as cited in Urquhart, 2013), he described open coding as “coding data everyway [sic] possible” (p. 23).

Afterwards, we followed the selective coding in order to highlight and select the suitable information regarding the research question we had. For this phase, we integrated the slices of data that were connected to the main categories and subcategories that were emerging. In this way, Glaser (1978; as cited in Urquhart, 2013) provided a definition for selective coding such “the stage when coding is limited to only those categories that relate to the core category” (p.24). From this perspective, we could identify two main categories and we attributed some subcategories to each one of them.

Regarding the last principle, the theoretical coding, once we had the categories and subcategories, we looked for theory that strongly supported them. Urquhart (2013) stated that “theoretical coding is when we relate the codes to each other and look at the nature of the relationships between those codes” (p. 26). At this stage, we looked at the codes we had and then, we looked for theory that was related to each one of the codes that emerged.

## 5.3 Triangulation and Validity of the Process

For this research, the instruments we used to collect data were surveys, field notes, and structured interviews, during an academic term in both

schools. In this sense, we followed the principles of the methodological triangulation that Denzin (1978) described as “the combination of methodologies in the study of the same phenomenon” (p. 291).

5.4. Codification of the Data Collection Instruments

Throughout the process of analyzing data, some steps were followed as explained in the lines above. In the process of indexing data, we used some codifications to identify the pieces of information from each data collection instrument. In order to better understand the source of the excerpts presented in the following chapter, we illustrate the codifications adopted in this research study in the chart below.

Table 3. Codification of Instruments

| CODIFICATION          | MEANING                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Survey 1              | Survey No. 1- The number changes according to the instrument from which the excerpt was taken. |
| Interview 1           | Interview No. 1                                                                                |
| Field note 3          | Field note No. 3                                                                               |
| Q4                    | Question No. 4- Surveys and interviews                                                         |
| Rose, Moon, Alex, etc | Pseudonym of students                                                                          |

As the procedures of the data analysis were described, in the following section we present the findings of this research study which are divided into categories and subcategories.

