

## **Methodological Reflexive Memo**

### ***The Water We Think In***

**Memo Title:** *Transition from IPA to Narrative Inquiry*

**Date:** 05/19/26

#### **Location/Context:**

Dr. Maddox feedback session

#### **Dissertation Chapter/Area Impacted:**

- Chapter 1
- Chapter 2
- Methodology
- Data Analysis
- Conceptual Framework
- Entire Dissertation

#### **Related Theories/Theorists:**

(Mezirow, Milton, Freire)

#### **Tags/Codes:**

(Methodology, Epistemology, Positionality, Voice, Narrative Authority, Identity Shift)

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### **Section 1: Triggering Event**

#### **What specifically initiated this reflection or disruption?**

While reviewing my methodology, IPA, Dr. Maddox stumbled on the words – phenomenology, heurism. The same words I had struggled with.

- I often understood the meanings but still struggled to remember how to pronounce them. Especially if I had been mis-pronouncing them in my head for years (e.g. contemplative, pedagogy.)
  - I thought that these words were a necessary part of academic language.
  - Seeing a brilliant professor in academia struggle with words made me realize that pronunciation didn't reflect intelligence.
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### **Section 2: Prior Assumptions**

#### **What did I previously believe?**

I believed that I needed to use academic language to be part of academia.

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### **Section 3: Emotional Reflexivity**

#### **What emotional responses emerged?**

I was embarrassed for him – because of my own remembered shame / humiliation from others publicly, when I had mispronounced a word.

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### **Section 4: Critical Reflection**

#### **What deeper meaning emerged?**

Dr. Maddox told me from the start to use my own words, speak in my own voice – I had tried to find alternative words for IPA but it didn't translate down.

Seeing someone else struggle with this, I realized that my ideas needed to be clear to more than academics, and that I should stop trying to fit the dissertation to a methodology that is not in my language.

Dr. Maddox had validated/recognized my ideas – so I had the confidence to find/switch to a theory that didn't require me to translate the academic tone.

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### **Section 5: Methodological Transformation**

#### **How did my methodology evolve?**

I used AI to find a more complementary methodology. First looking at natural inquiry and finally finding narrative inquiry. This was more fluid, and in line with my content and personal positionality. I changed the method, but it did not change my design or content. The change strengthened my dissertation.

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### **Section 6: Researcher Identity Transformation**

#### **How did I change as a scholar/researcher?**

This was a transformation for me as well. I felt acknowledged, I now really owned the methodology and this event mirrored the content of my dissertation.

I was able to see my own strengths, and those that needed support from AI, more clearly.

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### **Section 7: Future Implications**

#### **What future implications emerged?**

I wrote an essay about the experience, to portray the feeling.

The Water We Think In <https://pathwaysandjourneys.com/constellations/f/the-water-we-think-in>

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### **Closing Reflection**

I realized my imposter feeling reflected a deeper fear of intellectual vulnerability.