

Alfred Schutz's Perspective in Phenomenology Approach: Concepts, Characteristics, Methods and Examples

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Abstract.

*Alfred Schutz with his phenomenology introduced the concept of multiple reality. For Schutz, the reality in this world is not only in the reality of social life, but also includes fantasy reality, dream reality, etc. Therefore, the aim of this research is to analyze and describe how the concepts, characteristics, methods and examples of the use of the phenomenological approach in Alfred Schutz's perspective qualitative research methodology. The results of the study explain that the phenomenological approach pioneered by Edmund Husserl has a watchword: *zurück zu den sachen selbst* (back to things themselves) that a method for explain phenomena in their purity, where these phenomena are anything that in some way appears in human consciousness. Whether in the form of something as a result of fiction or in the form of something real.*

Keywords: *Phenomenology Approach, Qualitative, Alfred Schutz, Concepts and Methods*

1. INTRODUCTION

The term of phenomenology etymologically derived from Greek. From the root word "phenomenan" or "phenomenon" which literally means "symptoms" or "what has appeared" so it is real to us. [1] This term was introduced by Johann Heinrich Lambert, in 1764. Nevertheless, Edmund Husserl (1859-1938) is more viewed the father of phenomenology, because of the intensity of his studies in the realm of philosophy. But, the phenomenology that we know through Husserl is the science of phenomena. However, Alfred Schutz is better known in building this perspective. Through Schutz the Husserl's thoughts, which were felt to be abstract, could be understood and were more "grounded". Schutz was also the first in apply phenomenology to social science research. For that, in understanding of phenomenology, the researcher will more refer at Alfred Schutz's thoughts.

Max Weber's theory of social action historically become the basis for the birth of a phenomenological perspective (also symbolic interactionism). Weber calls social action when all of a person's behavior when and to the extent concerned gives subjective meaning to his behavior. According to Weber, human action is essentially meaningful, involving interpretation, thinking and deliberate action. Social action for him is an intentional, deliberate action for others and for the actor himself, whose thoughts are actively interpreting each other's behavior, communicating with each other, and controlling his own behavior according to the purpose of the communication. So they mutually direct the behavior of the interaction partners in front of them. So for Weber, society is an active entity consisting of people who think and perform meaningful social actions. [3] For this reason, understanding of social action is carried out by examining the subjective meaning that individuals give to their actions, because humans act on the basis of the meaning they give to these actions. [4]

Edmund Husserl then criticized existing scientific phenomena stated that scientific knowledge has actually been separated from everyday experience from activities in which experience and knowledge are rooted. Thus, he offers phenomenology. [5] Husserl developed a philosophical system rooted in subjective openness, a radical approach to science that continues to be criticized. Phenomenology, for Husserl, is no use to they who are closed-minded. [6] A phenomenologist is a person who is open to reality with all possible series of meanings behind it, without any tendency to evaluate or judge. So it can be said that phenomenology is a study without prejudice.

Husserl's concept of phenomenology also refers to (influenced) by Max Weber's concept of verstehen. Verstehen is understanding. Reality is to be understood, not to explain. According to Husserl, phenomenology is an interest in something that can be understood directly with their senses. Where all knowledge is obtained through a "phenomenon" sensor. [7]

Weber's thought about social action is interesting, as well with Husserl as a source of conceptual basis for Schutz in building phenomenology. [8] Strengthening Weber's opinion about the importance of social action for humans, Schutz argued that understanding actions, speech and interactions is a prerequisite for anyone's social existence. The process of meaning begins with a sensing process, an experience process which continuous. The stream of sense experience, at first, was meaningless. Meaning arises when connected to previous experiences and through the process of interacting with other people.

Alfred Schutz teaches that every individual is present in the stream of consciousness obtained from the process of reflecting on everyday experiences. By assuming the existence of other people's reality which is mediated by the way of

thinking and feeling, reflection then passed on to others through their social relationships. According to Schutz, phenomenology as a method is formulated as a medium for examining and analyzing the inner life of individuals in the form of experiences regarding phenomena or appearances as they are, which is commonly called the stream of consciousness.[9]

Besides Husserl and Alfred Schutz, phenomenology developed, among other, in the thinking of Merleau-Ponty, Martin Heidegger, etc. But in general, from all schools of phenomenology, according to Lubis [10], have the same belief in terms of:

1. The belief that human can understand the true reality of a phenomenon.
2. The belief that there are things that prevent humans from reaching true understanding.
3. Desire breaks through the fog (barrier) by seeing the phenomenon itself as it is.

II. DISCUSSION

BASIC CONCEPTS OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH WITH A PHENOMENOLOGICAL APPROACH

The phenomenology that pioneered of Edmund Husserl has a watchword: *zurück zu den sachen selbst* (back to things themselves). [11] Understanding which means that phenomenology, as said by Husserl a method for explaining phenomena in their purity. According to Husserl, phenomena are things that in some way appear in human consciousness. Either in the form of something of fiction or in the form of something real. [12] Thus, quoting Creswell's opinion [13] phenomenology seeks to explain the meaning of the life experience of a number of people about a concept or phenomenon, including self-concept or their own view of life.

Littlejohn states: "phenomenology makes actual lived experience the basic data of reality". [14] So in phenomenology, real life experience as the basic data of reality. So that in the study of phenomenology, what is important is the development of a method that does not falsify phenomena, but can describe as it appears. For this purpose the phenomenologist should focus his attention on this phenomenon without being prejudiced at all. A phenomenologist should abandon all theories, presuppositions and prejudices in order to understand phenomena as really. Understanding phenomena as they really is an attempt to return to the goods as they appear in consciousness.

Unlike the positivistic approach which considers reality is single, Alfred Schutz with his phenomenology introduced the concept of multiple reality. For Schutz, the reality in this world is not only in the reality of social life, but also includes fantasy reality, dream reality, and etc. In this case Schutz modifies the basics of William

James's understanding of "parts of the universe". We run into various kinds of reality or "parts of the universe", from the most important physical world, the world of knowledge, the world of tribal beliefs, the supernatural world, the world of individual opinion, to the world of madness, and the world of khalayan. But James did not discuss the social implications of these different orders of social reality, and this is what Schutz wanted to further develop.

According to Schutz, the world everyday is an intersubjective world shared with other people with whom we interact. In this world we always share our stories with our friends, and with others, who also live and interpret them. Therefore our world as a whole will never be completely personal, even in our consciousness we will always find evidence of other people's consciousness. This is proof that our unique biographical situation is not entirely the product of our own actions.

At this point Schutz's theory is very similar to the symbolic interactionist of George Herbert Mead. But according to Schutz, the intersubjective world consists of very multiple realities, in which everyday reality which is common sense or taken for granted, appears as the main reality. Schutz paid great attention to this common sense reality. This kind of reality that we accept, putting aside any doubt, unless the reality is at issue. This common sense reality and everyday existence can be called our practical importance in the social world.

According to Schutz, the essence of common sense exists automatically, namely in the everyday world. This is an elaboration by Husserl's *Lebenswelt*. The practical interest in this common sense reality is contrasted by Schutz with the scientific or theoretical interests of scientists (scientific reality). Scientific theory is an activity that aims to observe and understand the world systematically. According to Schutz, people move not based on scientific theory, but by practical interests. This intersubjective world is shared by other people who experience it.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PHENOMENOLOGY RESEARCH

Mulyana said that the phenomenological approach is included in a subjective or interpretive approach. Maurice Natanson further said that the term phenomenology can be used as a generic term to refer to all views of social science that place human consciousness and its subjective meaning as the focus for understanding social action. As a research method, phenomenology, according to Polkinghorne is: "a phenomenological study describes the meaning of the lived experiences for several individuals about a concept or the phenomenon. Phenomenologists explore the structure of consciousness in human experiences "(phenomenological studies explain the meaning of life experiences for some individuals about a concept or phenomenon. Phenomenologists explore the structure of consciousness in human experience).

According to Watt and Berg, phenomenology is not interested in studying the aspects of causality in an event, but seeks to understand how people experience something and the meaning of that experience for themselves. [15] Kuswarno further describes the basic nature of qualitative research, which relevant describes the methodological position of phenomenology and distinguishes it from quantitative research:

1. Explore values in the experience of human life.
2. The focus of research is on the whole, not on the parts that make up the whole.
3. The purpose of research is to find the meaning and nature of experience, not just looking for explanations or looking for measures of reality.
4. Obtain a picture of life from a first-person perspective, through formal and informal interviews.
5. The data obtained is the basis for scientific knowledge to understand human behavior.
6. Questions made reflect the interests, involvement and personal commitment of the researcher.
7. Seeing experience and behavior as an inseparable unity, be it the unity between subject and object, or between parts of the whole. [16]

Phenomenology seeks to reveal and understand the reality of research based on the perspective of the research subject. This requires the union of the research subject with the supporting subjects of the research object. Involvement of research subjects in the field to experience is one of the main features of research with a phenomenological approach. The phenomenology used in this research is in the perspective of Alfred Schutz which emphasizes the importance of intersubjectivity. The essence of Schutz's phenomenology is that the understanding of action, speech and interaction is a prerequisite for any social existence. Schutz explained that phenomenology examines how members of society describe their everyday world, especially how individuals with their consciousness construct meaning from interactions with other individuals.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DATA ANALYSIS TECHNIQUE WITH PHENOMENOLOGICAL APPROACH

The application of phenomenology in the qualitative realm can be briefly explained as follows:

1. Research focus.

Phenomenological research is essentially concerned with the interpretation of reality. Phenomenology seeks answers about the meaning of a phenomenon. Basically, there are two main things that are the focus of phenomenological research, namely:

- a. *Textural description*: what is experienced by research subjects about a phenomenon. What is experienced is an objective aspect, data that factual, things that happen empirically.
- b. *Structural description*: how the subject experiences and makes sense of his experience. This description contains a subjective aspect. This aspect concerns opinions, judgments, feelings, hopes, and other subjective responses from research subjects related to their experiences. [17]

2. Determination of informants and research locations

The determination of informants in phenomenological research depends on the capability of the person being interviewed to be able to articulate their life experiences. Creswell revealed that the requirements for good informants are: "... all individuals studied represent people who have experienced the phenomenon" (all the individuals studied represent people who have experienced the phenomenon). Meanwhile, the research location can be in a certain place or scattered, with attention to the individuals who will be used as informants. The problem of numbers is not the main thing, although Creswell said that there are only 10 informants, the most important thing is the occurrence of data saturation (data redundancy).

3. Data collection technique

The main data collection technique in phenomenological studies is in-depth interviews with informants to uncover the flow of consciousness. In the interview process, the questions posed were not structured and in a fluid atmosphere. Although it can be deepened by using other techniques such as participatory observation, document tracing, and others.

4. Data analysis technique

Creswell explains the data analysis techniques in phenomenological studies as follows:

- a. Researchers fully describe the phenomena / experiences experienced by research subjects.
- b. The researcher then finds statements (interview results) about how people find topics, details of these statements and the treatment of each statement has equal value, then these details are developed without repetition.
- c. The statements are then grouped into meaningful units, the researcher breaks down these units and writes a text description of the experience accompanied by examples carefully.
- d. The researcher then reflects on his thinking using imaginative variation or structural description, looks for the overall possible meaning and through divergent perspectives, considers the frame of reference for the

- phenomenon, and constructs how the phenomenon is experienced. .
- e. The researcher then constructs all explanations about the meaning and essence of the experience.
 - f. Researchers reported the results of their research. The report shows a unity of meaning based on the experiences of all informants. After that, then write a combined description.

EXAMPLES OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH WITH A PHENOMENOLOGICAL APPROACH

In this sub-section, a summary of qualitative research articles is presented. This article entitled "Because Life Must Go On (A Phenomenology Study of the Life of People with HIV / AIDS)" written by Septiana Dewi Indriani and Nailul Fauziah. This article was published in the Journal of Empathy Volume 6 Number 1 in January 2017. [18]

Abstract:

HIV / AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease that is common in the community. Data on HIV and AIDS cases are increasing every day. Apart from being a medical problem, HIV / AIDS is also a social problem, related to stigma and discrimination. This study aims to provide an overview of the life experiences of people with HIV / AIDS. This study uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. Data collection was carried out by interview which will be analyzed using data exclusion techniques. The research subjects were three people from the snowball technique with different patterns of transmission. The results showed that each subject had different psychological dynamics. The three subjects had different responses in dealing with HIV diagnosis and the problems they faced. The three subjects chose different coping strategies. AG and R use coping strategies that focus on emotions, while A uses coping strategies that focus on problem solving.

Preliminary

HIV or Human Immunodeficiency Virus is a type of virus that attacks white blood cells in humans which has an effect on reducing the immune system. With this condition, humans will be susceptible to infection and disease. AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is a symptom of a disease that arises from the weakening of the immune system.

Data from the Indonesian Ministry of Health in 2016 shows that the pattern of transmission is very large in early adulthood, namely the age range of 20-40 years. The stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV / AIDS in the community will directly affect the psychology. This condition will cause shame for sufferers because they feel they do not get moral support from their environment.

In Indonesia, there is still a lot of exclusion and different treatment from people with HIV / AIDS. Thus, the problem of HIV / AIDS is not merely a medical problem but also a problem of stigma and discrimination in society or the environment. With the high rate of people living with HIV / AIDS and the stigma and discrimination they experience, research on the life experiences of people who have contracted the disease is interesting to study. The aim of this study is to find out and understand the psychological dynamics in the lives of people with HIV / AIDS.

III. METHOD AND RESEACH

This research is a qualitative research with a phenomenological perspective. The study of phenomenology is a perspective that focuses on individual experiences and interpretations of the world. Femonenology is also interpreted as a method of looking for psychological meanings that shape symptoms through investigation and analysis of examples of symptoms experienced by participants.

The focus of this research is to understand and describe the psychological dynamics of life experiences for people living with HIV / AIDS. The psychological dynamics referred to are the period before HIV / AIDS diagnosis, the period at the time of diagnosis, the postdiagnosis period, and the time when experiencing discrimination from the surrounding environment.

Participants in this study were people living with HIV / AIDS who were selected based on predetermined criteria in accordance with the objectives of the study. These criteria are:

- a. People with HIV / AIDS,
- b. Are in the category of early adulthood,
- c. Individuals who are willing to be research subjects.

Taking research subjects using the snowball technique. Data collection and analysis data collection in this study using semi-structured interviews. There are things that are conveyed to research subjects before the interview process is carried out, namely:

- a. Researcher's goals and interests,
- b. Confidentiality,
- c. Research procedures, and
- d. Prepare to start the interview.

The data analysis method used in this research is data exclusion technique. This technique is a data analysis technique that includes several steps, namely:

- a. Obtain an understanding of the data as a whole,
- b. Prepare a Description of Individual Phenomena (DFI),
- c. Identifying episodes in each DFI,

- d. The implications of the themes in each episode, and
- e. Synthesis of the explanation of each theme in each episode.

IV. REULT AND DISCUSSION

The three participants in this study experienced different treatments in the process of caring for their families. According to Diana Baumrind, there are several patterns or styles of parenting in the family, namely authoritarian parenting, authoritative parenting, neglectful parenting, and indulgent parenting. The three participants each experienced authoritarian parenting, neglectful parenting, and taxing parenting in childhood.

The three participants also differed in relation to the origin of disease. There are people who get HIV / AIDS from their partner (husband) who is a drug addict. Meanwhile, other participants contracted HIV / AIDS because they used drugs. It is generally known that transmission of this disease can occur through needles (drugs or when injecting drugs using non-sterile needles), sexual intercourse, and through breast milk.

The three participants also experienced different stigma and discrimination in their surroundings. The first participant (A) experienced unpleasant treatment from his extended family. Family A did not want to visit or interact with family A. In fact, when they came into contact they accidentally took ablution water. The second participant (B) experienced a similar treatment. In the family, cutlery is separated from his family. Not only family, work environment B (Puskesmas) also does the same thing. There were some co-workers who yelled and scolded him while doing his job. The third participant (C) experienced different stigma and discrimination. He must find the fact that his child is also infected with HIV / AIDS until he dies.

The burden of life from psychological stress and worsening physical conditions made the three participants have different views about the meaning of their lives. There were participants who interpreted their lives as God's people who had to accept all the trials and conditions that were placed on them. Other participants consider that the conditions they must accept now are a form of sin from their past. This is a form of resilience aspect, namely the ability to analyze problems. That is, he is able to analyze the various causes that lead to his current condition. Other participants interpret their life differently. She interpreted that the life line she had to accept now was a form of warning from God that his life would not be long. For that, She never blamed her husband for infecting her the disease. She also analyzed that the disease she is experiencing is a consequence of having chosen to marry the wrong person (living with HIV / AIDS). Because initially, she decided to get married as an outlet for disappointment with her first ex-husband. Moreover, her second marriage did not ask permission from her extended family as a form of resistance to her family's

authoritarian form. Finally, she decided to use the rest of her life by doing something that could benefit others. One of them joined the Peduli Kasih Foundation in Semarang.

Conclusion:

Based on research that has been conducted on these three participants, the researchers found that each participant has different psychological dynamics in living their life. The background of childhood care has a big influence on the participants contracting the HIV / AIDS virus. Some are infected from their husbands and some are infected because of drugs (use of unsterile needles). The treatment, stigma, and discrimination inflicted on the three participants from their families and environment were also different. Some were excluded from the extended family, some were treated differently down to the smallest things (separation of cutlery), and some were treated harshly in their workplace. The three participants also differed in interpreting their life after being convicted of HIV / AIDS. There were participants who thought that their illness was a trial from God. There are those who also think that the HIV / AIDS they experienced at that time was a form of punishment for their past actions. Other participants interpreted their life as a warning that their life would not be long. For this reason, she never blames other people for the cause of his illness and is more interested in activities that benefit others.

This is an example of qualitative research with a phenomenological approach, if you pay attention to the example of the research results above, then substantially you see the point of view of the research object as a whole or explicitly then the data that has been obtained from the informant or research object is written as is it in the form of scientific narratives. If you want to learn more about phenomenological approach, I recommended you to read my result research with the title tolerance people religions in Sorong Regency [19]. There, I discuss about phenomenon of people religion.

V. CONCLUSION

The phenomenology that was pioneered by Edmund Husserl has a principle: *zurück zu den sachen selbst* (back to things themselves) which is a method for explaining phenomena in their purity, where these phenomena are everything that in some way appears in human consciousness. Whether in the form of something as a result of fiction or in the form of something real. Phenomenology according to Creswell seeks to explain the meaning of the life experience of a number of people about a concept or phenomenon, including their own self-concept or view of life. The phenomenological approach is included in a subjective or interpretive approach.

The application of phenomenology in the qualitative realm can be briefly explained as follows:

1. Research focus. Two main things are the focus of phenomenological research, namely: a. Textural description: what is experienced by the research subject about a phenomenon. b. Structural description: how the subject experiences and makes sense of his experience.
2. Determination of informants and research locations. The determination of informants in phenomenological research depends on the capability of the person being interviewed to be able to articulate their life experiences. Meanwhile, the research location can be in a certain place or scattered, with attention to the individuals who will be used as informants.
3. Data collection technique. The main data collection technique in phenomenological studies is in-depth interviews with informants to uncover the flow of consciousness proposed that is not structured and in a fluid atmosphere.
4. Data analysis technique

Researchers fully describe the phenomena / experiences experienced by research subjects.

- a. The researcher then finds statements (interview results) about how people find topics, details of these statements and the treatment of each statement has equal value, then these details are developed without repetition.
- b. The statements are then grouped into meaningful units, the researcher breaks down these units and writes a text description of the experience accompanied by examples carefully.
- c. The researcher then reflects on his thinking using imaginative variation or structural description, looks for the overall possible meaning and through divergent perspectives, considers the frame of reference for the phenomenon, and constructs how the phenomenon is experienced. .
- d. The researcher then constructs all explanations about the meaning and essence of the experience.
- e. Researchers reported the results of their research.

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