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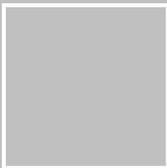
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Found Poems, Member Checking and Crises of Representation

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Abstract

In order to establish veracity, qualitative researchers frequently rely on member checks to insure credibility by giving participants opportunities to correct errors, challenge interpretations and assess results; however, member checks are not without drawbacks. This paper describes an innovative approach to conducting member checks. Six members of a learning organization participated in two group interviews to examine the use of poetry as a method to promote individual and organizational learning. Several weeks later, participants received a copy of their transcripts and were asked to create a "found poem" to reflect their thoughts and feelings about using poetry as a learning tool. There was resonance between the interview themes produced by traditional open coding methods and those using participant-created found poems. However, the found poems added an emotional depth and connection that was missing from the traditional approach of coding qualitative data. This suggests that participant-created found poems can provide an agentic alternative to the usual method of member checking and also expand the notions of aesthetic approaches within qualitative research.

Keywords

Arts - Based Research, Found Poems, Member Checks, Trustworthiness, Crisis of Representation

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