

A few notes on the exercise:

Please note that the study and persons mentioned in this exercise are wholly fictitious.

Acknowledgements

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Exercise: Re-Identification (qualitative data)

-  Work in small groups
-  Time: about 30 minutes
-  At the end, one member of your group should briefly present the results of your discussion and your conclusions.

Have a look at the transcript on the following page. Discuss which personal / sensitive information the document contains. Then think about

- how such information would make the re-identification of participants possible;
- how the transcript could be anonymized to avoid re-identification. Take into account the loss of information due to anonymization and discuss how it affects the opportunities for analysis.

STUDY

Group-Work and Learning at Swiss Elementary Schools

Interview-ID: HS_T_1_201009
Interviewed Person (T): Ms Schmitt, Teacher at the elementary school Binningen-Bottmingen
Interviewer (I): C. Kornfeld
Transcribed by: B. Sommer
date: 19.09.2010

[...]

T: I can tell in advance who will run into difficulties. But then it is more or less a matter of planning which topics can be covered with which group. Well, a matter of previous knowledge, you know? And of lowering your expectations...

I: Ah.

T: So we decided to adapt the requirements a little.

I: O.K.

T: Yep, it was a compromise made so we could run your study here in this school.

I: Oh, you did it like this just because of us?

T: Yes, yes, we planned it like this to run the study within this class.

I: M-hm, o.k. Would you like to make any additional comment that might be of importance for us to better understand the last three hours of teaching?

T: Actually, no. Maybe I'll come back to it within the interview, but actually, no. Ah, stop, there is something I have to say, especially in the context of comparing this class with others. I have the feeling that most of the pupils in this class are quite capable of working by themselves, although it can be really noisy in here sometimes.

I: Really?

T: Yep, really. It is only a problem for one or two of them, who are not willing to get organized and simply don't do anything. It is surprising really, not only for me but also for other teachers of this class. Most of the pupils are willing to solve the exercises on their own and I do not have to control them, in general. Of course, I have to check their exercise books afterwards...

I: M-hm. yes.

T: Except for Christian... He's the one who has to do everything again for tomorrow. Well, he is one of those special-needs pupils. He needs a lot of attention. Lots of difficult experiences in his life. Single mother, and his sister died two years ago here in this school. I think he is one of those ADHD children...

I: M-hm. M-hm.