



QUALITATIVE RESEARCH: IPA & DATA ANALYSIS

Review your pilot or first interview

Top tip: transcribe your first interview before you do any others!

- Is the schedule working as intended?
- How did your participant react?
- How did you handle the situation?
- How did the interview feel?
- What do you wish you'd done differently?

Data transformation

Transcript example from Larkin (2001)

R: So I filled in the form, and it came back and I scored 49 [PAUSE] Thought, that's quite good, 49, not a pass but you know, not bad at all - can't be an alcoholic.

I: [Yeah

R: And] then they told me it was out of 50 [BOTH LAUGH] So - for some unknown reason, all the questionnaires here are marked out of 50 - so I scored 49 out of 50 and thought, 'Fuck. They've got a point.' You know, they'd diagnosed me as an alcoholic, and I had a very high reading. So [PAUSE] I still didn't believe them and there's still a certain amount of/ there's x per cent of doubt in my mind.

Top tip: Make notes after each interview; keep a research diary!

Transcription

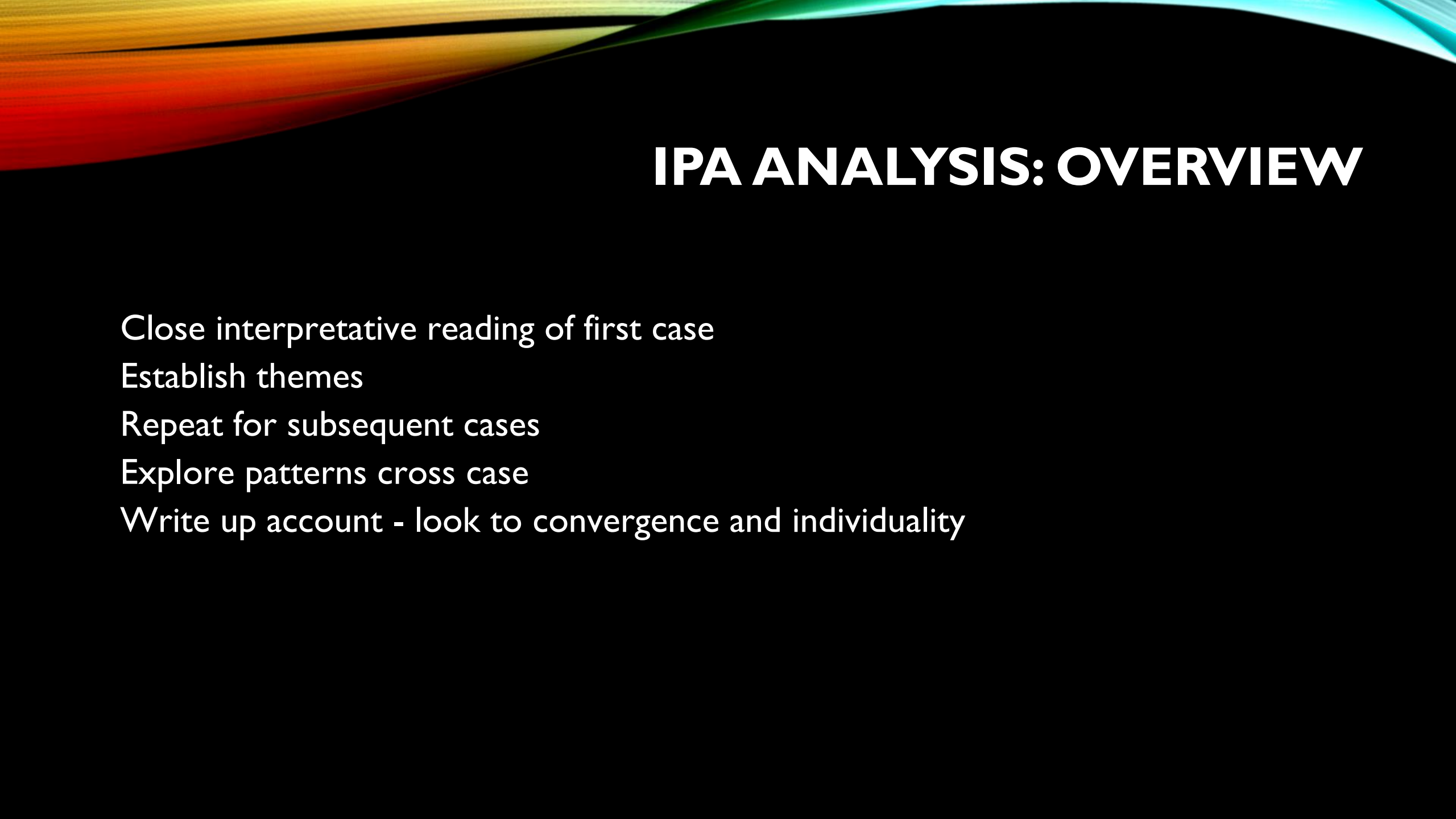
- formatting [line numbers, margins, line-spacing] for workable transcripts;
- transcribe whole recording; include all semantic content;
- transcribe only major prosodic features (e.g. SIGHS/LAUGHS; interruptions and overlaps; ums and ahhs) - not lengths of pauses etc.

Data management

- Anonymise as you transcribe
- Store securely, and **back up**
- At each stage of the process, think about not only what you will do next, but how you will document it (create an audit trail)

PREPARING FOR ANALYSIS

- Your aim: to develop an *organised, detailed, plausible, and transparent* account of the *meaning* of the data.
- Your objectives:
 - 1) to identify patterns in the data, and eventually to draw these together in to some kind of structure (e.g. table of themes)
 - 2) to produce a narrative account of this structure for the analysis section of your report.



IPA ANALYSIS: OVERVIEW

Close interpretative reading of first case

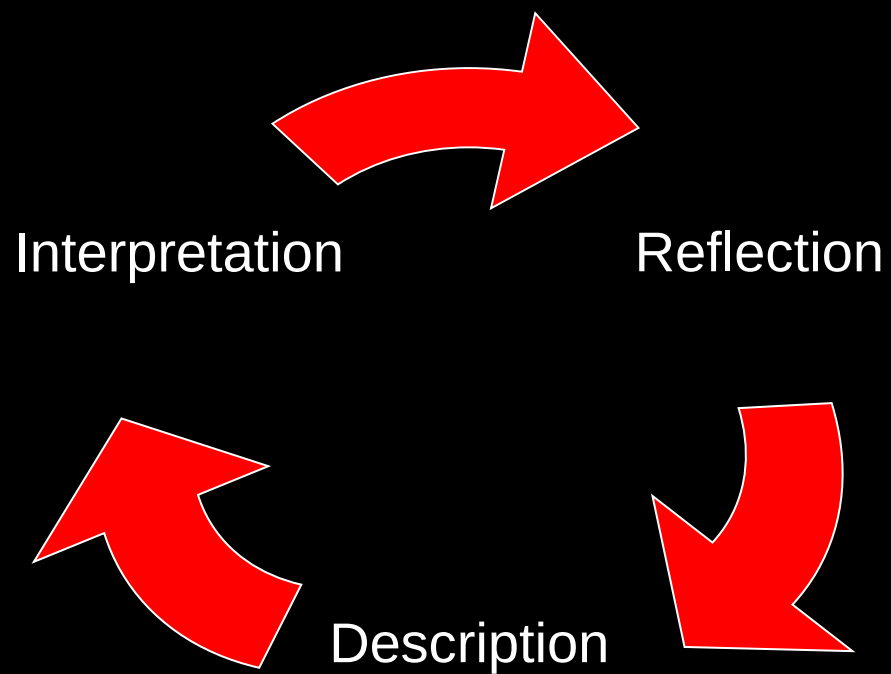
Establish themes

Repeat for subsequent cases

Explore patterns cross case

Write up account - look to convergence and individuality

Process of synthesis and analysis



IPA ANALYSIS: STEP 1

Reading and re-reading the transcript

- Ensures participant is focus of analysis
- Allows overall mapping of interview structure and narrative (developing a mental model of the person and the interview content)
- Allows awareness of how interview dynamics shape the interview and highlights areas of specific detail

IPA ANALYSIS: STEP 2

Initial coding

- This is the most detailed and time consuming step
- The analyst essentially notes anything of interest within the transcript (margin)
- It begins to identify the specific ways each participant talks about, thinks about and understands their experiences

Alcohol - main substance
Early recognition of the problem

"I wasn't ready to listen to it"

"I was the only coloured person bonded your way"

"I was fighting it so much"

Relates to the "insanity of drink"

Morning lapses

Four Horsemen of terror metaphor (religious background)

Temporality - "every day"

L: Okay, um, let's start with, how you started in the program?

R: Um, I started in the program, initially, um, when I was 24. My friend recommended it to me because of my substance misuse, which was primarily alcohol at that point. It was, you know, it was leading me into a lot of damage and I kind of knew, then, I had a problem. And, um, I went to meetings and stuff, AA meetings, and, I used to go there and I didn't really relate to what people were saying.

L: So these were the first meetings?

I: Yeah, and I stopped drinking for a few days, but then, drank again, and. That, yeah, it was through a friend basically, he was in the program already and he introduced me. But I wasn't, I wasn't really ready to listen to it, or hear what people were saying, because, um. One, I was the only coloured person in the meeting {laughter}. And, two, everyone seemed to be a lot older than me, quite a lot older than me. Up, um, in their forties at least, and I used to go there and listen to these people, and, thought, oh, I can't be one of these people, you know, because they are like, old and they're all white {laughter}. And, I just didn't understand it. I did not understand it at all. But, that was probably my first introduction.

L: To the program?

I: Yeah. But at the same time, even though I was fighting it so much, there were certain things that people said, that I really, really, related to as well.

L: Like what?

I: Like, um, you know, just the stories and the insanity of drinking. Waking up and not knowing what you've done the night before, and that feeling of terror, loneliness, bewilderment and despair. You know, like, what did I do? All the panic, you know, all the fear. That morning fear, I really related to that at first.

L: Morning fear?

I: Morning fear is. In the program they call it the four horsemen.

L: Um, I don't know what it is?

I: Terror, and, it is just an expression, you know, the four horsemen, like people have expressions for certain things. But, um, these four horsemen are terror, you know, my god, look what I did! Loneliness, oh my god, I'm the only one in the world, why my life has messed up. Bewilderment, how has this happened to me again? And despair, is, will I be able to stop? Will this ever change?

L: Okay

I: Yeah, every day, that was the same for me. My dad used to come into my room and swear at me, fuck, what have you done. Why don't you stop drinking? Why can, why don't you just drink beer? Why you keep drinking whisky? And {silence} and, I really didn't have an answer. It was just lies. My whole life was lying, basically, at that point.

L: Was it?

Early bottle-needs help not intrinsic it

Fools different from AA people

Struggles with recognition

Relating to AA's stories

Morning fear

vivid portrayal of the problem

Temporality of drinking - every day

Impact on family

IPA ANALYSIS: STEP 2

Initial coding

- Description and content
- Language use
- Conceptual and interrogative coding

IPA ANALYSIS: STEP 2

Initial coding

Being in NA is challenging
Wants to disclose/tell everyone
But sometimes he doesn't
Conflict

“But the other part of me”
Mixed feelings

Tom: It is really difficult being in this fellowship 'cause I kind of want to tell everyone...but there are times when I don't want to tell anyone. But it's like I want to tell everyone, like I've found this way of life and its really great and its really helping me. But the other part of me doesn't want people to say why do you do that and say 'cause I was very fucking unhappy and so fucked up.

IPA ANALYSIS: STEP 2

Example of initial coding (focus on language use – metaphor)

It's like when you see a **rocket going into the sky** and then as it breaks the atmosphere and the bits fall off it and you just see the fuselage...I've seen myself change, I've seen other people looking at me differently and they're happy that I've changed, there was someone who said to me something, she said you're growing into yourself.

IPA ANALYSIS: STEP 3

Developing emergent themes (turning initial coding into psychological themes)

It is really difficult being in this fellowship 'cause I kind of want to tell everyone...but there are times when I don't want to tell anyone. But it's like I want to tell everyone, like I've found this way of life and it's really great and it's really helping me. But the other part of me doesn't want people to say why do you do that and say 'cause I was very fucking unhappy and so fucked up.

Ambivalence

Fear of disclosure

Enhanced self-consciousness

IPA ANALYSIS: STEP 4

Searching for connections across emergent themes

Enhancing sociability

Coping with feelings

Fear of disclosure

Ambivalence towards disclosure

Identification with NA people

Being busy

Missing out on the drugs/alcohol scene

Receiving unconditional support

Developing a new social network

Writing (facilitates insight)

Praying as a self-reflective process

Setting a new temporality

‘Finding your own place’: the meaning of recovery

Changing sense of self

Addict identity

IPA ANALYSIS: STEP 4

Searching for connections across emergent themes

- The end point of identifying emergent themes is not a one dimensional description of what the participant is thinking about or has experienced
- but the development of a map of how the analyst thinks the participant is thinking
- Think about the relationships between emergent themes, do some cluster? Are some opposite? Are some more important than others?
- This map provides a structure for writing up

IPA ANALYSIS: STEP 4

Searching for connections across emergent themes

Abstraction

Subsumption

Polarization

Contextualization

Numeration

Function

CLUSTERED IN THE FOLLOWING WAY...

Fear of disclosure

Ambivalence

Identification with NA people

Being busy

Setting a new temporality

Receiving unconditional support

Developing a new social network

Writing (facilitates insight)

Praying as a self-reflective process

‘Finding your own place’: the meaning of recovery

Changing sense of self

Addict identity

TABLE OF THEMES (TOM)

Theme: Early days in recovery

Fear of disclosure

Ambivalence

Identification with NA people

Being busy

Setting a new temporality

Theme: Maintaining early recovery

Receiving unconditional support

Developing a new social network

Writing (facilitates insight)

Praying as a self-reflective process

Theme: Sense of self in early recovery

‘Finding your own place’: the meaning of recovery

Changing sense of self

Addict identity



IPA ANALYSIS: STEP 5

Recurrent themes (cross-case comparison)

- Repeat exploratory analysis with each transcript
- Repeat emergent thematic analysis with each transcript
- Rigor of this process ensures new themes can emerge

IPA ANALYSIS: STEP 5

Recurrent themes

- Inevitably analytic focus builds across process (primed)
- Repetition of emergent themes across transcripts = recurrent status (somewhat arbitrary definition of 'recurrent')
- Repetition of patterns and connections (relationships between emergent themes) can be important

Table of Themes for Group-Study 2

	Tom	Mike	Dan	Arjun
1. <i>Motives for drinking and using drugs</i>				
Enhancing sociability	3.28	4.09		2.05
Coping with feelings	4.14	2.22		2.10
Awareness of the consequences			4.12	2.26
2. <i>Challenges of beginning the recovery process</i>				
‘But the other part of me’: Ambivalence	5.01	5.10	3.07	
Conflictive identification with NA people	5.22	11.28	2.29	
Being busy	11.19	14.05	10.17	12.09
Setting a new temporality	7.8	9.18	10.12	14.11
3. <i>Maintaining recovery</i>				
Experiencing cravings	07.43	11.25	12.05	10.09
Missing out on the drugs/alcohol scene	12.20	07.03		
Becoming honest			04.31	09.21
‘It give that feeling of belonging’: NA’s support	9.10	13.01		14.16/18.15
Developing a new social network	7.31	10.04	11.17	18.28
Writing	13.16		7.09	
Praying		8.11	11.31	
4. <i>Changing sense of self</i>				
‘Being me and doing what I’m doing’: Authenticity	7.14	06.13	04.22	08.23
Identity as an addict	03.31	06.13	13.01	