DECOLONIZING AND INDIGENIZING RESEARCH PROPOSAL REPORTING

CRAFTING AND COMMUNICATING RESEARCH PROPOSAL REPORTS TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

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- MOTIVATE:
  - The importance of how Indigenous research report is designed and communicated to make sense to Indigenous peoples, communities, and lifeworlds

INTRODUCTION:
DANGER, FRUSTRATION AND NECESSITY
Communicate to lifeworlds that exits, not lifeworlds that do not exist.

Watch this video:
What happens when women's lives are reported in conventional male perspective?
(**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hhkblKij7w**)

INTRODUCTION

<u>Central Question:</u> What happens when research proposals/findings in "postcolonial" Indigenous communities are reported in conventional western academic format, style, language and media instead of Indigenous communicating or reporting systems?

<u>Main Thesis</u>: When conventional reporting systems are used, Indigenous communities' events, ceremonies, experiences, stories, and voices that could be the bases and media of introducing sustainable life-enhancing changes in Indigenous communities are lost or marginalized (Chillisa 2000).

INTRODUCTION: MAIN ARGUMENT
The Danger of Conventional Research Reporting

- **Although conventional research reporting systems—style/format/media—enjoy the favor of funding organizations, academia, and bureaucrats, they are mostly or fundamentally irrelevant, and could be dangerous, to Indigenous communities aspirations and visions of sustainable lifeworlds:**
  - WHY? Because conventional research reporting tends to freeze or marginalize the experiences, voices, ceremonies as well as cultures/traditions of Indigenous communities, and thus deflates the power of research to improve policies, programs, projects, services, and practices in Indigenous communities.

INTRODUCTION: MAIN ARGUMENT
Frustration With Conventional Research Reporting

Many Indigenous researchers are frustrated by the requirement to communicate their research proposals and their research findings about Indigenous issues/communities in a conventional academic or bureaucratic format using western mainstream media and language.

This is because the impersonal, formal, objective, and print character of conventional research reporting is in many ways incompatible with the Indigenous epistemic philosophies, the visions of Indigenous communities, and the experiences of Indigenous peoples.

INTRODUCTION: MAIN ARGUMENT
The Necessity to Explore Indigenous Alternatives to Conventional Research Reporting

- **To increase the propensity of research to produce sustainable life-enhancing changes in Indigenous communities, exploring Indigenous alternatives to conventional research reporting is essential.**

- **There is an urgent need to explore the feasibility of Indigenous research reporting that uses Indigenous communication styles, discourse patterns and communication media steeped in Indigenous epistemic philosophies, community visions, and experiences of Indigenous peoples.**

EXPLORE:

CONCEPTS TO UNDERSTAND RESEARCH REPORTING STYLES/FORMATA & MEDIA

REPORTING STYLES/FORMATS/MEDIA

1. <u>Conventional Academic</u>:

Researcher-generated, objective, impersonal, formal, print, in western languages

2. <u>Hermeneutics Academic</u>:

Researcher-generated, subjective, informal, print, in western languages

3. <u>Indigenous Alternative</u>:

Community-determined, subjective, formal or informal, non-print, in Indigenous languages

Conventional Research Proposal Reporting

Conventional reporting is largely irrelevant in communicating the proposal reports and research findings about Indigenous issues to many Indigenous communities.

Alternatives to replace it may include:
1. Hermeneutic Research Reporting styles/formats/media
2. Indigenous Research Reporting styles/formats/media

THE HERMENEUTIC ALTERNATIVE TO CONVENTIONAL RESEARCH REPORTING STYLES/FORMATS & MEDIA

Hermeneutic Research Reporting

This reporting type presents, in print, researcher's empathetic understanding of events, experiences, stories, and voices of research participants (Denzin 1997)

According to Stringer (1999, p. 168/9), hermeneutic reports "may look and sound more like fictional works—novels or short stories—than the _impersonal, objective accounts common in many official reports_."

Hermeneutic Research Reporting

Compatibility with Indigenous Research:

Hermeneutic research reporting is based on assumptions compatible with indigenous epistemic philosophies.

This philosophy emphasizes that knowledge inherent in peoples' everyday, taken-for-granted lives has as much validity and utility as the knowledge linked to the concepts and theories of the academic disciplines or bureaucratic policies and procedures. The intent is to concede the limitations of expert knowledge and to acknowledge the competence, experience, understanding, and wisdom of ordinary people (Stringer, 1999, p. 167).

Hermeneutic Research Reporting

Application to Indigenous Research reporting:

Apart from writing the PhD dissertation in a story form, research findings can also be summarized in forms compatible with communication systems such as poems in postcolonial and indigenous communities. In a study of Botswana youths' perspectives on gender, Michelle Commeyras and Mercy Montsi (2000) presented themes from data in poetic form. The words in the poems were taken from the essays that the youths wrote about what it would feel like if they woke up as the other sex (Chilisa 2012, p. 150)

Watch this video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hhkblKij7w)

Despite its merits, however, the focus of existing conceptualization of hermeneutic research reporting in textual Western languages at the expense of non-print forms of communicating research proposals/findings in Indigenous languages limits its usefulness.

APPLY

APPLY

APPLYING INDIGENOUS RESEARCH REPORTING STYLES/FORMATS & MEDIA

The Need for Indigenous Research Reporting: Style and Media

The nature of Indigenous philosophies of knowledge, discourse patterns and information systems, coupled with low literacy rates in many Indigenous communities, compel research reporting on Indigenous issues and communities to be

1) done in Indigenous grassroots languages

2) centered on oral narrative, skits, songs, poetry, dance, art, craft, rituals such as potlatch, ceremonies, etc.

3) framed in the Indigenous principles of inclusivity and relational accountability informed by community ethic/protocols

Indigenous Research Proposal Reporting: *Content*

Whatever style and media Indigenous research reporting may use, it should have an active community involvement and the content should revolve around the following (not necessarily in a linear form):

1.   INTRODUCTION

2. KNOWLEDGE REVIEW

3. METHODOLOGY (Research Philosophy or Community Vision
Research Design: Methods and Techniques/Instruments for data collection, analysis, display and interpretation
Reliability, Validity, and Limitations
Action: Implementation of research findings
Axiology: Protocols and Ethics

4. CONCLUSION

Indigenous Research Proposal Reporting: *Content*

- **1. INTRODUCTION: Overview of the study:**

a) **The main phenomenon the study proposes to investigate and its importance. That is, research opportunity statement**

b) **The main purpose/objective of the proposed study.**

c) **The opportunity statement, the central question and main thesis proposed for the research**

d) **Preview of the various sections of the proposal report.**

e) **Reporting style/format, language and media proposed and the rationale for them.**

Indigenous Research Proposal Reporting:
Content

2. KNOWLEDGE REVIEW:

Show what your research would contribute to existing literature (print knowledge), oral knowledge, cultural practices, social policies, programs, and/or services in the chosen community and topical area of your proposed research.

Indigenous Research Proposal Reporting: *Content*

- ## **<u>3. Methodology:</u>**

A) <u>Community</u> **Philosophy or theory** adopted and its influence on research opportunity statement, research question, and thesis/hypothesis proposed

<u>Research Framework: Community Vision</u> that justifies choice of qualitative/quantitative, inductive/deductive, conventional/unconventional, and research design/method

B) <u>Research Design/Method:</u> the way the study will be carried out: positions of the researcher, partners, and participants, as well as i) <u>methods and techniques that will be used for data gathering and why</u> and ii) Procedures, strategies and techniques that will be used for data <u>analysis, display, and interpretation and the rationale for choosing them.</u>

Indigenous Research Proposal Reporting:
Content

Data Analysis: Expected or Anticipated Pattern or Narrative:

Clearly describe the data/information in a way that will enable the community to see the themes and their interconnectedness embedded in the data as a pattern or narrative present in the Indigenous community you plan to research with.

✓ **At this time, don't think it is part of your plan to explore, critique, or otherwise comment on the themes and pattern or narrative. The intent at this stage is to reveal and accept non-judgmentally and uncritically the themes and pattern or narrative the data reveal (Stringer, 1999, p. 182).**

Indigenous Research Proposal Reporting:
Content

Display of Pattern/Narrative:

Show the way you will display the expected and/or revealed pattern/narrative (themes and their interconnections derived from your research statement, question and thesis) of the phenomenon your proposed research focuses on. This can take the form of

Diagrams
Charts
Graphs
Tables
Symbols
Images
Metaphors

Indigenous Research Proposal Reporting:
Content

- **<u>INTERPRETATION OF PATTERN: A PLAN FOR THE DISCUSSION OF EXPECTED AND REVEALED FINDINGS OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH:</u>**

i) Show the process, strategies, methods/techniques you will use to obtain and articulate the meanings the participants would assign to the expected and revealed pattern/narrative.

ii) Describe how you will place participants'/partners' experiences and perspectives in a broader context:

➢ This is the "so what" section of a formal report or dissertation that enables writers to articulate newly emerging understandings of the issue and to compare and contrast them with perspectives that exist in the academic literature or bureaucratic documentation (Stringer, 1999, p. 183).

ii) Propose ways that existing philosophies/theories/visions of the community will be enriched or challenged by the interpretations.

Indigenous Research Proposal Reporting:
Content

➢ **RELIABILITY & VALIDITY: Show the precautions that will be taken to ensure credibility and dependability of data gathering, analysis, display and interpretation.**

➢ **LIMITATIONS: Show the extent of incompleteness of your proposed research. Focus on the incompleteness your proposal did not intentionally create. That is, incompleteness beyond the control of your proposal BUT DOES NOT JEOPARDISE or DEVALUES your proposed research.**

Indigenous Research Proposal Reporting:
Content

ACTION: Implication of and a plan to Implement the results/findings of the proposed research

i) Explore the implications of the expected or anticipated outcome of the proposed research for policies, programs, projects, services, and practices relating to the issues, people, or communities the proposal focuses on.

ii) Based on your expected/anticipated outcome of the research, propose actions that may be initiated, extended, modified in the context of activities/procedures that will improve existing or new programs, services, and practices. Show the strategies or designs to implement the actions.

Indigenous Research Proposal Reporting:
Content

PROTOCOL & ETHICAL ISSUES:

Show the steps that you will take to:

1) respect community protocols and ethics

2) maintain the safety of participants and partners

3) respect the rights and privacy of participants and partners

4) maintain community ownership, access, and use of the research products/findings.

- CREATE:
  - Be a Changemaker; be a Gamechanger

CREATE

- **Separate your research proposal from the existing research on the topic you have chosen to research by**
  - ◆ **1. connecting your research opportunity statement, research question and thesis to existing knowledge/literature**
  - ◆ **2. highlighting the move from vision to action embedded in your proposal**
- **To show how your proposal builds on and enriches existing knowledge and practice that would produce sustainable life-enhancing changes in the Indigenous community your proposal focuses on.**

CONCLUSION

Indigenous research reporting seeks to replace conventional reporting practices with Indigenous alternatives. The purpose is to bring to life the ceremonies, rituals, events, activities, experiences, stories, and voices that facilitate the bases and media of re-introducing Indigenous relationships that produce life-enhancing sustainable changes in Indigenous communities and lifeworlds.