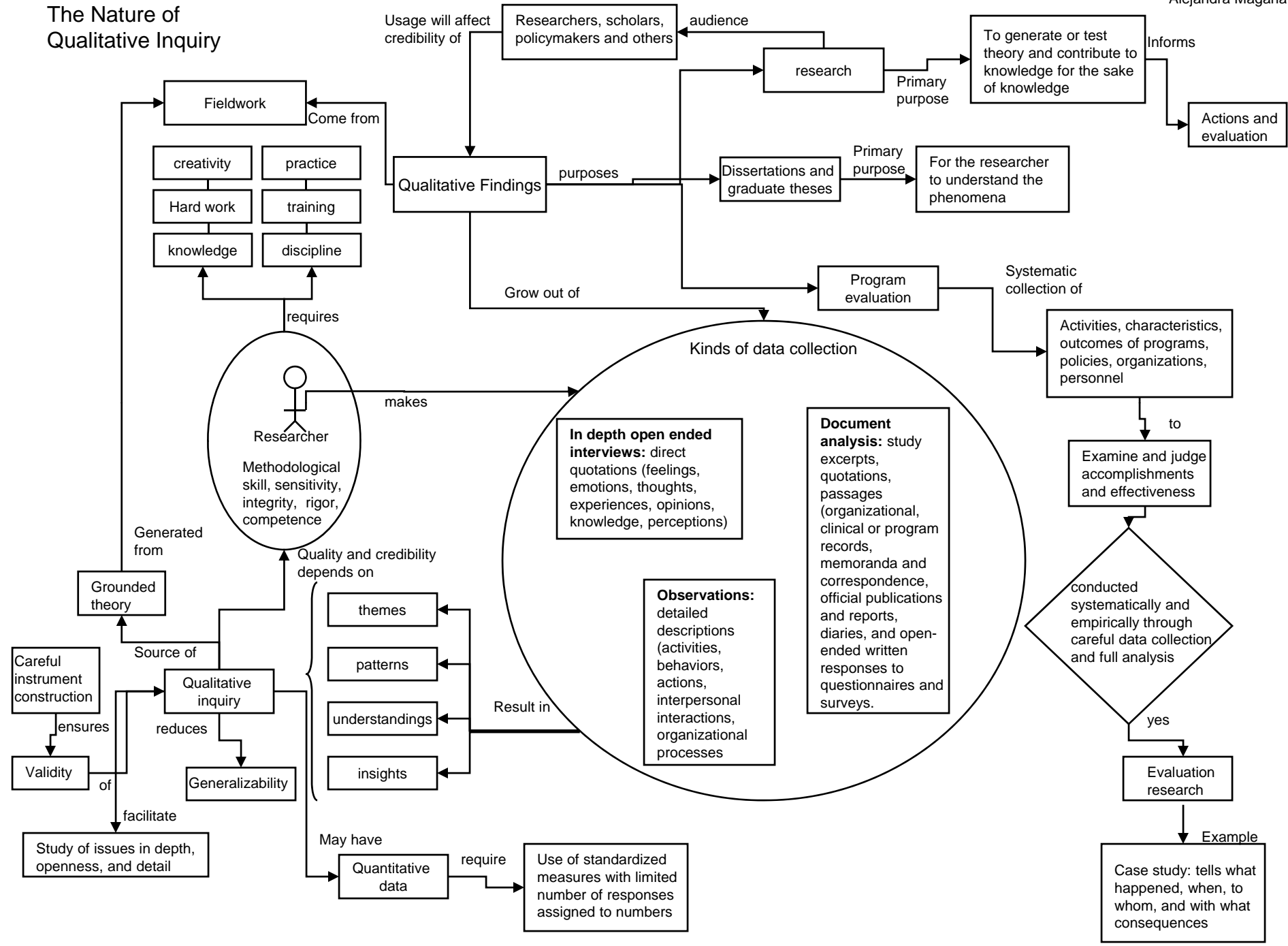
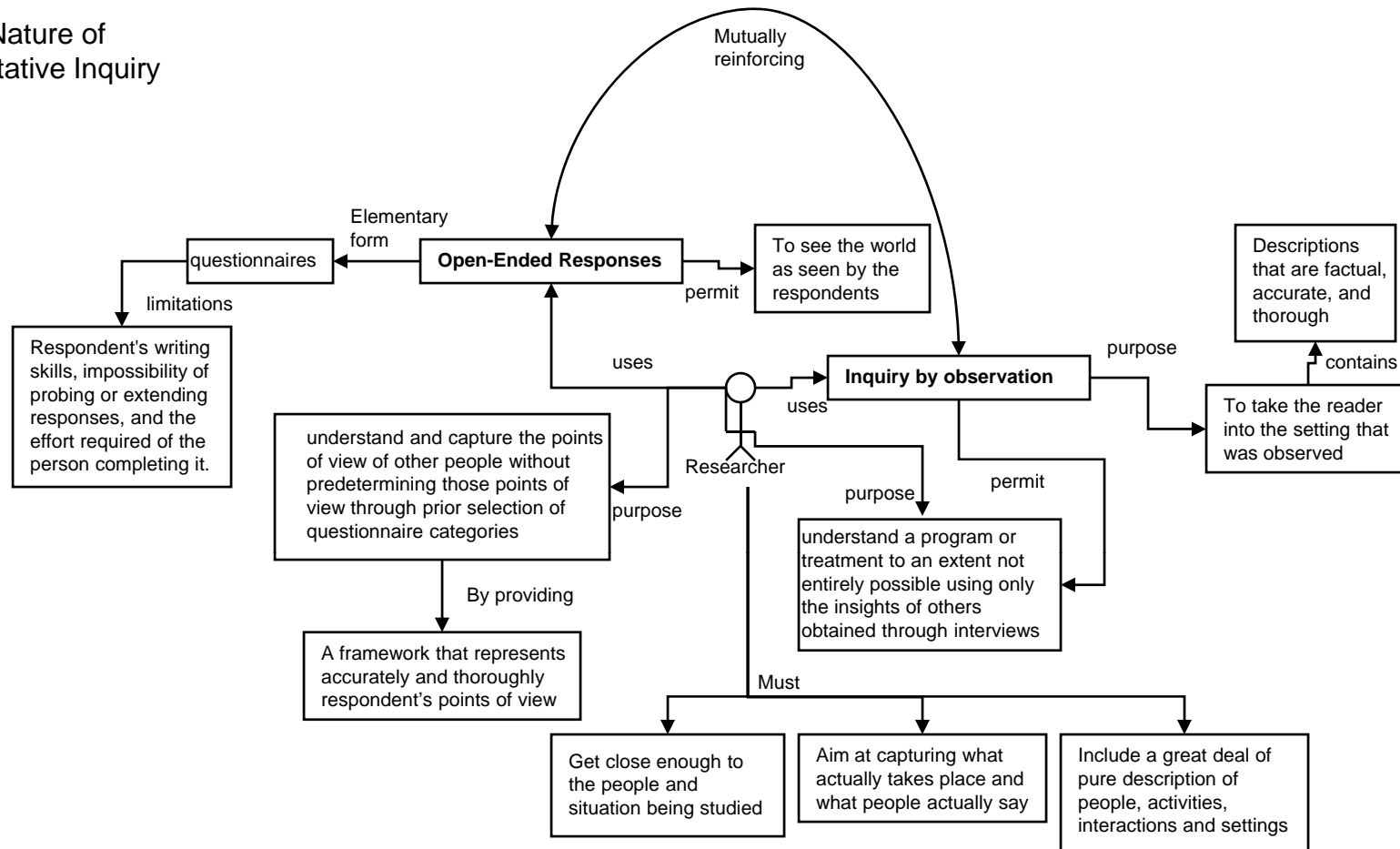


The Nature of Qualitative Inquiry



The Nature of Qualitative Inquiry



Patton, M.Q. (2002). *Qualitative research and Evaluation Methods*. Chapter 1: The Nature of Qualitative Inquiry. Third Edition. Sage Publications, Inc.

The Nature of Qualitative Inquiry

1. The types of data gathered in qualitative research

From the diagram.

2. What is the place of reliability and validity in qualitative studies?

Both, reliability and validity should be addressed in qualitative studies in order to justify and make the studies more credible. This can be done by describing the context and the setting including as much detail as possible. This can also be done by accurate collection of data and multiple ways to collect it and corroborate its accuracy. It is also important if the researcher remains neutral and objective when collecting it.

3. The compatibility of quantitative and qualitative methods in one study (include your thoughts on the examples Patton gives)

Patton argues that quantitative and qualitative methods are not exclusive. He says that a qualitative study may have a quantitative component. Both studies can be combined in order to make a good sense of the research they want to do building on the strengths of both approaches.

For the case of the examples provided by Patton, qualitative data was used because the quantitative data showed great variability. Also the fact that there was lot of learners with different levels made the researchers find out that they needed to know more specific needs and interests. Researchers wanted to gain a deeper level of understanding and detail of individual variation, of the context, and the situation in question.

In the third example, Patton presents how it is useful to contrast close-ended questionnaire results with responses to open-ended group interviews providing more insights into the individual and personal experiences adding depth, detail and meaning at a very personal level of experience.