Abstracts

The Contribution of Oral History Methods to Labor Studies Research

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As one effective qualitative research method, the oral history approach has significantly contributed to many studies in various fields. This paper examines the practical issues involved in applying oral history methods to the historical analysis of labor studies. One of the major concerns of labor studies is the analysis of conflict and resolution in industrial relations. Researchers have used oral history methods to discover historical evidence regarding labor disputes and other issues, such as the organization and break-up of labor unions since the end of World War II. Compared with the use of historical documents, this method has many analytical advantages. It is an effective means for obtaining a more complex and nuanced understanding of decision-making processes, as well as the important role of status in personal communications within different types of groups. In order to design more effective oral history interviews, this paper proposes three different approaches—the personal history approach, the events approach, and the structure approach.

Action Research in Vocational Counseling: Research and Development for Effective Training in Vocational Counseling

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For career counseling activities conducted by employment agencies（Hello Work, etc.）, communications between persons in charge of career counseling（hereinafter, referred to "staff"）and job seekers play an important role. In order to make such communications more effective and efficient, what training program should be performed for staff? For the purpose of the research and development of the training programs for career counselors, this study aims to help the staff to be aware of their career counseling processes（The Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training: JILPT 2009）. If they can be well aware of their career counseling processes, they can consider how to change their own responses to job seekers when conducting verbal interactions with the job seekers to improve the career counseling processes. Thereby, practicing such examinations and responses, the staff can improve their career counseling skills. This paper adopts action research as its methodology（ditto）. K. Lewin（1935:42）, cited as an advocate of action research, stated "We should consider action, research, and training as a triangle that should be kept together." He advocated the necessity of training to put in practice theories at the scene, and the carrying out of integrated action research that consists of research, training and action. This study follows his idea. First, knowledge of cognitive linguistics is used to study how the conscientization of one's career counseling processes has an effect on the improvement of the process（research）. Second, the training program will be implemented during training courses for Hello Work staff conducted at the JILPT's Labour College（training）. Third, a mechanism will be established so that staff who have finished the training program can report their actual performances in the field, and such reports will be analyzed to study how the training program affect the actual performances of staff lectured by the training program（action）. This paper reports effort made so far for the action research activities mentioned above. Lastly, the paper explains points to be noted for action research methodology after having studied the training program's issues.

Grounded Theory Approach: Exploring the Applicability to the Field of Labor Research

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In Japan, the number of studies using the method of the Grounded Theory Approach （GTA）has increased. However, GTA is still underutilized in the field of labor research. The purpose of this article is to explore the applicability of GTA to the field of labor research. First, the author presents a general description of GTA and the process by which GTA was developed. GTA was originally developed by two sociologists, Barney G. Glaser and Anselm L. Strauss, in the 1960s. Thereafter the two originators parted

company, and several researchers including the two originators have developed their own versions of implementing the GTA analysis. In this article, the common elements between the several GTA versions are presented. Next, the author introduces four examples of labor research using GTA (two using M-GTA developed by Kinoshita (2003), and two using another type of GTA). Lastly, the author describes the significance and the potentiality of GTA in the field of labor research.

Workplace Studies and Interaction Analysis: Analysis of Two Meetings
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In this paper, we conducted "workplace studies" from the viewpoint of interaction analysis. We analyzed two different meetings. One was a meeting of the members of a cooperative association; the other was a meeting of the staff of a commercial enterprise. Workplace studies have been closely tied to ethnomethodology and conversation analysis. Currently they focus on interactional organization between verbal and non-verbal actions and using artifacts in the environment. Three findings were gained by analyzing the two meetings. Firstly, non-verbal actions coordinated with verbal actions are an important factor. Secondly, not only the chairperson and the leader but also other members play almost equally important roles in the meetings. Thirdly, in analyzing the meeting of the cooperative association, we found that the frequently observed pauses, repetitions and re-formulation are devices for equality. The meetings reflect the principle of the cooperative association and commercial enterprise. How to spend time is the one of the main concerns of a commercial enterprise. The participants collaboratively manage their time schedule. One of the main principles of the cooperative association is to achieve equal standing with each other. In order to achieve the goal, every member shares the same responsibility as far as possible. During the meeting, they collaboratively achieve this principle in their own manner.

Qualitative Secondary Analysis and Reuse of the Original Research Data Set of the Japanese Sociological Classic
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There are six approaches to reusing data. (1) Description: using the original data as a unique historical resource. (2) Comparative research: comparing the original data with other data sources. (3) Reanalysis: reanalysing qualitative data via new angles, or new methods. (4) Research design and methodological advancement: using data to help design a new study or develop a methodology. (5) Verification: scrutinizing archived data with scientific rigour to support or challenge a set of findings. (6) Teaching and learning: learning many fundamental aspects of qualitative research, and the theoretical and methodological strategies. Next I present some findings by reanalysing the original research data set of the Japanese sociological classic, called Tsukishima Research. Tsukishima Research has an important position in the history of Japanese social research. Japan's first comprehensive social research was conducted in Tsukishima in 1918-20. This research followed C. Booth's *Life and Labour of the People of London*. The Japanese Central Sanitary Bureau of the Home Department asked some social science academics to explore the life of skilled working-class families. The research team consisted of Professor Iwasaburo Takano and other social researchers. They compared some concentrated working-class areas in Tokyo, and selected Tsukishima as the most appropriate for research purposes. This study explores the reason why the researchers selected Tsukishima as a research area.

The Art and Science of Qualitative Data Analysis: What We Can and Cannot Do with QDA Software
Ikuya Sato (Hitotsubashi University)
One of the stumbling blocks for qualitative researchers is the difficulty in providing valid and reliable interpretations of non-numerical, qualitative data. In fact, one often

finds arbitrary interpretations in qualitative research reports. In view of the fact that the significance of the qualitative research method has been re-evaluated and the mixed method approach is proving very popular, the lack of analytical rigor has been a serious problem for those who have advocated qualitative research methods. This paper proposes the use of Qualitative Data Analysis Software (QDA software) as a solution to these problems. Effective data management functions that are built in QDA software can lead to a drastic, "qualitative" transformation of the qualitative research methodology. It should be noted, however, that the QDA software is not a "magic wand" that can automatize the most essential element of qualitative data analysis. After laying out a number of basic principles of qualitative data analysis, this paper shows what we can and cannot do with QDA software.