

Potential for Applying Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis to Psychological Research

Abstract:

This bachelor's thesis deals with Interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) and the potential for applying it to psychological research. The aim of this work is to describe the theoretical frame and philosophical foundation of this method, which is explicitly related to phenomenology. The thesis is based on the original book of Jonathan Smith, the founder of IPA, and also on writings of Edmund Husserl, the founder of phenomenology. It explicates some usage of phenomenological concepts such as *transcendental reduction* in the frame of IPA, and it analyses differences in meaning of these concepts in the frame of IPA and the frame of Husserl's system, i.e. transcendental phenomenology (FF). It helps to clarify the degree to which IPA can be considered "phenomenological" in the real sense of the word. IPA is briefly compared with those methods and a detailed comparison is made with the Descriptive phenomenological-psychological method (DFPM). The work offers a review of psychological IPA research and fields for which the method can adequately be used. There is also the author's own presentation of ongoing IPA research about death in the empirical section.

Key words: IPA, Edmund Husserl, phenomenology, qualitative methodology, death