

Concept Analysis

Theoretical Basis for Nursing

Study Questions

- Discuss the steps of concept analysis
 - Wilson method
 - Walker and Avant method
- Application of concept analysis to a specific nursing phenomena

Situations need concept development

- Few concept or no concept are available in the focal area of interest
- Concepts available are unclear, outmoded, or unhelpful
- Literatures and researches on a concept do not match.

Concept analysis

- Purpose
 - To distinguish between the defining attributes of a concept and its irrelevant structure
 - To determine its internal structure by breaking it into simpler elements
- Uses
 - Clarify overused vague concept
 - Promote mutual understanding among colleagues
 - Provide precise operational definition that by its very nature has construct validity, accurately reflect its theoretical base
 - Help in tool development and nursing diagnosis

Walker and Avant vs. Wilson

Walker and Avant method

- Select a concept
- Determine the aims or purpose of analysis
- Identify all uses of the concept
- Determine the defining attributes
- Construct a model case
- Construct borderline, related, contrary, invented, and illegitimate cases
- Identify antecedents and consequences
- Define empirical referents

Wilson method

- Isolating questions of concept
- Finding right answers
- Model cases
- Contrary cases
- Related cases
- Borderline cases
- Invented cases
- Social context*
- Underlying anxiety*
- Practical results*
- Results in language*
- (* may be omitted)

Walker and Avant method of concept analysis

1. Select a concept

- Concept selection should reflect the topic or area of greatest interest

2. Determine the aims or purpose of analysis

- To clarify the meaning
- To develop an operational definition
- To distinguish between the normal, ordinary, and scientific language usage of the concept
- personal interest in conducting the concept analysis

Walker and Avant method of concept analysis

3. Identify all uses of the concept

- Dictionary, thesauruses, colleagues, literature
- Do not limit search to just nursing or medical literature

4. Determine the defining attributes

- On examining the different instances of a concept, taking notes on the characteristics that appear over and over again. These characteristics become the critical or defining attributes of the concept
- the cluster of attributes are the most frequently associated with the concept
- Allow the broadest insight into the concept

Walker and Avant method of concept analysis

5. Construct model case

- A real life example of the use of the concept that include all the critical attributes of the concept
- The model cases can come first, or be developed simultaneously with the attributes, or emerged after the attributes are tentatively determined.

6. Construct additional cases

- Borderline case-- contain some of the critical attributes but not all of them
- Related case--related to the concept but do not contain the critical attributes
- Contrary cases-- not the concept,
- Invented case— constructed, not existed in the real life
- illegitimate cases—improperly use of the concept

Walker and Avant method of concept analysis

7. Identify antecedents and consequences

- Antecedents
 - Events that must occur prior to the occurrence of the concept
- Consequences
 - Events that occur as a result of the occurrence of the concept

8. Define empirical referents

- Classes or categories of actual phenomena that by their existence or presence demonstrated the occurrence of the concept
- Very useful in instrument development
- Contributing to content and construct validity of any new instrument

Wilson method of concept analysis

1. Isolating questions of concept

- Question of fact ----answered with knowledge
- Question of values— answered with moral principles
- Questions of concepts— answered with meanings
- mixed

2. Finding right answers

- Questions of concept may not have a single right answer
- Only determine elements which are essential or not essential to the core of a concept

Wilson method of concept analysis

3. Model cases

- An instance that is absolutely sure an example
- Wilson suggested using more than one model cases and compare them

4. Contrary cases

- An instance that is absolutely sure not an example

5. Related cases

- Similar, close

6. Borderline cases

- Whether a case fits as an example or not is not sure

7. Invented cases

- When concepts are rare or are very familiar
- Using imagination to invent case

Wilson method of concept analysis

8. Social context

- Language only occurs within a social context
- Social contexts differ across cultures, regions, and disciplines

9. Underlying anxiety

- The underlying feeling or tone with the use of language
- It provides important insights about the concept

10. Practical results

- Implications to make difference in our lives

11. Results in language

- To find the one meaning that works most efficiently

Roger and Knafl method

- Identify and name the concept of interest
- identify surrogate terms and relevant use of the concept
- Identify and select an appropriate realm (sample) for data collection
- Identify the attribute of the concept
- Identify the reference, antecedents, and consequences of the concept
- Identify related concepts
- Identify a model case of the concept

Norris's Method

A systematic empirical process

- Observing and describing phenomena
- Systematizing the observation
 - Establishing categories, continua, hierarchies, and the like
 - Observing, discovering, common sense thinking, engaging logical deduction, and induction, searching for meaning, developing insight, testing out ways to organize, and speculating about ways of relationships
- Developing and operational definition
- Constructing model case
- Formulate hypotheses
 - A concept clarification without experimental research was ineffective because the method by itself could not fulfill the requirement of knowing.

Exercise on concept analysis

- Suffering
- Comfort
- Clinical nursing
- Community nursing
- Study
- Research