



Professional article

Phenomenography: A Missed Method in Medical Research

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SUMMARY

Research is an approach with which human beings can attempt to answer questions and discover the unknowns. Research methodology is something that is determined by the researcher's attitude toward the universe as well as by the question he is trying to answer. Some essential questions regarding the research process are: "What is the nature of reality?", "What is the nature of the relationship between the scholar and the subject of interest?", and "How can one understand the subject, and what are the methods?". Research approaches can be categorized as quantitative and qualitative. In the former, measurement, prediction, and control are the bases, while in the latter, exploring, describing, and explaining the phenomena are fundamental. Among qualitative research methods, *phenomenography* is one of the newest methods. However, in spite of proving to be useful in various disciplines, it has yet to become popular, and many scholars mistake it for *phenomenology*. The focus of *phenomenography* is on what is known as the second-order perspective and the different ways that people can experience the same phenomenon, while *phenomenology* primarily emphasizes the first-order perspective and the similar essences that are derived from various experiences. This article aims to provide a better understanding of *phenomenography* through explaining it and comparing it with *phenomenology* in order to facilitate its proper and timely application in medical studies.

Key words: *phenomenography, phenomenology, qualitative method*

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