

***FACILITATING PHENOMENOLOGICAL INTERVIEWS BY MEANS OF REFLEXOLOGY:
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EDUCATIONAL RESEARCHER***

by

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I hereby declare that "Facilitating phenomenological interinterviews by means of reflexology: implications for the educational researcher" is my own work and that I acknowledged all sources employed by means of complete references.

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SUMMARY

This thesis focuses on the contribution which reflexology can make to phenomenological interviewing in educational psychology. The nature of the study is interdisciplinary and interparadigmatic since it concerns and is informed by various disciplines and rests on the interface between Western and Oriental philosophies. An academic bilingual approach is adopted within the context of the demands made by a globalised and multicultural environment in the post-modern era. A literature review comprises an overview of phenomenology and Taoism, which is the philosophy underpinning reflexology as it is practised today. The discussion highlights significant similarities and differences between these philosophies as deemed relevant to the study. Features of the post-modern era relevant to phenomenological interviewing are identified and the role of reflexology, particularly with regard to providing a comprehensive portrait of the individual life-world using non-verbal and verbal data, is discussed. Against this background ten cases were selected by purposeful sampling. Data were gathered primarily by reflexology complemented by semi-structured interviews and naïve sketches. The findings illustrate how reflexology can act as an impetus to mining information on the life-worlds of participants. Information otherwise rejected is employed to confirm earlier observations and further dimensions of the value of reflexology are presented. The implications for research in education and the potential value of reflexology are outlined. Based on the research a call for a re-visitation of traditional research strategies and assumptions is made. Recommendations are made for future research relating to the usefulness of reflexology for educational purposes as well as recommendations relating to research in other fields. In summary, as the indomitable seafarers of old introduced the treasures of the Orient to the West, so this research endeavours to enrich traditional Western approaches to educational research by means of lesser-known Oriental concepts.

KEY TERMS:

complementary/alternative medicine

educational psychology

interdisciplinary

interviewing

naïve sketches

Phenomenology

post-modernism

qualitative case studies

reflexology

Taoism

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Bethulie-district, Orange Free State – 27/03/2002, Western Cape)
He was amongst the best of men.**