

Kuckartz, Udo: *Mixed Methods. Methodologie, Forschungsdesigns und Analyseverfahren*. Wiesbaden: Springer 2014, 174 p. ISBN 978-3-531-17628-4

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Udo Kuckartz, a Professor at Philipps University, Marburg, Germany, published his latest book on Mixed Methods at the end of 2014. The German-language book has filled a void for readers interested in research methodology in the Central- and East-European region since from now on, besides the several English-language publications, they can also be informed in German about the latest theoretical and practical considerations regarding Mixed Methods.

In the present review our intent is to analyse the book from two viewpoints, which are form and content. The structure of the book is basically linear; the author addresses the field of Mixed Methods in five chapters. The Foreword, as well as the historical and methodological résumé on the development of Mixed Methods research written by John Creswell, a world-famous expert in the field, has a motivating impact on the reader as they arouse the audience's interest in the topic.

The book is logically built-up; the chapters are based upon each other. The author starts the discussion of the topic in a way that first he accounts for the basic concepts of Mixed Methods, and then he elaborates on the issue by explaining Mixed Methods research design analysis, data analysis, the applicability of MAXQDA software in Mixed Methods, the future of Mixed Methods and finally, his recommendations for practice.

The linear structure of the book is broken in some chapters (for instance when discussing the connection between MAXQDA software and Mixed Methods) as the comprehension of the particular chapter requires basic knowledge on MAXQDA. If the reader is equipped with this basic knowledge and some general information on computer assisted qualitative data analysis, then Chapter 4 is a coherent unit in itself providing up-to-date information.

The typography of the book is sophisticated: the main content units can be seen highlighted at the beginning of each chapter, and at the end of each chapter the author provides a concise summary and some recommendations for further considerations as well as a short bibliography of relevant sources. The colours of the book differ from conventions since blue is also dominant besides black and white. This latter one highlights the tables, the examples and the titles. The elaborate typography, the professional quality and the methodological considerations all emphasize the user-friendly nature of the book.

Mixed Methods is a strategy overarching both quantitative and qualitative paradigms; therefore, it can be considered a third paradigm. This can already be touched upon in Chapter 1 where, among other issues, the author discusses the connections between pragmatism, abduction and Mixed Methods. There are several definitions for Mixed Methods out of which the author refers to the

ones provided by Creswell, Greene, Johnson and Onwuegbuzie, Kelle, Mertens, Patton, and Tashakkori and Teddlie. Finally, the author creates his own complex definition which serves as a basis for the content of the forthcoming chapters. He discusses the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, research design, phases, data collection, and results. Especially emphatic in this chapter is the possible relationship between triangulation and Mixed Methods. The author starts with the four basic types of triangulation identified by Denzin (data, investigator, theory, methodological triangulation), then differentiates 'within method triangulation' from 'between method triangulation'. Furthermore, a new aspect is discussed which focuses on the equivalence or the difference between triangulation and Mixed Methods. The author clearly describes the difference between the two terms. Provided the readers possess some preliminary knowledge on computer assisted qualitative data analysis they may as well try out the occurrence of triangulation and Mixed Methods among the functions of MAXQDA.

This chapter is followed by sections focussing even more on practice. In Chapter 2 the author makes an attempt to illustrate the types of Mixed Methods-Design. Referring to Creswell and Plano Clark (2011, 55–59) he claims that approximately 50 design types exist among which there are several overlaps; some of them are called really peculiarly like the one called "Sandwich-Design." Out of this abundance, based mainly upon Creswell's terminology, Udo Kuckartz creates a logically built-up system essential for research practice, which covers the feasible variations of Mixed Methods. Making use of diagrams and examples the author analyses the variations of convergent design (or parallel design), sequential design (see explanatory design and exploratory design), and the forms of transfer design and complex design.

Chapter 3 sheds light on data analysis. Presenting and illustrating the analysing processes of both quantitative and qualitative data the author concentrates on data analysing processes relevant for Mixed Methods. The types of Mixed Methods-Design are again emphasised here so that readers better understand new information. The subsection explaining the relation between computer assisted qualitative data analysis and Mixed Methods offers relevant insights since the specific functions of MAXQDA are also covered (e.g. coding, categories, search, links, memos). Moreover, possible connections of MAXQDA and some questionnaire editing softwares (e.g. LimeSurvey) are also highlighted.

Chapter 4 keeps focussing on computer assisted data analysis while discussing issues related to the handling and analysing of MAXQDA and Mixed Methods data. Before the integrated presentation of both qualitative and quantitative data the author sets the scene with introducing the basic functions of MAXQDA. However, for a better understanding it would be important on behalf of the readers to possess some competence on computer assisted qualitative data analysis and a more thorough knowledge on the basic functions of MAXQDA.

"A joint display is a figure or table in which the researcher arrays both quantitative and qualitative data so that the two sources of data can be directly compared. In effect, the display merges the two forms of data" (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2011, 226, quoted by Kuckartz, 2014, 136). Literature on Mixed Methods differentiates several types of Joint Displays equipped with a wide variety of functions. The author presents some of these and illustrates how they appear in MAXQDA (e.g. Side by Side Display and Segment-Matrix in MAXQDA).

The last section, Chapter 5, outlines the possible future development tendencies of Mixed Methods. By discussing some criticism against Mixed Methods (e.g. new or old paradigm, criticizing scientific theoretical background, marginalisation of qualitative methods, time-consuming nature, researchers' competencies regarding the paradigms etc.) the author makes the reader formulate further questions. Besides the criticisms he also gives recommendations for practice focusing on Design-types. The author expects further countries to get involved in the Mixed Methods Community and he also predicts that the number of related university courses, workshops and conferences will increase. It can result in the solution of critical issues or these issues could also be placed into a new context, see for example the philosophical, scientific theoretical background, data integration or the role of softwares in Mixed Methods.

The book will prove useful for any discipline in social studies which combines qualitative and quantitative methods to explore a certain research problem. It can be relevant for academics in the field of education, psychology, applied linguistics, sociology, social work, andragogy, communication, media or political science, marketing and economics. The book provides researchers, teachers and postgraduate students with up-to-date information but it is also recommended for readers wishing to take an intellectual roundtrip in the international world of modern research methodology.

Horváth, Kornélia: *Verselméleti tradíció és a modern magyar líra* [The Tradition of Verse Theory and Modern Hungarian Poetry]. Budapest: Ráció 2012, 168 p. ISBN: 978-615-5047-32-9

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