

CHAPTER 3

THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter comprises four sections. ^{It} ~~The chapter~~ begins with a brief outline of the importance of theory to research. The role of frameworks for guiding research will be discussed in this part. The second and third section of this chapter will discuss the two major theoretical framings that form the basis of this study; the critical theory and the post-structural approach, ^{respectively}. Both chapters start with a brief description of the theory and move on to discuss the role of each theory in education policy research. ~~The final~~ ^{an other} part of each section will briefly examine the critiques of each theory. In the fourth section of this chapter, the idea of hybridising theoretical frameworks will be examined. The policy trajectory approach will be explored in ^{great} detail in this section as it ~~will~~ ^{was} be used in the analysis of the education policies chosen for this study.

3.1 Role of Theory in Research

The notion of 'theory' is central to every field of inquiry. Theory represents a portion of reality and acts as a tool that can be used for better understanding of the concepts under study. Each theory provides a ^{different} lens for looking at a problem, allowing it to be examined from different perspectives for full understanding of all its facets. (Connelly, 2014, p. 187). ^{check APA, I think double quote}

To achieve the aim of a study, a researcher has to approach the task with a distinctive perspective or framework. This framework constitutes the lens through which he or she views the reality of the whole phenomena under study (Ball, 1994). As ^{researcher} this study is an extended policy analysis, the framework that is used in this study will span the different phases of policy making and enactment. The framework used, in other words, will constitute the assumptions, values, methods and practices that underlie policy analysis. ^{Not OK. suggest rework. seems out of place.}

As frameworks are an integral part of theory based research, it becomes important to understand the role of frameworks to inquiry before proceeding. A framework is the

Seems out of place

According to Lester (2005)

You need to reread all references and verify that they are at end!

CHAPTER THREE

Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

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Introduction
The first section gives

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incorporating relevant aspects of critical theory and post structuralism

form the theoretical underpinning of

Role of Theory in Research

Not a suitable word?
Needs rewording

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To achieve the aims of a study, a researcher has to approach the task with a distinctive perspective or framework. This framework constitutes the lens through which he or she views the reality of the whole phenomena under study (Ball, 1994). According to Lester (2005, p. 458), a framework is the "basic structure of the ideas (i.e., abstractions and relationships) that serve as the basis for a phenomenon that is to be investigated," at a later stage. A framework "serves both an explanatory and normative function, creating the conceptual understanding which both clarifies the problem, and implies the solution" (Grimley, 1986, p. 20). The framework chosen by a

Good presentation of
 critical theory (CT)
 and post structuralism (PS) ✓
 BUT I think the policy trajectory (PT)
 needs a bit more work — especially as this is
 your organising framework.

CHAPTER THREE

Theoretical and Conceptual Frameworks ← [plural]

(X) [To avoid confusion, perhaps use 'paradigm' for theory and 'approach' for 'policy trajectory' framework?]

Introduction

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Role of Theory in Research

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CHAPTER THREE

Theoretical Framework

Introduction

This chapter comprises four sections. The first section deals with a brief outline of the importance of theory for research. The role of conceptual frameworks for guiding research is discussed in this section. The second and third sections examine the critical theory and post-structuralism which underpin the policy trajectory approach used in this study. For each theory, the basic assumptions of the theory are discussed, followed by its implications for education policy research, together with its critiques. In the fourth and final section, the 'policy trajectory' approach and the 'policy network' approach are explored in greater detail as these approaches were utilized in the analysis of the education policies chosen for this study.

['explored' is a bit vague for academic writing]

Role of Theory in Research

The notion of 'theory' is central to every field of inquiry. In fact, reality is constructed based on some theory. Mises (1996, p. 647) argues that, "there is no such thing as a mere recording of unadulterated facts apart from any reference to theories. As soon as two events are recorded together or integrated into a class of events, a theory is operative." Mises notes that a person's reasoning may be wrong and the theory incorrect; but thinking and theorizing are always present in any action. He argues that "letting the facts speak for themselves" without recourse to a theory is nonsensical (Mises, 1996, p. 177). Concurring with Mises, Connely (2014, p. 187) claims that a theory provides a "lens for looking at a problem, allowing it to be examined from different perspectives for full understanding of all its facets

as the construction of
[see p 3]

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