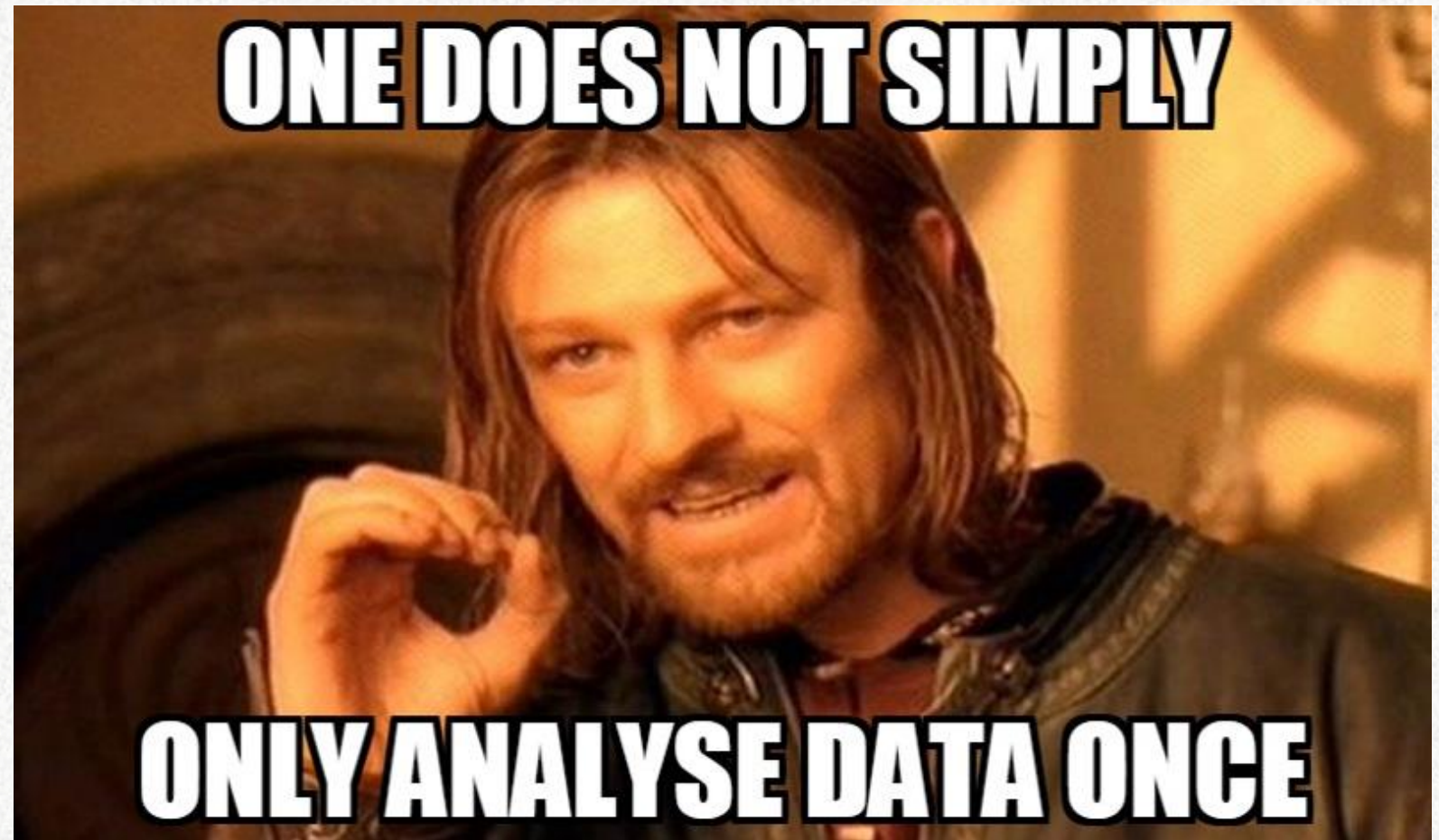


IPA – data analysis

- Analysis overview
- IPA analysis step by step



IPA data analysis overview

= *How to treat the data*

- **first interview:**

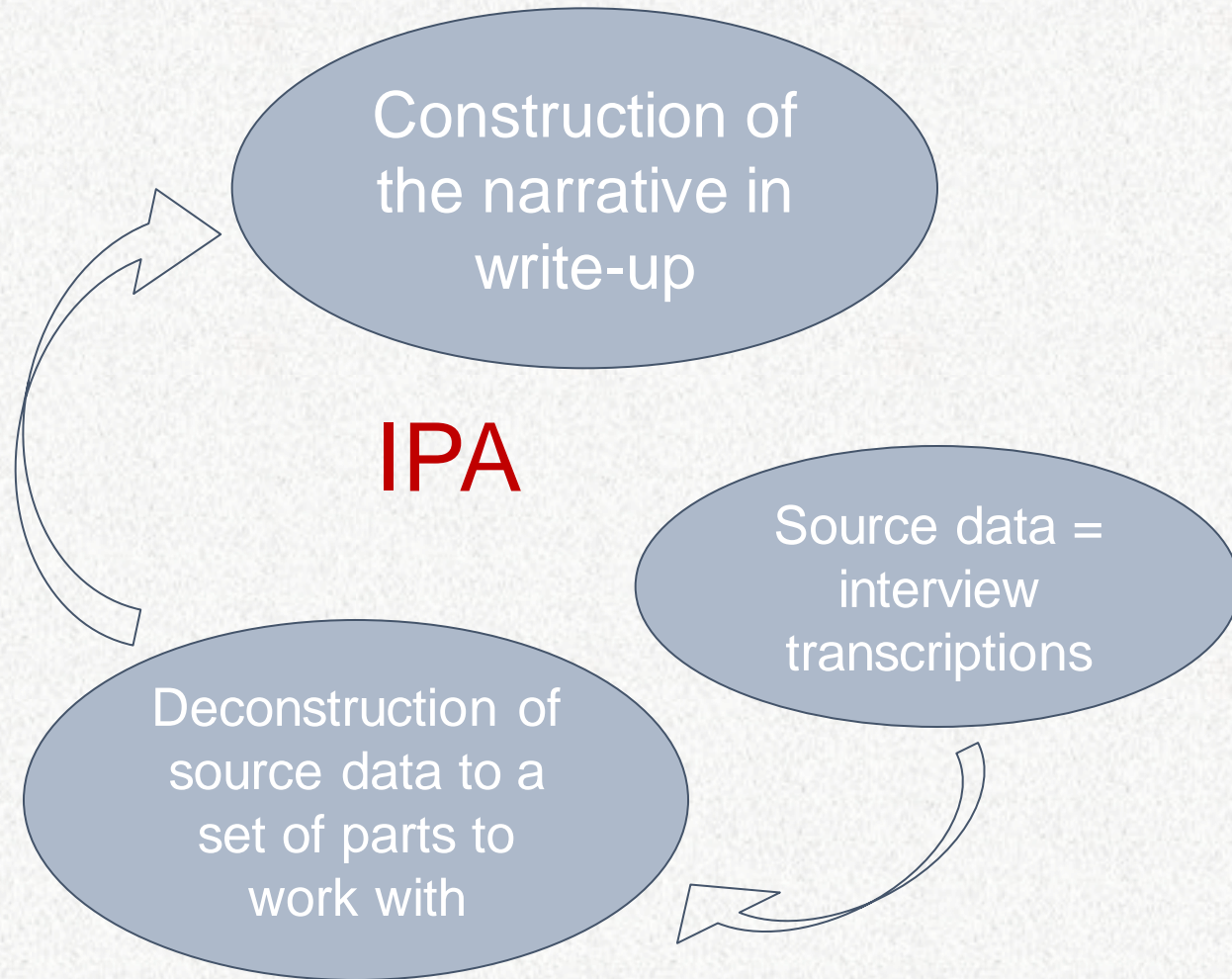
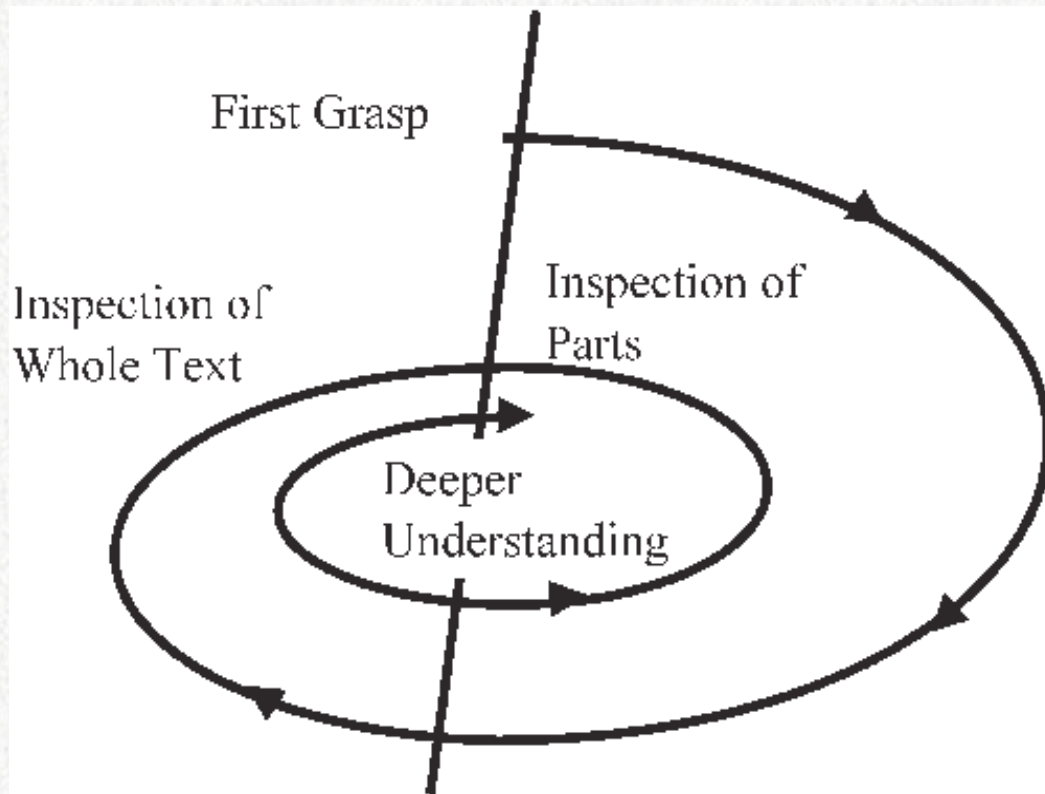
- > detailed repeated reading of the text, making notes and comments on the content
- > identification of themes emerging from the text
- > themes grouping
- > identification of master themes

IPA data analysis overview (cont.)

- moving on to **other interviews**:
 - > analysing them in the same way
 - > synthesis of themes across interviews
- emerging from the analysis of all interviews:
 - master themes**
 - subordinate themes and**
 - relationships between them**

How does it work?

Remember the hermeneutic spiral?



Step by step

Analysing the first interview

- start with the most complex interview (it will provide best structure for subsequent interviews)

1. Reading and re-reading

< helps the researcher to get familiar with the data and the pace of the analysis

- slow down
- focus on the data
- write down first impressions
(and bracket them)



2. First layer of notes

- left margin (or whichever you choose)
- identifying **meaning units** and structures in the text
 - > basically summing up parts of the narrative

Common types of comments:

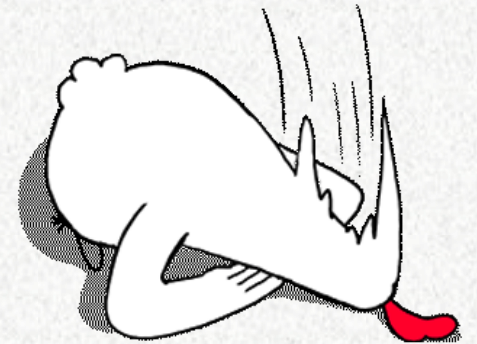
- **summarizing** or paraphrasing
- associations or connections that come to mind
- preliminary interpretations



3. Second layer of notes

The aim is to find expressions which are high level enough to allow theoretical connections within and across cases but which are still grounded in the specific parts of the interview.

- Moving from description toward interpretation
- Right (?) margin
- Should be checked back with the data



The result of this step are **emergent themes** that will be further worked with.

< resulting themes in the research use the language of the respondent

- Similar themes can emerge at different parts of the transcript
- Not every single bit of transcript has to yield themes

Notes – example:

Aggression
Not who I am – identity

Being mean
Can't help it – no control

Me doing it but not me
Conflict, tension
Me vs nice

Shame, if you knew – disgust

Fear of being known

Not always me, part of himself that is rejected – hateful, the 'not me'

Int. How long has it been like that?

M. Since it started getting bad, I was always snappy with it but not like this, it's not who I am it's just who I am if you know what I mean, it's not really me, I get like that and I know like, you're being mean now but I can't help it. It's the pain, it's me, but it is me, me doing it but not me do you understand what I'm saying, if I was to describe myself like you said, I'm a nice person, but then I'm not am I, and there's other stuff, stuff I haven't told you, if you knew you'd be disgusted I just get so hateful.

Int. When you talk about you and then sometimes not you, what do you mean?

M. I'm not me these days, I am sometimes, I am all right, but then I get this mean bit, the hateful bit, that's not me.

Anger and pain
Struggle to accept self and identity – unwanted self
Lack of control over self

Responsibility, self vs pain

Shameful self – struggle with unwanted self

Fear of judgement

Unwanted self rejected as true self



4. Themes grouping

- deconstructing the chronology and narrative
 - connecting themes that are related, making clusters
 - Some of the themes may serve as superordinate concepts
- = making sense

The connections need to be checked back with the source data to make sure they still make sense in context.

TIP! Technically speaking: If you're not using software, the (very unsophisticated but effective) method of doing this is printing out /writing down the themes and cutting them out so that you can move them around.

1. Living with an unwanted self

- Undesirable behaviour ascribed to pain
- Struggle to accept self and identity – unwanted self
- Unwanted self rejected as true self
- Struggle to accept new self
- Undesirable, destructive self
- Conflict of selves, me vs not me
- Living with a new self

(1.16 = page 1, line 16)

1.16

24.11

24.24

1.8

5.14

7.11

9.6

‘it’s the pain’

‘who I am’

‘hateful bit’

‘hard to believe’

‘mean’

‘me not me’

‘new me’

2. A self that cannot be understood or controlled

- Lack of control over self
- Rejection of change
- Avoidance of implications
- Responsibility, self vs pain

24.13

1.7

10.3

25.25

‘can’t help’

‘still same’

‘no different’

‘understand’

3. Undesirable feelings

- Shame
- Anger and pain
- Lack of compassion
- Confusion, lack of control
- Ranking duress, self vs pain
- Shame of disclosure

5.15

24.09

6.29

2.17

25.01

25.06

‘disgusting’

‘snappy’

‘don’t care’

‘no idea’

‘cope’

‘talk’

5. Working on the next cases

- it is possible to use existing themes, however, previous material needs to be **bracketed** when dealing with the data < starting from scratch on each interview will make bracketing easier
- usually, both new and recurrent themes emerge
- themes emergent in the new interviews can lead you back to the first (to be re-examined in the light of the new themes)

6. Creating the final table of superordinate themes

- contents need to be evaluated and reduced
- < only themes critical for the research need to be kept

