

# PROCESS OF KNOWING BASED ON METHODOLOGICAL NATURALISM: CONTEXT TO NURSING INQUIRY

**Author Name:** Jestoni D. Maniago,

PhD (vae), DNS, MAEd, MAN, LPT, RM, RN, FISQua, FRIHC, FRIN, FRIMW, FRIRes

Department of Nursing, College of Applied Medical Sciences, Majmaah University 11952, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Email: [maniagojestoni@gmail.com](mailto:maniagojestoni@gmail.com)

**Abstract**

*This paper is intended to discuss the utility of naturalism in the context of nursing research. The methodological philosophy is based on the worldview that is concerned not with claims about what exists but with methods of learning what nature is. It is strictly the idea that all scientific nursing endeavors—all hypotheses and events—are to be explained and tested by reference to natural causes and events. The genesis of nature is not addressed in this paper. It seeks only to provide a framework within which to conduct the scientific nursing study rooted on the laws of nature. Methodological naturalism, as a way of acquiring knowledge, is a distinct system of thought concerned with a cognitive approach to reality, and is thus a philosophy of knowledge. The research participants are named as other learners who: (a) are viewed standing on equal posts in the culture; (b) feels comfortable; and (c) are also learning in the context of the same environment. The research procedures involve: (a) awareness of natural understanding; (b) main learner’s partial immersion; (c) other learner’s equalization; (d) learning binning; (e) learning tagging; (f) major learner’s reflection; and (g) revalida of the natural understanding. Therefore, it can be construed that logical positivism or logical empiricism in nursing can be regarded as a species of naturalism having the fewest ontological commitments, but should be carefully distinguished from the naturalistic paradigm which regards a different ontology, epistemology, axiology and methodology.*

**Keywords**

naturalism, nursing research, participants as learners

**PHILOSOPHY**

The philosophy is based on the worldview that is natural. Methodological naturalism is concerned not with claims about what exists but with methods of learning what nature is. It is strictly the idea that all scientific endeavors—all hypotheses and events—are to be explained and tested by reference to natural causes and events. The genesis of nature, e.g., by an act of God, is not addressed. This second sense of naturalism seeks only to provide a framework within which to conduct the scientific study of the laws of nature. Methodological naturalism is a way of acquiring knowledge. It is a distinct system of thought concerned with a cognitive approach to reality, and is thus a philosophy of knowledge.

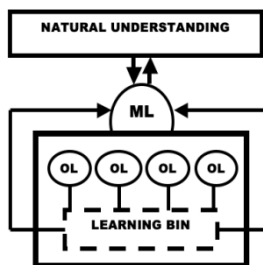


Figure 1. The Philosophical Simulacrum

**THE PARTICIPANTS**

The participants of the study are named as other learners. They are viewed standing on equal posts in the culture, feels comfortable and also learning in the context of the same environment.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

Naturalistic observation is the primary part of the methodology. It is a research tool in which a subject is observed in its natural habitat without any manipulation by the observer. During naturalistic observation, researchers take great care to avoid interfering with the behavior they are observing by using unobtrusive methods. Naturalistic observation involves two main differences that set it apart from other forms of data gathering. In the context of a naturalistic observation the environment is in no way being manipulated by the observer nor was it created by the observer.

Another source of information is the response of the other learners to interviews. The ethnographic interview in which the purpose is to discover cultural meanings which exist within social group, emphasizing interaction, social context, and social construction of knowledge will be also utilized as the method of research.

In addition, other learners are also asked to capture their experiences on a piece of paper and express their ideas by drawing and coloring it.

## PROCEDURE

The research procedures to be followed are as follows:

### ***A. Awareness of Natural Understanding***

This refers to the delivering process of the naturalistic point of view of a person. Two strategies may be involved in the delivering process. The first strategy is the effort to awaken the slept part of the mind and recalling the dreams connecting to the situation. The other strategy is the strengthening effort of our minds to entertain the existing concepts of consciousness.

### ***B. Main Learner's Partial Immersion***

The main learner's partial immersion rooted from the belief that there is still a need for the main learner to immerse himself to the culture of the other learners to share natural understanding. This should be done partially in a sense that the main learner or the researcher will not lose his ability to observe the culture clearly.

### ***C. Other Learner's Equalization***

This posited on the perspective that humans should be treated equal in order to prevent bias from one another. Equalization is a process of adjusting the balance between humans in terms of their rights and privileges in this world without modifying the naturalistic concepts of the culture. A naturalist point of view is that, naturally all humans should be of equal sharing in all aspects to prevent conflicts among each other that may lead to destruction of the natural concept of world.

### ***D. Learning Binning***

This means that all the three important aspects of learning (affective, cognitive and motor) are like being stored in a container for future processing. The container is always open for influences from other outside forces to maintain the naturalistic concept of this process.

### ***E. Learning Tagging***

Tagging is identifying patterns and themes of the knowledge, skills and emotions of the other learners. Only tagged themes will be transported outside the shelter (world or culture of the participant) to preserve the natural ideas of the people inside the culture.

### ***F. Major Learner's Reflection***

Reflection means positioning oneself from the part of conscious mind not immersed in the shelter. Learning tags are reflected as natural symbols of the shelter that represents the wholeness of their ideas on one certain topic. Interpretation of themes will also be done in this procedure. Interpreted or processed themes will be identified as collaborative learning.

### ***G. Natural Understanding Revalida***

Revalida of the natural understanding is the process of presenting to consciousness the collaborative learning, testing for veracity, comparative efforts of the main learner and deciding whether the result is somehow congruent to what is known to the main learner or different. If the result is same then, the natural understanding will be strengthened. If not, then the results will be absorbed in some time allowing it to be part of the existing natural understanding. The naturalist point of view is that, learning should be equally shared. It is natural if learning is confined to one or some learners only. Revalida is like awareness for the second time. This is the triggering mechanism of empowering the natural understanding of everything.