

Nursing Concept Analysis

Concept Analysis is a process of deliberately analyzing the concepts that are foundational to nursing theory. It is used to foster analytical thinking and moves nursing science as well as professional practice forward.

This assignment uses Walker and Avant's method of [NR 361 Milestone 1](#) a formal concept analysis. It will analyze the concept of comfort from Katherine Kolcaba's Comfort Theory. This analysis will include defining attributes, antecedents and consequences, model case, construct cases and theoretical application.

Definition

A concept is a central idea that represents understandings of particular phenomena or processes. Concept analysis is a formal linguistic exercise to determine certain defining attributes of a concept.

It reveals what is known about the concept by exploring its antecedents, characteristics and consequences. It also highlights what remains unknown about the concept by examining its attributes and gaps in knowledge.

It aims to enhance the quality of previous principle-based concept analysis guidelines (Penrod & Hupcey, 2005) by introducing a set of standardized quality [NR 451 Week 3 Healthcare Policy](#) to guide researchers through the process. These include assessing the concepts against four broad philosophical principles: epistemological, pragmatic, linguistic and logical. The quality criteria include a tool for assessing articles against these principles. It includes a short questionnaire with two questions for the epistemological and pragmatic principles and one question for the linguistic and logical principles.

Attributes

Concept analysis is a method of examining information to determine similarities and differences between concepts. It is useful in preparing for new research or theory construction and provides the scientist with an operational definition, defining attributes and antecedents/preconditions. It also helps the scientist discover all uses of a concept and demonstrates the difference between a key concept and other related concepts.

The process begins with selecting a key concept and finding articles that contain information on the subject. Articles that have a high level of relevance are [NR 500 Week 5 Area of Interest PowerPoint Presentation](#) in the review. The quality criteria tool is then used to rate the articles based on the four principles. Using this tool will allow the researchers to compare articles that are strong in one principle with those that are weak in another principle.

Antecedents

The next step in concept analysis involves identifying the antecedents. The antecedents are the preconditions, characteristics and outcomes of a concept. The defining attributes help identify these concepts but the antecedents give more

information on why and how the concept occurs.

For example, anxiety and fear may be viewed as similar concepts but there are key differences in their defining attributes that distinguish them from one another. During this phase of the process, it is important to find as many uses for the concept as possible. This can be [NR 501 Theoretical Framework to Support Evidence based Practice](#) through a number of different strategies including dictionaries, colleagues and available literature.

A new tool has been added to the process of concept analysis that addresses the limiting factors that have been found with Wilsonian methods. The tool includes a quality criteria assessment and helps researchers assess articles for their relevancy to the four principles of concept analysis.

Consequences

The consequences of concept analysis are important to consider. They can help guide the research questions and strategies. They may also reveal potential areas for further research. For example, the consequence of a concept may be an increase in patient adherence to treatment or an improvement in clinical and social outcomes.

The final step of the process is to review [NR 500 Week 2 Artistic Expression Caring Concept](#) that helps support and validate your choice of defining attributes and explore all uses of the concept. This includes literature from outside nursing science, such as geriatrics, psychology and social work.

The literature review can also include a quality criteria tool that outlines principles for phased principle-based concept analysis. This provides a clear account for the use of the method and enhances transparency, rigour and replicability.

Research Summary

The purpose of concept analysis is to examine and articulate the most basic elements of a given concept, including its STRUCTURE and FUNCTION. It is often a precursor to research and theory construction and results in an operational definition of the concept as well as a list of defining attributes and antecedents.

Having a clear definition encourages the development of instruments that capture the concept and ensures that we are all talking about the same thing. It also allows for better communication and cooperation between disciplines and across research settings and fields.

Terminological textbooks provide detailed procedures and methods for conducting a concept analysis but they are typically terminology work oriented and cannot be readily converted to a stringent research method required for academic studies. Waldon (2018) and Nevin and Smith (2019) have both developed quality criteria tools to facilitate a principle-based concept analysis yet advancements in these tools are needed.

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