INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

This study aims to consider the possibility, potentiality, and the limitations of a new interview technique, PEN-A (Photo Eliciting Narrative Approach).

BACK GROUND

PEN-A is based on the photo projective method (Noda, 1988) and the photo voice technique (Wang & Burriss, 1994), which capture the subjects’ perceived environment using photographs. This method helps us understand the individual’s internal world. However, these methods are limited to qualitative analysis. We subsequently developed a new interview and analysis approach that may be useful in community research.

PEN-A’s CONCEPT and RESEARCH EXAMPLE

Table1 Descriptive statistics of age and photos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Age</th>
<th>Photos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>68.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>8.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table2 Categories and percentage of photo subjects participants took

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Animal &amp; Plants</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Artifacture</th>
<th>Events &amp; Action</th>
<th>sum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>(3.29%)</td>
<td>(2.63%)</td>
<td>(40.13%)</td>
<td>(36.84%)</td>
<td>(7.11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>(7.50%)</td>
<td>(12.46%)</td>
<td>(29.47%)</td>
<td>(47.54%)</td>
<td>(3.29%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are photos of Suzaku Festival at Suzaku elementary school and of voluntary safety staff. I went there. Previously, my late husband and they have also done this… so I took photo of friends. [Are they your friends?] Well, yeah…my husband’s work was succeeded by them. Yeah, my late husband’s work is succeeded…. (82-yr-old lady)

Advantages of PEN-A

Objectifying
By talking about the photo, participants can know why they took it, objectively. We can know their meanings objectively.

Re-evaluating and rediscovering
Participants can re-evaluate their life and community by sharing the photo and talking, and rediscover the goodness of their community.

Projecting and conceptualizing
Most of the photos reflect the participants’ inner world. Researchers can know them in depth compared with using interviews without photos. Photos help them conceptualize and verbalize their ambiguous mind.

Mediating between the interviewer and interviewee
Sharing photos helps make the relationship between the interviewer and interviewee appropriate and symmetrical, that is, friendly but not too friendly.

METHOD

How to carry out PEN-A

1. Provide each participant with a digital camera
2. (Participants take photos related to their daily life)
3. While watching the photos on a monitor, ask them to describe why they have taken them

Procedure

Fourteen aged people were provided with digital cameras and were requested to take photos related to their daily lives in their community for a week. Subsequently, while watching the photos on the monitor, we asked them why they had taken these photos.

Fig. 1 Concept of PEN-A

Fig. 2 Result of correspondence analysis

Fig. 3 Location map

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