

Bracketing Exercise Part 2

Due: Wed, 2/15, on D2L by class time (9 AM)

Grade: 100 pts (3% of grade)

Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to illustrate that you know how to bracket assumptions when writing about a communication practice.

In your essay, use the Duranti reading (from 2/1) to discuss the concept of bracketing. What is bracketing? Why is it useful? What are you trying to balance when you write about a communication practice? Then, choose one of the communication practices that you noted in your field notes that you already turned in and/or from new field notes you have taken in the past week. State the reason you chose to focus on this practice and write about *one instance* where you saw this practice occur. Throughout this essay you will practice 'bracketing'.

First, objectively describe the practice. Act as if you are an alien viewing this practice for the first time. How does this practice start? What are the verbal and non-verbal forms of communication that make up this practice? How does it end? Where does the practice take place? Who participates in this practice?

Second, discuss the meanings and functions of this practice: What does this practice mean to members of a community? Are there differences between members in how they participate in and make sense of this communication practice? How do members of the community use this practice to make sense of their social lives? As a researcher, what role do you see this practice playing in shaping relationships among community members, in constituting the community in a certain way, in establishing roles and identities, etc.? You do not need to answer all of the questions in this paragraph. These questions serve as ideas to help you discuss why a practice might be interesting or important for members of a community.

Ideally, the practice you choose and write about here will be the one you focus on in your full research paper, so if you do thoughtful work now, you will be able to use parts of this assignment when writing your full paper.

Requirements

- 2-3 double spaced pages, Times New Roman, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins for essay
- Organization: an introduction where you define and discuss bracketing, 1-2 paragraphs describing an identified practice, and 1-2 paragraphs stating the meaning of this practice
- Cite quotes or ideas from the reading with the author's last name and year published
 - For example, Duranti (1997) defines bracketing as...
 - DO NOT INCLUDE TITLES OF READINGS