

Article Reading and Evaluation Worksheet

APA 7th Edition Reference:

Scharp, K. M., Seiter, J. S., & Maughan, M. (2020). "My Mom Always Tells that Story to Friends and Relatives": Exploring the Phenomenon of Other-Presentation. *Journal of Family Communication*, 20(2), 146–159.

<https://doi-org.snc.idm.oclc.org/10.1080/15267431.2020.1739689>

What is the purpose of the study? Briefly describe in 2-3 sentences.

The specific purpose of this study was to explore the ways in which parents construct their children's identities when communicating with third parties and to identify the types of stories they tell. By using theoretical sampling and a narrative adaptation of the constant comparison method, they analyzed 60 stories children remember their parents telling about them.

How does the study utilize your assigned theory?

Retrospective storytelling is investigated in this study, which has major and lasting effects, especially on families according to Koenig Kellas. To understand self-presentation generally, it is key to collect and analyze people's memories, especially children. In this respect, children not only hear stories about socialization, but also stories that help them choose who they want to be. In the first CNSM proposition, retroactive storytelling is positioned as a socialization mechanism. Researchers used proposition one as a heuristic to examine the function of retrospective stories in families, including the stories people tell and hear about themselves.

What is/are the research question(s) and/or hypotheses? (You may copy and paste these)

RQ1: How do adult children recall being presented (i.e. characterized as representing a particular identity) in the stories their parents tell about them to other people?

RQ2: What types of perceived functions do the stories adult children recall their parents telling about them play?

RQ3: What, if any, relationships exist among the emergent findings?

Is the study a quantitative or qualitative article?

As we mentioned in class (you used my article as an example) this was a qualitative study.

How was the data collected?

Following IRB approval, researchers asked adult children to recount a story they remembered their parents telling others about them. In this study, one-on-one narrative interviews were conducted with participants to collect data. Initially, participants were instructed to imagine themselves as authors of a novel, sharing the story as their parents tell it. Participants then had the opportunity to share their own perspectives, though many told their stories exactly as their parents had. Finally, participants were asked a few semi-structured open-ended questions to gain more insight into their recollections. They also added six additional semi-structured questions

over time (i.e., throughout data collection). These questions became crucial during the theory-coding process.

Who participated?

60 people participated in this study. In order to participate, participants had to be at least 18 years old and remember stories their parents told about them to other people. The following represents a breakdown of gender among the 60 participants: 33 identified as female, 26 as male, and one other participant. Among the participants, the ages ranged from 19 to 64 with a mean age of 27. Although some participants selected more than one category, most identified as White.

How were the data analyzed?

In order to verify the analyses, researchers performed the following four procedures: (1) peer-debriefing; (2) negative case analysis; (3) audit trail; and (4) exemplar identification. Since each story could be classified as one of the reported identities or story functions, the researchers achieved negative case analysis. This means that all stories in the study were included in the analysis. To maintain a detailed audit trail, every member of the research team took detailed notes regarding their decisions. As the analysis went on, new concepts began to emerge that warranted the addition of supplementary questions. Thus, for the last ten interviews, they added another narrative question.

What were the results? Spend some time here (at least a paragraph), depending on how extensive the results are.

In regards to the results, these were the findings. The theoretical sampling and constant comparison methods resulted in the identification of four identity impressions and four story functions from a corpus of 60 narrative interview stories. As a whole, identity served as a central impression management tool in the stories. It was evident that four major types of identity emerged: (1) the prodigal child, (2) the special child, (3) the party pooper, and (4) the child of misfortune. The four types of identities that emerged answered the researchers' first question. The following sentences will briefly break-down some information on each of the four types of identities that emerged. Often, prodigal children were portrayed as mischievous or naughty as children; however, in adulthood, they became well-mannered. Parents constructed viewpoints about special children by emphasizing how these behaviors have remained a characteristic of their child even as an adult. Despite the less frequent admission, some parents formed the impression that their children were party poopers. Of note, these children did not display particularly bad behavior. They were presented as being involved in behaviors that made their parents less happy, such as taking on extra responsibilities beyond what was required. Children of misfortune, in contrast to the first three identities, were not always the protagonists of their own stories. The consequences of the children's actions sometimes resulted in unpleasant

outcomes, but more often, children of misfortune were portrayed as the victims of events beyond their control.

In regards to the second research question, these specific findings gave answers to that question. The stories emerged as having four main functions: (1) to tease, (2) to show pride, (3) to rebuke, and (4) to entertain. First, children and adults recognized teasing stories as having been told in a playful spirit. Additionally, parents expressed pride in the person their children were and/or bragged about their children's behavior. Thirdly parents told stories to rebuke their children for behavior they did not approve of in the past. Lastly, parents' stories served as entertainment, and thus implicated many family members in the tale. Concerning the third research question, two orientations were relevant to guiding the emergent identity impressions and perceived story functions: (1) time, and (2) valence. The function of time was one of the most salient features of the stories of adult children. They said that parents tell stories as a way of comparing the children they once were with the adult children who they are now. According to the researchers, time is a significant factor in the type of person that parents portray and in what sort of story grows in popularity. Another important foundational marker was the valence of both the person and the story more generally. This set of orientations can serve as a helpful heuristic when evaluating stories. In fact, these emerging typologies highlight the ways in which stories can serve to create impressions of others and to serve a plethora of functions for the narrator.

What are the limitations that the author(s) identifies?

When it comes to limitations, the researchers recognize that various contexts (including those outside of family stories) can yield different story functions and identities. Additionally, the lack of diversity in the study may have contributed to particularized results as most participants were white and female. The author touches on the fact that even though a large percentage of the sample is white, future researchers should focus on more diverse populations.

What is your own evaluation of the article? Identify at least one strength and one weakness of the actual methodology of the study (avoid focusing on writing style when evaluating the article).

I found the article interesting, as I had never really looked into other-presentation in regards to studies and research. One of the strengths that this article has was it was very in-depth with its findings. As well as providing in-depth results, the article also does a great job of explaining things to everyone regardless of how familiar they are with the topic. One of the weaknesses I noticed was more of an exclusion as whenever the study talks about parental figures only mothers and fathers are brought up. However, I know a lot of people who have other family members as their parental figures. I thought it would have been interesting to see how stories differ from people who don't have traditional parental figures. What if someone's grandmother was their parental figure? Would they fall into the stereotype of thinking highly of their child/grandchild or would the stories they tell the other people reflect the child negatively?

