

Methodological considerations of using focus group data from two different countries

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Background

- Focus group discussion (FGD) is a research technique that collects data generated through group interaction and discussion (Krueger and Casey, 2015).
- Interaction between focus group participants generates data from people with similar frames of reference, but with diverse experiences, which can elicit differing perspectives on the issue of interest (Kitzinger, 1995).

Aim

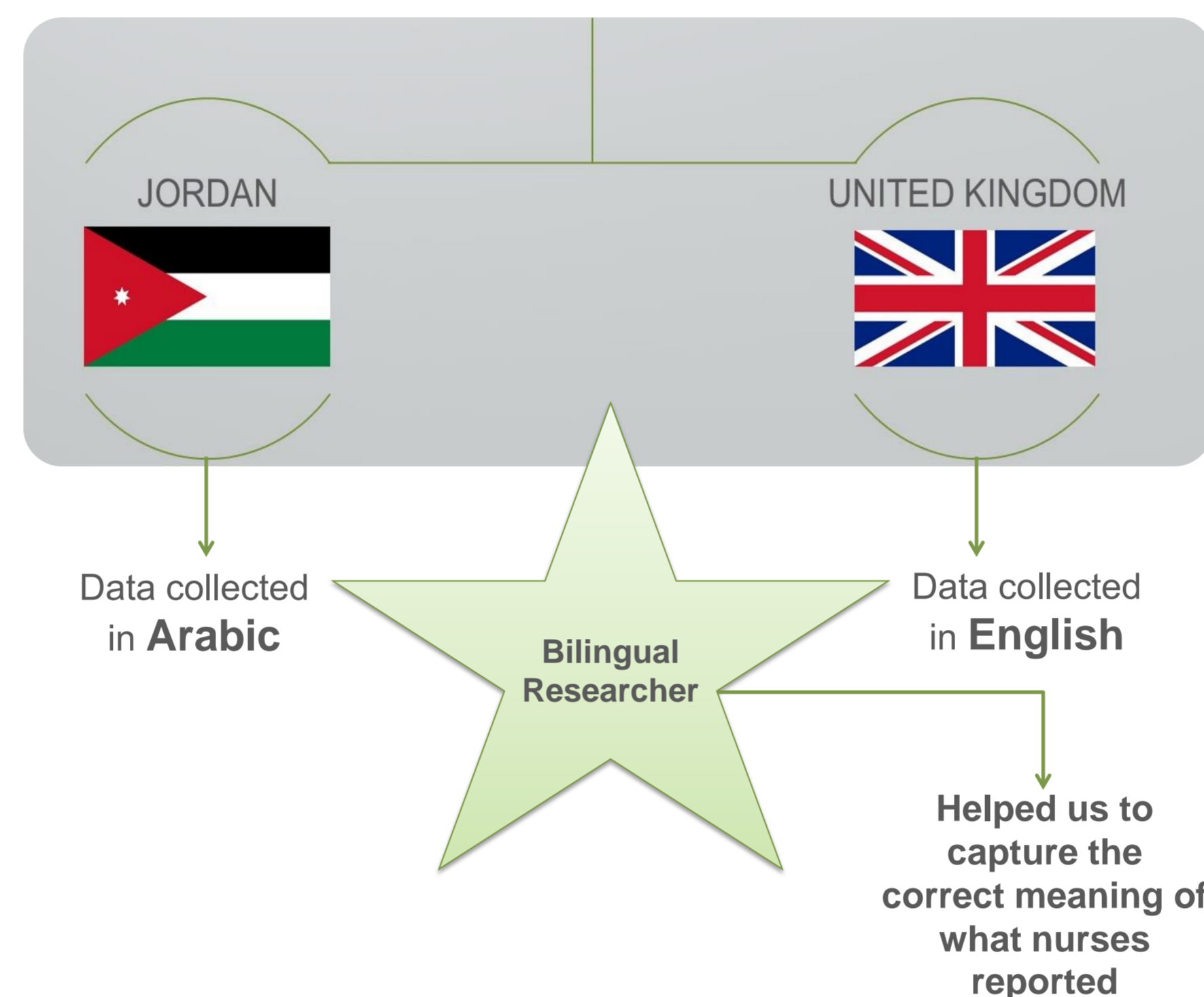
- To discuss the challenges of completing FGDs in two culturally different countries.

Current approaches

- FGDs generate data at two levels – individual, and group interaction.
- Conducting FGDs in different countries poses challenges in study design, as well as in collection and analysis of focus group data (Hennink, 2017).
- There was a lack of detailed information on transcription and translation processes.
- There is variation of the ‘when and how’ of data analysis and presentation among authors.
- Thematic and content analysis were commonly used to analyse qualitative FGDs’ data from different countries.
- Studies discuss the role of FGDs to facilitate the expression of comprehensive views of culturally and linguistically diverse populations, to enable the structure of clinical practice to meet their needs (Halcomb *et al.*, 2007).
- Further examination of the literature has not identified clear guidelines as to whether data extracted from two countries should be presented and analysed separately (Glavin *et al.*, 2014), or together (Endacott *et al.*, 2016).

Our Experience

- Our FGDs explored the views and experiences of nurses from two countries when patients ask them to wash their hands.



The process and challenges



International implications

- International nurse researchers might consider reporting detailed information on the process of analysing the findings from different countries and the best time for analysis.
- International nurse researchers should provide detailed information regarding presentation of focus group results from different countries - jointly or separately.
- International focus group discussions are beneficial with the globalisation of nursing workforces.

Conclusion

- We explored the methodological assumptions underpinning focus group methodology within a sample of nurses from two different countries.
- Transcription and translation of focus group data extracted from different countries should be fully reported in international research.
- Our experience, and the review of the literature, suggest there is room for further progress in providing detailed information on best possible methods to analyse and present data derived from FGDs’ data from different countries.
- The aims of research and reasons for collecting data may help nurse researchers to decide whether the results of FGDs should be combined, or treated separately.

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