

Notes made on Abbott, Andrew, 1995, Sequence Analysis: and other articles listed at the end.

PROGRESS OF THE ANALYSIS

1. Analysis should build up the points of tension. These are then to be synthesized and integrated through critical analysis with theory, ongoing debates, and assumptions.
2. An organization is an existing field of institutional forces held in balance through day to day power struggles as members of the organization try to fulfill their respective responsibilities in achieving the organization's objectives as well as their personal goals on a continuous basis.
3. These internal tensions are complemented by external factors that compel changes in the institutional forces. Change is an alteration in this existing field of activity of the organization and its culture a variable that maintains the organization in its state of progress, growth and development.
4. Political, economic, legal, social and cultural and technological factors induce disturbances in the internal environment variable and these are complemented by internal tensions resulting from power play, a disconnect between requirement of competence to meet the new challenges of change and the level of competence available within the organization.
5. Sources of tension
 - a) Competence required and competence available.
 - b) Institutional needs of the organization's core activities and their forms as adopted from others.

- c) Coping with new technology initially causes worry and confusion. The learning process imparts confidence and reduces confusion. This is beneficial only if the technology adopted is appropriate to meeting the goals of the organization.

KEY QUESTIONS

6. The key questions that emerge from the foregoing are 'How institutionalized is authority?' and 'How diffused is central control?' 'How is the presence of the state 'felt' at various levels?' and 'What is the state's 'ability' to conduct the ever increasing business of government?' (Oszlak, 2004: 483)
7. How do rules work together to allow the individual to complete the task allotted to him or her in the hierarchy? The main task here is 'co ordination' and 'convergence' of ends.
8. Integration helps to establish a more fluid communication system as an asset to the organization. (Ibid: 493) It also reduces bureaucratic isolation and makes monitoring and control more effective. "Coordination through internalized norms that predetermine what should be done" (Mintzberg,1999 :121 as quoted by Oszlak, 2004:493)

SEQUENCE ANALYSIS

9. In analysis, the move is **from units to context**, from attributes to connections, and from causes to events or phenomena, a turn towards **processes** and events **that shape** sequence analysis.
10. Sequence Analysis is **not a technique** like event history analysis. It is **a body of questions** about social processes and **a collection of techniques** available to answer them. The basic questions that can be addressed within the sequence analysis framework, and a location of

the basic questions, within a [grid of methodologies](#) applicable to sequence data. This is then followed by the methods for sequence analysis.

CONTEXT

11. Context simply means [the phenomena surrounding](#) a case, which means the network of other cases and prior times. The phenomenon of emphasis on context has given rise to several disparate developments such as ['reflexivity'](#).

[Earlier](#), phenomena were thought to be independent of one another as well as of the past. [Causal chain linking](#) was the [methodology](#) used for analyzing such independent cases after characterizing them by properties such as gender or bureaucratization. The [methods evolved](#) for research are based on such [causal analysis of social reality](#). The methods assumed inter case independence even when the theories focused on interaction.

12. Archeology, linguistics, and psychology have long used the sequence research. [Sequence is an ordered list of elements in one dimension](#) (such as spatial sequence) but there is no assumption of real time. Sequence includes the order of steps in a process that sometimes permits ties with parallel processes. But most often sequence is discrete, single lists, as in job careers.

13. The elements of a sequence are events, drawn from a set of all possible events in a set of sequence or the universe of events. Properties of sequences:

- a. Sequence can be unique or can repeat. A sequence in which an event cannot repeat is non-recurrent, and the length of such a sequence cannot exceed the size of the universe. In a recurrent sequence the universe of events is with

replacement but its length is also limited by the sampling frame of a lifetime or a wave of data collection and so on.

- b. Sequence can have dependence between their states as in stochastic processes, in which the $n+1$ th element of the sequence is some specified function of the n th or an earlier elements.
- c. This is the simplest case and is called the Markov process. There can be more complicated arrangements as in a continuous or an infinite universe or there may be minimal interdependence.
- d. There can be varying degrees of dependencies in various 'whole sequences'.

14. References for Methodology

1. Abbott, Andrew. 1995. Sequence Analysis: New Methods for Old Ideas. *Annual Review of Sociology* Vol. 21 pp. 93-113.
2. White, Harrison. 1970. *Chains of Opportunity*.
3. Dohan, Daniel and Martin Sanchez- Jankowski. 1998. Using Computers to analyze ethnographic Field data: Theoretical and Practical Considerations. *Annual Review of Sociology*. Vol.24 pp.477-498.
4. Levitt, Barbara and March, James G. 1988. Organizational Learning. *Annual Review of Sociology*. Vol. 14 pp. 319-340.
5. Stolte, John F. Gary Alan Fine and Karen S. Cook. 2001. 'Sociological Miniaturism: Seeing the Big Through the Small in Social Psychology. *Annual Review of Sociology* vol. 27 pp. 387-413.