


# Chapter 8

## An Overview of Using IRAMUTEQ Software in Qualitative Analysis Designs

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### ABSTRACT

*Qualitative research methodology provides an effective way to explore participants' perceptions and unlock their experiences. In multicultural research settings, particularly in social sciences (e.g., sociology, psychology, theology, etc.), there is a strong tendency among qualitative researchers to collect the required data through interviews. This study employs qualitative research methodology, particularly lexicometric analysis via the IRaMuTeQ software, to analyze text data from semi-structured interviews. This software allows for detailed statistical analysis of the text corpus, including classic text analysis, specificity analysis, similarity analysis, and word cloud. In addition, this research aims to explore participants' perceptions and experiences through around twenty interviews, juxtaposing process and content in order to identify different themes. The IRaMuTeQ software helps to visualize lexicographic elements and ensure homogeneity between initial and resulting themes through correspondence factorial analysis.*

### INTRODUCTION

In academic research, qualitative analysis offers a valuable method for comprehensively understanding the details of topics under study. It achieves this by relying upon narrative perspectives and interpretations of participants (interviewees), thereby enriching the grasping of the subject matter (Muzari et al., 2022). Unlike quantitative research, which focuses on analyzing numerical data, statistics, and quantitative measurements, qualitative research focuses on understanding the social phenomena and the meanings attributed by individuals to their reality depending on their response to the complexity and the diversity of human experiences. However, qualitative research consists of exploring the subjective

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dimensions of reality and the recognition of the diversity of points of view (Bhangu et al., 2023). This approach often favors semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and participant observation for collecting qualitative data.

In this sense, the qualitative approach is an excellent method for addressing multicultural issues where the emphasis is not placed on deepening the theoretical or conceptual understanding of the research subject, but on examining the contribution to change and quality improvement within the framework studied (Morgan, 2022). Indeed, qualitative research produces detailed data on the “who, what, and where of events or experiences” from a subjective point of view. From a philosophical perspective, this research approach suggests that reality is multiple and subjective, given that it is perceived differently by each individual. This type of research encourages deploying flexible, inductive, and dynamic processes while preserving the integrity of the data so that they remain devoted to the phenomenon studied (Tomaszewski et al., 2020).

Moreover, qualitative data analysis represents a powerful method used across various research fields to deeply explore participants' perceptions and experiences. Consequently, integrating computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software (CAQDAS) seems indispensable in qualitative research (Monteiro et al., 2021). However, software like IRAMUTEQ serves as a promising methodological approach for qualitative analysis research. Its advantages extend beyond the limitations of its algorithms, but further research is needed to enhance its effectiveness in other contexts (Niedbalski & Ślęzak, 2022).

Within this analytical framework, zakat, an Islamic principle, constitutes a fundamental aspect of Muslims' spiritual and social life. It symbolizes an act of financial purification and community support, aiming to redistribute wealth within society. Qualitative analysis of zakat provides insights relying on the perceptions and interpretations surrounding this practice within the context of Islamic countries (Nurul Izza, 2021). In this study, the IRAMUTEQ software is employed as a qualitative text analysis tool to explore discourses and representations related to zakat in a multicultural context (Faiz & Abdullah, 2023). IRAMUTEQ enables rigorous analysis of texts by identifying recurring themes, keyword associations, and linguistic nuances within the studied documents.

This program offers various forms of data analysis, such as classic text analysis, specificity analysis, similarity analysis, and word cloud creation (Chaves et al., 2017). To realize this approach, a series of interviews with different participants is conducted to explore the qualitative research process. Furthermore, comparing both the process and the content proves useful in studying the various themes covered during the interviews. This research encourages coherence between the initially proposed themes and those revealed by the correspondence factorial analysis. This chapter aims to provide a general overview of the qualitative approach designs (Sarrica et al., 2016).

The primary objective of this book, as a whole, consists of examining various qualitative research approaches and principles suitable for multicultural contexts (Allsop et al., 2022). Consequently, this research aims to enhance understanding of contemporary perspectives related to zakat's practice through available texts, illuminating diverse conceptions and applications of zakat across different cultural and social settings (Abu-Ghazaleh Mahajneh et al., 2021). As part of this research, the use of IRaMuTeQ software facilitates analyzing the transcriptions of the semi-structured interviews carried out during the exploratory survey.

The book chapter structure is divided into five main sections. After introducing the research topic, section 2 reviews the literature regarding the qualitative research approach by shedding light on the IRaMuTeQ software analysis process. Section 3 describes the research methodology, including the research conception and design as well as the sampling technique followed to analyze the qualitative data. The

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