

The Meaning of Nursing Experience as Given Through Narratives

– Forming one’s perspectives on nursing based on clinical knowledge –

IWAMOTO Miyuki

Graduate School of Science for Human Services, Ritsumeikan University

Keywords: Unforgettable experiences, narratives, Modified Grounded Theory Approach

The purpose of this study was to identify the meaning of nurses’ narratives about unforgettable experiences in their lives as well as to clarify the process through which their perspectives on nursing were formed, all based on clinical knowledge. To achieve this, semi-structured interviews were conducted with nurses having 10 or more years of experience, and the collected data was analyzed using the Modified Grounded Theory Approach. As a result, 21 concepts and four categories were extracted, from which specified conceptual diagrams and storylines were devised.

The study showed that unforgettable experiences remained in the nurses’ minds as emotions, and that internalizing their unforgettable experiences led to personal growth. The analysis also indicated that the nurses were able to organize a series of events and their feelings by talking about such experiences. The nurses’ narratives regarding their life and career experiences were thus focused on and examined.

In the process of forming perspectives regarding nursing, the subjects were influenced not only by their internalization of past experiences, but also by their learning through nursing practices and their relationships with people around them. The findings also suggest that valuable, forgotten nursing perspectives could be recalled during the course of talking about past experiences.