Contributions of the Theory Based on the Study of Public Management. Foundations for Consolidating Emerging Concepts: Governance and Open Government

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Abstract

The purpose of the research entitled Contributions of Grounded Theory in the Study of Public Management: Bases for Consolidating Emerging Concepts such as Governance and Open Government was to interpret the position of qualitative researchers on the contributions of Grounded Theory (TF) to improve the understanding and practice of public management. Methodologically, in-depth interviews with recognized qualitative researchers were used, using the Atlas software. IT to analyze and categorize the data. The questions focused on how they perceive the effectiveness of TF and how they believe it improves the understanding of public management processes. Key categories were identified to understand the improvement of the understanding and effectiveness of TF, which are necessary for the implementation of good governance and open government practices. The information collected was categorized and triangulated for later understanding and interpretation. The findings reveal that: a) TF facilitates the development of emerging theories based on empirical data, which enables a better understanding of the underlying patterns and processes in public management; b) TF is a powerful tool for developing new paradigms in public management, integrating principles of transparency, participation, collaboration and innovation.

Keywords: Public Management, Governance, Open Government and Grounded Theory.

1. Introduction

Grounded Theory has been widely discussed as to its suitability in qualitative studies, mainly because it facilitates the transition from empirical knowledge to theoretical formalization. This qualitative research methodology, used in various disciplines, generates theories from the data collected during the research process. Initially developed by Glaser and Strauss (1967), and later by Glaser (1967), Strauss (1987) and Corbin and Strauss (2008), it is defined as an analysis

methodology that links data collection with a set of systematically applied methods to generate an inductive theory about a substantive area. The objective of the research was to interpret the position of qualitative researchers on the contributions of Grounded Theory (hereinafter TF) to improve the understanding and practice of public management, demonstrating how the paradigmatic proposals derived from this methodology can contribute to the improvement of processes in the field of public administration.

Before delving into the aspects of governance and open government, it is necessary to establish how TF is applied to the field of public management. This paper does not intend to underline or contravene the positions on the essence of TF, nor to discuss its characteristics, advantages or disadvantages in qualitative studies, for which there is already an abundant literature (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Charmaz, 2006; Corbin & Strauss, 2008). However, in the context of the study of public management, it is anticipated that TF may represent a valuable tool for understanding and analyzing phenomena related to the administration and functioning of governmental organizations. According to (Mills et al., 2006), this methodology enables a greater understanding of internal dynamics and administrative processes by generating theories that emerge directly from the data collected in the specific environment. In addition, Bryman (2016) highlights the usefulness of TF to capture the complexity and diversity of experiences in public administration, which can significantly contribute to the improvement of processes and the implementation of more effective policies.

By applying TF to the study of public management, researchers can collect data through observations, interviews, document analysis, and other relevant sources. They then use an inductive analysis process to identify emerging patterns, concepts, and theories in the collected data. This methodology is particularly useful in public management due to the systematic construction of data based on goals established by public policies and facilitated by financing through the public budget (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Charmaz, 2006; Corbin & Strauss, 2008). The presence of quantitative data is common thanks to the process of linking plan and budget. However, there are also qualitative data that, although less evident and difficult to consolidate, are essential for decision-making in the field of the public agenda (Bryman, 2016).

It is often believed that public administration should be managed exclusively with quantitative data, while public management can combine qualitative and quantitative data, resulting in numerous studies with a mixed approach. It is key to distinguishing between administration and public management: the former focuses on achieving the purposes of the State, while the latter establishes the processes and procedures necessary to achieve the objectives of the public interest. In this paper, a qualitative approach is assumed as the first anchor of TF to explore public management.

Qualitative research applied to the public sphere allows the main subjects or groups of study to express themselves authentically and directly, especially in the context of local public management. Vegas-Meléndez (2013) underlines the role of reflection and the researcher's lived experience in data collection and understanding of the environment, highlighting that the objective is to understand the phenomenon rather than measuring variables, which implies an inductive approach that goes from the particular to the general. In this sense, the relevance of

understanding and interpreting public management beyond numbers and management indicators is highlighted. Public management must offer timely responses with a sense of identity that benefits the community. In this context, two key paradigms emerge: governance and open government.

These paradigms, with their particular characteristics, are ideal proposals to generate public value in government entities through interaction with their environment. This value is built on the basis of citizen trust, which is achieved through the capacity of entities to respond in a comprehensive and projected way to the needs of the collective. These responses must be derived from the initial identification of social problems and must be implemented through public policies designed with the participation of society, which must also monitor their execution and evaluate their results. The implementation of governance and open government can generate both favorable and critical responses from a dogmatic perspective. Many believe that these paradigms do not require significant commitment on the part of citizens and that it is enough to apply citizen participation mechanisms to achieve the support of society and collective satisfaction. However, there are premises that expand this simplistic vision of citizen intervention in matters on the public agenda.

The researchers do not intend to highlight the principles, characteristics, or components of governance and open government, as there is a vast literature on both paradigms in various contexts and spaces of strategic application. Instead, they focus on exploring how these practices can actually transform governance and foster deeper and more meaningful citizen participation. Both governance and open government are strategies designed to improve public management, and for their successful implementation it is essential to have a well-defined intention about the scope of each. Governance is integrated as an institutional structure aimed at interpreting and meeting the needs of society through development policies (Rhodes, 2018). For its part, open government focuses on the transparency of its most critical processes, where information is a valuable asset for citizens in terms of oversight. (Mergel et al. 2019)

Linking the study of these strategies with TF requires, first, understanding the epistemological nature of the knowledge that underpins them. In addition, it is necessary to understand the axiological and ontological aspects, where values and raison d'être, respectively, make up the philosophical basis of research (Berrío, 2017; Bryman, 2016). These three philosophical aspects contribute to the definition of the paradigm of this research work, which is phenomenological-interpretive.

Attention to these three philosophical aspects underscores the relevance of TF in the study of public management as a social phenomenon, especially when a contextual understanding of the environment in which government entities operate is required. In addition, it is essential to have an adequate interpretation of the social interaction between the actors in the same environment. Through TF it is possible to develop a formal theory based on empirical data, which can consolidate emerging paradigms such as governance and open government, overcoming simple abstract concepts (Charmaz, 2020; Clarke & Friese, 2021).

This raises a question: What is the position of qualitative researchers on the contributions of TF in the study of public management? To answer this question, it is proposed to interpret the position of qualitative researchers on the contributions of TF in this field. The strategic guidelines of this study include: contextualizing the contributions of TF in the study of public management, categorizing the position of informants on these contributions, and reflecting on the influence of TF on public management.

2. THEORETICAL CONSTRUCT

Grounded theory. Foundations for consolidating emerging concepts

TF is a qualitative analysis strategy designed to overcome subjective assumptions in research, based on the systematic collection of data, its analysis, and the organization of these into meaningful categories. This process includes constantly comparing the collected data with the identified codes, which helps to refine and develop emerging theories. These theories seek to explain the phenomena observed in public management and are validated by comparison with new data and verification methods (Berrio et al., 2013).

By focusing on the understanding of human experience and the continuous reconstruction of reality, TF enables the generation of new explanatory theories in a wide range of disciplines, including public management (Donina & Paleari, 2019). This methodological approach follows a structured process:

• Data collection: Relevant data on the subject of study is collected through various sources, ensuring a broad and rich base of information.

• Coding: Researchers analyze data and organize it into meaningful categories and codes, making it easier to identify patterns.

• Constant comparison: The data collected is continuously compared to the identified categories and codes, which helps to refine and develop emerging theories in an interactive way.

• Theorizing: As patterns and relationships are identified in the data, theories are developed that explain the phenomena observed in the context of public management.

• Validation: The theories generated are validated by comparison with new data, peer review, and other verification methods, ensuring their robustness and applicability.

We cannot ignore the positions of the precursors of TF. This methodology of analysis is closely linked to data collection and employs a set of systematically applied methods to generate an inductive theory on a substantive area. The final product of the research constitutes a theoretical formulation or an integrated set of conceptual hypotheses about the substantive area under study (Glaser, 1967).

Emergent theory, as defined in TF, consists of a set of interrelated categories, subcategories, properties, and dimensions that describe a given phenomenon through a process of describe,

compare, and conceptualize data. Emergent constructions of data in TF are called "substantive theory" because they explain specific phenomena within a particular context. This substantive theory is developed from specific areas of empirical research, such as patient care, crime, or work. (Glaser & Strauss, 1967)

During the theoretical saturation process, it is convenient to develop a triangulation, using a relational phase assumed by the researchers of this study, which is executed in two coding phases: "axial coding" and "selective coding" (Strauss & Corbin, 2012). Axial coding is the process of relating categories to their subcategories, called "axial" because it occurs around the axis of a category, linking the categories in terms of their properties and dimensions.

Selective coding is highlighted, which represents "a process in which all emerging categories are integrated within a conceptual scheme, around a central or core category. The central category has an important analytical power, since it allows the categories to be brought together to form an explanatory whole while informing about the variation between the categories. (Strauss & Corbin, 2012, p. 29). Therefore, they recommend "using a consequential conditional matrix as a strategy to deepen the relationships between micro and macro conditions/consequences, in such a way that it can be explained how the intertwining of conditions and consequences create the contexts for action/interaction." (Strauss & Corbin, 2012, p. 37)

Based on the criteria of the researchers, positions are given on the behavior of the TF for the study of public management, which can serve as a basis for the consolidation of concepts on governance and open government; these premises being:

• Inductive and emergent approach: TF encourages the development of theories based on data collected in the field, rather than on previous hypotheses. This makes it easier to explore new perspectives and theorize about phenomena that have been little studied in public management.

• Sensitivity to the context: The TF emphasizes the importance of the organizational, political and social context in the understanding of the phenomena of public management. This is key to understanding the dynamics of governance and open government.

• Emphasis on processes: TF focuses on analyzing social and organizational processes, which facilitates a better understanding of the evolution of public management practices and transformations in governance.

• Participation of the actors: The TF method implies the participation of the actors of public management themselves, which facilitates the construction of models that are more relevant and sensitive to their needs.

• Flexibility and openness: TF helps to adjust the research design as it progresses, favoring the exploration of new lines of inquiry in the field of governance and open government.

These inputs can serve as a basis for developing new paradigms that link public management theory and practice more closely, and that contribute to a better understanding of emerging governance and open government phenomena. In summary, TF can be a powerful tool for

researching and understanding public management, as it empowers researchers to develop sound theories based on empirical data.

Approach to the discourse on governance

In various literatures, the World Bank (2022) is considered to be the promoter of the term governance, which states that it is "the process by which state and non-state groups interact to design and implement policies, working within the framework of a set of formal and informal rules that are shaped by power" (p.19). According to the Commission of the European Communities (2001), through the communiqué European Governance - A White Paper, it refers to governance "as the rules, processes and behaviors that affect the way in which power is exercised, moving quickly to assume that, the more open and participatory, the more effectively it will allow accountability." (p. 17)

Governance as a paradigm (Subirats, 2009):

• … it implies the recognition, acceptance and integration of complexity as an intrinsic element of the political process. This complexity, motivated by diversity and the uncertainty of permanent change, means that the action of governing must be conceived as a process of social learning in which multiple actors make their contributions.

• … it implies a system of governance through the participation of diverse actors within the framework of plural networks. Triple dynamics of fragmentation, responsibilities and capacities of government: multilevel government, transversality and social participation.

• … it entails a position of the public authorities in the processes of government, the adoption of new roles and the use of new instruments of government. (p. 67)

These positions on governance provide a key orientation on the principles that sustain it, as well as the transcendence of an open and sincere interrelationship between social actors who seek to take care of their interests without neglecting harmonious and consensual development.

Emerging Concept: Institutional Governance

Institutional governance means a novel power structure where all participants have equal importance within its framework, which requires validated, consensus-based decision-making on matters of collective concern, prioritizing the public agenda, according to development needs rather than individual specificities, and focusing solutions on addressing the root cause of problems rather than their consequences (Reyes & Mendieta, 2012). It involves the meticulous establishment of a set of principles, standards, and practices of good governance that prioritize citizens in their management, with a key emphasis on the commitment of the highest authority to lead in alignment with the central purpose of the organization, thus fulfilling its social mission (Culpepper, 2004). It represents a new scheme of power in which its participants have the same weight within its structure, in which validated and consensual decision-making is required on matters of collective interest, in which the public agenda – previously accepted – is prioritized according to development needs, and not from particularities; in which the solutions are only oriented to the root of the problem and not to its consequences. (Vegas-Meléndez & Solorzano-

Calero, 2022). This approach weighs institutional quality in promoting integrity and combating corrupt behavior through formal and informal institutional arrangements.

As a contribution to the study of governance, the researchers highlight that TF contributes to strengthening the following:

• Relational and networked approach: Governance emphasizes the relationships, interactions, and networks between various actors (public, private, civil society) in the management of the public. This fits well with TF's emphasis on social processes.

• Power distribution and decision-making: Governance challenges traditional hierarchical models, proposing more distributed and participatory forms of decision-making. TF can help to theorize about these new dynamics.

• Flexibility and adaptability: Governance is characterized by being a more flexible model that adapts to changes in the context, which is in line with the openness and emergence of TF.

• Emphasis on transparency and accountability: Key governance principles such as transparency and accountability can be studied in depth through the inductive and context-sensitive approach of TF.

• Development of new competencies for public management: Governance requires public managers to develop new skills, such as negotiation skills, leadership in networks and facilitation of collaborative processes. TF can help theorize about the development of these competencies.

Taken together, these contributions suggest that TF can constitute a very valuable approach to build new paradigms that integrate the principles of governance in public management, favoring a greater understanding of emerging phenomena in this field. Figure 1 outlines the idea of governance:

Figure 1. Governance and some of its attributes

Source: Own elaboration (2024). In original language Spanish

Approach to the discourse on open government

A government could be considered "open" when it promotes involvement in the management of social organizations and citizens, without necessarily having to do so through virtual interactions through current available technologies. In any case, technology has multiplied, with unprecedented scope, the forms, instances and mechanisms through which these interactions can materialize today. (Oszlak, 2013, p. 7)

The emerging paradigm of open government is postulated as a renewed approach to State reform and modernization of public administration, based on a new way of articulating initiatives of transparency, accountability, citizen participation and collaboration of various actors for the co-production of public, social and civic value. (Ramírez-Alujas & Rosales, 2020, p. 73)

Open government represents one of the most recent instruments of public management to consolidate more transparent spaces and processes. Their vision in front of citizens is to show themselves to be open enough so that society trusts their products (public policies) and the benefits they offer through public services (Sánchez & Mantuano, 2023)

These positions provide guidance on the relevance and scope of the study of open government as an instrument of transparency in the acts of public administration, as an instrument for executing government policies.

Emerging Concept: Open Government

The researchers also contribute significantly to the analysis of open government, highlighting the important synergies that it presents with TF as an emerging paradigm in public management. These connections manifest themselves in several key aspects:

Open government is based on principles of transparency, access to information, and accountability. TF can provide a theoretical framework for implementing these principles in public management practice (Grimmelikhuijsen et al., 2020). In addition, open government promotes greater participation and involvement of citizens in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of public policies. TF, with its emphasis on active stakeholder participation, is essential to understanding these dynamics. (Osborne et al., 2021)

Open government also fosters collaboration between government, the private sector, and civil society to solve public problems. TF can contribute to theorizing about the conditions and mechanisms that facilitate these forms of co-creation. (Ansell & Torfing, 2021)

Open government is supported by information and communication technologies, such as open data, collaborative platforms and social networks. TF can help to understand how these digital tools transform public management practices (Meijer et al., 2021). In addition, open government fosters a culture of innovation and experimentation in public management. TF, with its flexible and emergent approach, can theorize about these innovation processes (Mergel et al., 2019). The TF offers a highly relevant methodological approach to develop new open government paradigms that holistically integrate its key principles: transparency, participation, collaboration, and innovation in public management. Figure 2 outlines the above ideas:

Figure 2. Articulation Governance-open government through TF
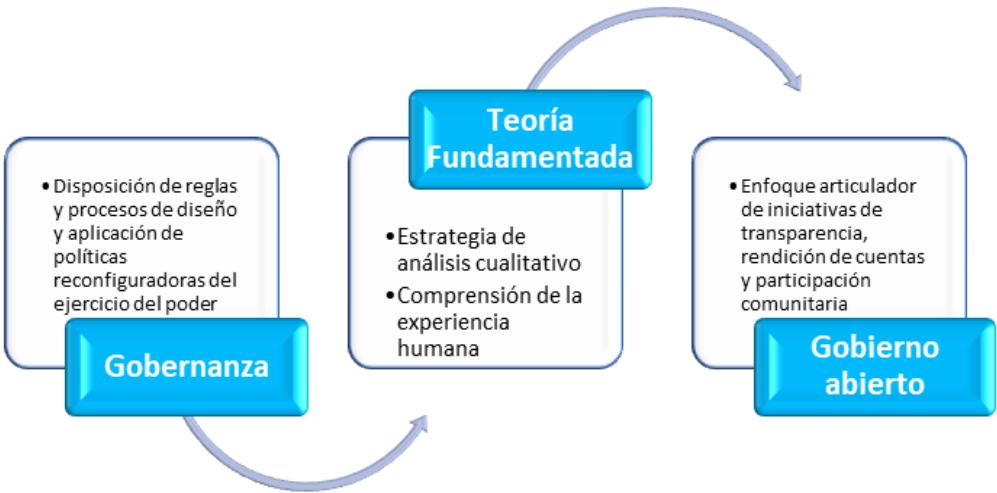
Source: Own elaboration (2024). In original language Spanish

3. METHODOLOGY

The research is based on a phenomenological-interpretative paradigmatic component, thus supporting the qualitative approach of the study. As mentioned at the beginning of the article, the purpose of this research was to interpret the position of qualitative researchers on the contributions of TF in the study of public management. To learn about these positions, in-depth interviews were conducted with two researchers, known for their preference for the qualitative approach. According to Kvale (1996): "the purpose of the qualitative research interview is to obtain descriptions of the world experienced by the interviewees, in order to achieve reliable interpretations of the meaning of the phenomena described" (p. 66). In-depth or semi-structured interviews offer acceptable flexibility and sufficient uniformity to achieve interpretations consistent with the objectives of the study. (Díaz-Bravo et al., 2013)

Interviews and observation in phenomenology

As a qualitative data collection technique, the interview is useful to obtain information about the study phenomenon, here how the informants understand and interpret. The desire is to achieve the lived meaning of a specific experience by relegating subjective interpretations about it.

The study unit was made up of renowned qualitative researchers. In-depth interviews were conducted.

The interviewees were asked three questions: 1) What is the position of qualitative researchers on the contributions of TF in the study of public management? 2) How do qualitative researchers perceive the effectiveness of TF in the analysis of public management practices? 3) In what ways do qualitative researchers believe that TF improves the understanding of public management processes?

For the unveiling of the findings, the categorization process has been implemented with the following work protocol, which consists of five phases:

First phase: Information gathering phase. In this phase, information was collected systematically through interviews, observations, and documentary analysis, without pre-established theoretical preconceptions.

Second Phase: Open coding. After the information was collected, open coding was carried out, where concepts and categories were identified in the information inductively, without imposing predefined categories.

Third Phase: Axialization. In this phase, the categories identified in the open coding were related to explore the connections between them and develop a provisional theoretical framework.

Fourth Phase: Theoretical selection. During this phase, central categories were selected and the provisional theoretical framework was readjusted based on relevance and coherence with the information collected.

Fifth Phase: Conceptualization. In this final phase, a TF was developed that integrates the identified categories and the relationships between them, generating a coherent explanation of the phenomenon investigated, such as interpreting the position of qualitative researchers on the contributions of TF in the study of public management. Figure 3 describes the phases of the categorization process.

Figure 3. Phases of the categorization process
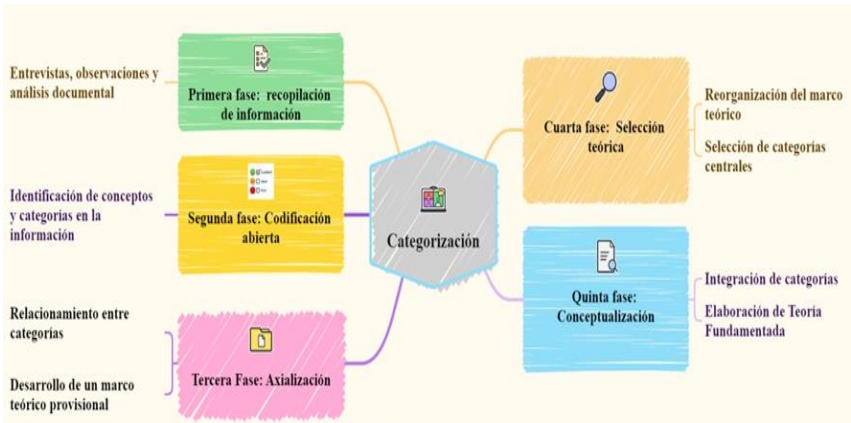
Source: Own elaboration (2024). In original language Spanish

These phases of the TF method allowed researchers to develop theories based on information, rather than on preconceived hypotheses, leading to deeper and more contextual understandings of the phenomenon studied.

To categorize the researchers' positions on the contributions of TF in public management, the Atlas.ti software (2024 version) was used, which facilitated the identification of themes and patterns of discursive behavior based on the information obtained.

Analysis Strategy: Theoretical Saturation, Encodings and Axial Matrix

It is suggested to develop a triangulation during the theoretical saturation process for this purpose, a relational phase executed in two phases of coding is used: axial coding and selective coding (Strauss & Corbin, 2012). Axial coding relates categories to their subcategories, called "axial" because the coding occurs around the axis of a category, linking the categories in terms of their properties and dimensions. Selective coding integrates all emerging categories into a conceptual scheme around a central or core category, which has important analytical power by bringing the categories together to form an explanatory whole and providing information about the variation between the categories.

Using a consequential conditional matrix as a strategy helps to delve deeper into the relationships between micro and macro conditions and consequences, explaining how the interweaving of these creates the contexts for action and interaction (Strauss & Corbin, 2012).

Table 1 shows the categories that emerged from the in-depth interview with experts in qualitative research, especially in studies on public management. See.

Table 1. Emerging categories of in-depth interview

Interviewee	Extracted code	Category
E1. RP1: Grounded theory is my favorite analysis strategy in the research I develop with my team. It allows you to find patterns of discursive behavior that can well help generate categories or subcategories to proceed to theorize.	Pattern Identification Effectiveness	
E1. RP2: Regarding public management, every public manager must identify elements that are not measurable in the needs of citizens. A public manager must learn to make decisions about situations that are empirical and that often respond to culture, tradition, spontaneity and the life of the environment. Identity plays an important role in the formulation of criteria, as well as the autochthonous. Both are not measured quantitatively.	Contributions Theory based on the value of interpretation	
E1. RP3: Studying public management within a diverse social context is not easy. It is necessary to have an acuity to understand the ideas that each one has about development, public policies, governance itself and the proposal of open government	Cultural factors Non-measurable elements	
E2. RP1: This analysis strategy leads us to the possibility of finding findings based on a single component: Decisions that are not measurable over time. In the case of public management, you know well that there are public policies that can be measurable, but the diagnosis prior to their formulation makes it more convenient to	Citizen Preparedness Causes of a social situation	Improved comprehension

know what the causes of a social situation are, and from there make strategic decisions.		
E2. RP2: As you mentioned a moment ago, paradigms such as open government and governance must necessarily be linked to social or collective thinking. None of them can be promoted without preparing the citizenry. And there are subjective elements that by their very nature citizens do not trust you, which is to give you their own trust, under the promise that public management will always be better.	Decisions that are not measurable over time Strategic decisions Subjective elements	
E2. RP3. It is not easy to propose changes to citizens when there are many disappointments, these disappointments are the ones that as researchers we must know how to interpret, and that do not refer to favors or something like that, but to those that identify you as thinking citizens with a sense of belonging and commitment to the future. You don't measure that quantitatively, you interpret that.	Social or collective thinking Effective strategy Understanding Social Situations Understanding the Causes Immeasurable decisions Valuable strategy	Effectiveness of Grounded Theory

Source: Prepared by the authors (2024) based on in-depth interviews

The codes expressed in the table above have arisen from the use of the Atlas.ti program (version 2024: https://atlasti.com/es), thus facilitating the categorization process. A couple of examples are shown below:

Image 1. Questions to researchers involved in the Atlas.ti program

Source: entrevista.docx

https://web.atlasti.com/projects/667f1cd7f167149a44b83cf4/sources. In original language Spanish

Image 2. Codes generated by the Atlas.ti program

Source: entrevista.docx
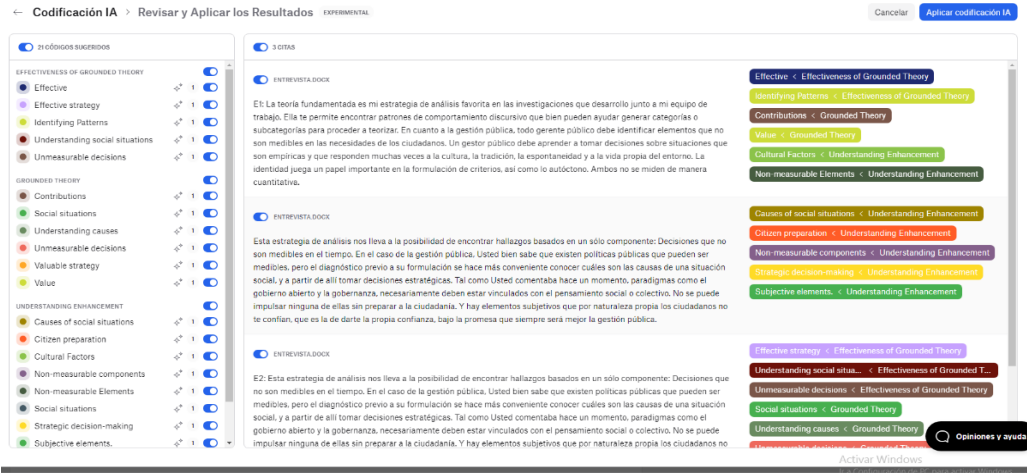
(https://web.atlasti.com/projects/667f1cd7f167149a44b83cf4/sources/667f1cf7ff643dd2debaf8 db). In original language Spanish

4. INTERPRETATION OF WHAT WAS FOUND

The research results in two findings that are convenient to explain: On the one hand, there is the category of improvement of understanding, and on the other, the category of effectiveness of grounded theory. Both are the result of a reflexive hermeneutical process, as Ricoeur (2003) rightly calls it, considering that the constitution of the reader's self and that of the meaning of the text are carried out at the same time. In which, Ricoeur himself (2003) declares: "by appropriation I mean the following: the interpretation of a text ends in the interpretation of itself of a subject that since then is better understood, understood in a different way or even begins to be understood". (Ricoeur, 2003, p. 141)

Based on the premises given by Ricoeur (2003), an interpretation of the resulting categories is given. Table 2 offers the interpretation of categories.

Table 2. Category Interpretation

Category	Interpretation
	Contextual understanding: TF enables researchers to delve into the specific context of public management and understand the factors that influence the decisions and actions of the actors involved in the governmental sphere.

1.- Improved comprehension	
	Identification of patterns and processes: Through inductive analysis of data, TF helps to identify underlying patterns and processes in public management, facilitating a deeper understanding of how public policies are developed and management practices are carried out.
2.- Effectiveness of the grounded theory	Development of emergent theories: TF facilitates the generation of emergent theories that are based on the data collected during research. These theories can provide new perspectives and approaches to address challenges and opportunities in public management.
	Focus on social interaction: By focusing on social interactions and decision-making processes in public management, TF can help identify how relationships are built, interests are negotiated, and power is exercised at the governmental level.
	Action-oriented: Findings derived from the application of TF in the study of public management may have direct practical implications for improving effectiveness, transparency, and accountability in government organizations.

5. FINAL THOUGHTS

Research on the application of TF in the study of public management, as highlighted by Vegas-Meléndez (2013), has proven to be a methodological tool of great value to achieve a deep and contextualized understanding of social and administrative phenomena. This methodology facilitates the generation of emerging theories based on empirical data, configuring a theoretical framework that overcomes subjective assumptions and directly addresses the complexity inherent in public administration.

In the context of public management, TF stands out for its ability to identify and analyze underlying patterns and processes, thus offering a detailed view of organizational dynamics and social interactions. This is particularly relevant in the elaboration and execution of public policies, since it favors the development of strategies based on a contextual understanding of the needs and expectations of citizens, in addition, TF reveals the transcendence of social interaction and decision-making processes, helping to identify how relationships are built, interests are negotiated and power is exercised within the governmental sphere. This approach is necessary to address the challenges of governance and open government, as it fosters transparency, accountability, and citizen participation.

The ability of this methodology to integrate emerging categories and subcategories into a coherent conceptual scheme enables researchers to develop theories that not only explain the observed phenomena, but also offer practical and applicable solutions. The flexibility of TF, which allows the design of the research to be adjusted as it progresses, favors the exploration of new lines of inquiry and the adaptation to changes in the study context. This dynamic and adaptive approach is especially useful in the study of public management, where conditions and

challenges can vary significantly. According to Charmaz (2020) and Clarke & Friese (2021), TF fosters the conditions to develop formal theories that consolidate emerging paradigms such as governance and open government, overcoming simple abstract concepts and providing a framework for concrete and measurable actions.

TF is presented as a versatile methodology for investigating public management, offering researchers the necessary tools to develop solid theories based on empirical data. This methodology not only improves the understanding of administrative processes and dynamics, but also contributes to the development of more effective public policies aligned with the needs of the community. Thus, TF is consolidated as an essential approach to advance qualitative research on public management, integrating key principles such as transparency, participation, collaboration and innovation in a holistic way. The rigorous application of this methodology can contribute significantly to the creation of a theoretical framework that supports the implementation of good governance and open government practices, promoting a more effective and transparent public administration.

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