

2014

# Foreword to Case Studies: Qualitative Research

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## Recommended Citation

Puncochar, J. (2014). Foreword. In A. C. Alwasilah, *Pokoknya Studi Kasus: Pendekatan Kualitatif (Case Studies: Qualitative Research)* (1st edition, pp. viii-x). Bandung, Indonesia: PT Remaja Rosdakarya.

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## **FOREWORD to *Case Studies: Qualitative Research***

**By Judith Puncocar, Ph.D.**

**In: *Pokoknya Studi Kasus: Pendekatan Kualitatif* by A. Chaedar Alwasilah**

**(*Case Studies: Qualitative Research*)**

**2014**

**Published by PT Remaja Rosdakarya, Bandung, Indonesia**

You are lucky to have found your way to this book. First, you must be an educated person and curious to learn more. Second, your mentor and guide in qualitative research is the wise and honorable scholar, Professor A. Chaedar Alwasilah. For 30 years, Prof. Alwasilah has met with students in his Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia office, on his front porch, and in coffee shops and guided students patiently and accurately through the prospectus phase of a qualitative thesis or dissertation and on to a successful, celebratory defense. Every page of *Pokoknya Studi Kasus: Pendekatan Kualitatif* offers an opportunity to benefit from Prof. Alwasilah's encouragement to think critically, research bravely, and work ethically.

Prof. Alwasilah studied at the University of Indiana USA graduate program with the famous naturalistic inquiry pioneer, Professor Egon G. Guba. Prof. Guba began his career as a quantitative researcher and deliberately chose to study qualitative research. He developed groundbreaking field methodologies to assess how teachers would adapt to and use expensive media resources placed immediately in elementary and high schools. Prof. Guba devoted the remainder of his academic career to naturalistic inquiry and established the validity and reliability of qualitative research observations of human behavior.

Inspired by his mentor in naturalistic inquiry, Prof. Alwasilah wrote his first book on general qualitative research in 2000; the text is currently in its seventh printing. The book you hold in your hands expands his original qualitative research text to case studies and critical reflection.

The first chapter of *Pokoknya Studi Kasus: Pendekatan Kualitatif* invites you to hone your skills of inquiry, critical reasoning, and honest reflection through analysis of your own work. Prof. Alwasilah encourages you to confront bravely Indonesia's toughest problems and advance Indonesia to excellence with evidence-based qualitative research. He directs your advance by introducing fundamental concepts of case study research within a social sciences paradigm guided by theory. His narrative style is engaging, concise, and clear. He counsels you to conduct research that makes a positive difference in people's lives. He emboldens you to take action and view complex human issues as research opportunities.

Throughout his book, Prof. Alwasilah advocates conducting research within the cultural perspectives of your research participants. He describes how to observe, decode, analyze, and synthesize meaning from naturally occurring human behavior. He helps you understand the influence of culture on how people construct learning and make sense of their experiences in the world. He guides you to embrace multiple perspectives, multiple voices, and multiple

interpretations. You will learn to navigate the research process, much like navigating the traffic-filled streets of Indonesia. You, as a qualitative researcher, must look in multiple directions and seek understanding from the complexity of views before crossing the research street.

Prof. Alwasilah inspires an understanding of qualitative research as occurring at the intersection of research, culture, and individual human behavior. *Pokoknya Studi Kasus: Pendekatan Kualitatif* will help you develop research and reasoning skills capable of moving beyond an acceptance of the Indonesian status quo to bringing about positive change and a better future for Indonesia through ethical, evidence-based qualitative research.

**Prof. Judith Puncochar, Ph.D.**

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