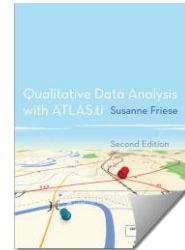


Solutions to Data Analysis Exercises

Chapter 6: Skills Training 6.3 – 6.7



Skills Training 6.3

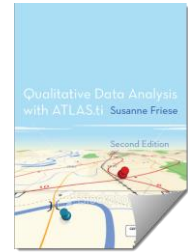
RQ1: Do blog respondents who have children define happiness differently from those without children? If they do, how do they define it?

To find an answer to this question, the following codes are needed:

- ‘#fam: have children’
 - ‘#fam: don’t have children’ codes
 - and all ‘def happiness’ codes
-
- Open the Code Manager.
 - Create a code family including the ‘#fam: have children’ and ‘#fam: don’t have children’ codes, and all ‘def happiness’ codes. If you forgot how it works, see for example Skill training 5.3 in Chapter 5.
 - Set this code family as the global filter: right click on the family in the side panel and select the option **SET GLOBAL FILTER**.
 - From the main menu select **ANALYSIS / CODES COOCCURRENCE TABLE** (FIGURE 6.19).
 - Select the ‘#fam: have children’ and ‘#fam: don’t have children’ codes to be displayed in the columns, the ‘def happiness’ codes to be displayed in the rows. You can either double click on each code, or select multiple codes and click on **ADD**.

Explore the interesting findings further by using the query tool.

- Close or minimize the codes co-occurrence table. Open the query tool.
- Double click on the code ‘def happiness: fulfilment’.
- Double click on the code ‘#fam: with children’.
- Select the COOCCUR or WITHIN operator. Result: nine quotations.
- Take a look at the resulting quotations and repeat the query for the code ‘#fam: don’t have children’. Result: one quotation.



In the query tool, the queries look as follows:

(“def happiness: fulfilment” COOCCUR “#fam: have children”)

(“def happiness: a fulfilment” COOCCUR “#fam: don't have children”)

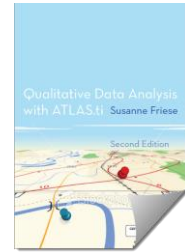
RQ2: What is the difference in attitudes towards the relationship between happiness and children between those commenting on the blogs who have children and those who do not have children?

To find an answer to this question, the following codes are needed:

- ‘#fam: have children’
- ‘#fam: don’t have children’
- **Children: < happiness / children: = happiness / children: > happiness**

RQ2 can be explored in the same way as RQ1. Start by creating a code family that includes the codes that you need in order to answer this research question. Set this family as a global filter and create a codes co-occurrence table.

Explore the interesting findings further by using the query tool (s.o.)



Skills Training 6.4

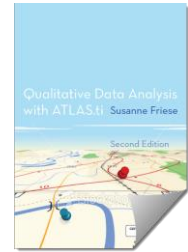
RQ3: Compare the comments written on the Belkin's blog with those written on the New York Times blog regarding the following issues: effects of parenting (positive and negative), definition of happiness, reasons for having children, reasons for not having children, sources of happiness.

To find an answer to this question, the following codes are needed:

- All **effects of parenting** codes
- All **def happiness** codes
- All **reasons for having children** / **reasons for not having children** codes
- All **sources of happiness** codes

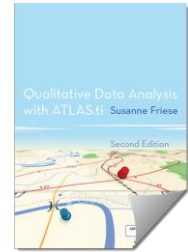
- Open the Codes-Primary Documents Table via the **ANALYSIS** menu (Figure 6.25).
- Select all codes from the 'Effects neg:' and the 'Effects:pos' category in the codes pane. You can either double click on each code to move it into the 'Selected Codes/Families' pane to the right, or you can highlight the entire group of codes and click on the button with the right arrows (see right).
- Select the two documents P3 and P5 in the documents pane and move them to the 'Selected PDs/Families' pane.
- On the right hand side of the window, make your choices on what the output should look like. Then click on the **CREATE REPORT** button.
- Excel opens (it may take a few seconds) and will ask you whether it is OK to open the document as it is only in an Excel-compatible and not a native Excel format. Click on **YES**.

>>>



Explore the interesting findings further by using the query tool.

- Open the query tool.
- Double click on the code 'effects neg: on relationships'. This results in 13 quotations, but across all data. If you only want to read what the writers on Belkin's blog wrote:
- Click on the **SCOPE** button. This opens the Scope of Query window. On the left hand side, you will see the primary document families and the list of all documents. These can now be applied as a filter:
- In the Primary Documents pane select P3: Belkin's parenting blog. The result will always be shown in the query tool window (five quotations), not in the Scope of Query window. Technically what happens is that ATLAS.ti calculates the intersection between all P3 quotations – these are the ones you see in the Scope of Query window – and the quotations listed in the query tool. Read the five quotations in context or create an output to read them.
- Select P5 in the Scope of Query window to read the comments of the *New York Times* blog. Compare the answers and write down your thoughts and interpretation in the memo for RQ3.

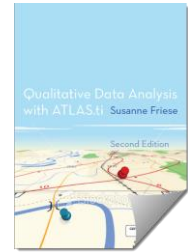


RQ4: Compare the statements regarding sources of happiness of the two blog discussions (P3 and 5 = PD family *blogs) with the article that provides summaries of research findings (P10).

To find an answer to this question, the following codes are needed:

- All **sources of happiness** codes
 - Open the Codes-Primary Documents Table.
 - Select the codes from the 'Source' category.
 - Select the PD family *blogs (which contains the two documents P3 and P5); select the single document PD10 (see Table 6.2).

Both groups mention relationships, activities and personal attitude as sources for happiness. Based on the numbers provided by the table, you can return to the data querying specific codes individually. To compare the two groups, use the query tool in combination with the scope button.



Skills Training 6.5

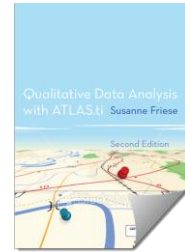
RQ5: Compare the survey answers of male and female respondents with regard to the reasons they provide for having or for not having children?

To find an answer to this question, the following codes are needed:

- All **reasons for having children** / **reasons for not having children** codes
 - Open the Codes-Primary Documents Table via the **ANALYSIS** menu.
 - From the list of codes, select all reasons for having children and all reasons for not having children codes.
 - From the list of PD families, select the families **gender::female** and **gender::male**.
 - On the right hand side of the window, make your choices on what the output should look like. Then click on the **CREATE REPORT** button.
 - Excel opens and as before will ask you whether it is OK to open the document in an Excel-compatible format. Click on **YES**.

There are only 24 survey cases and you queried over 20 codes. So don't expect the numbers to be very meaningful. Follow up on the views of males and females regarding the issue of self-centeredness.

- Open the query tool.
- Double click on the code 'reasons for nhc: self-centered'.
- Click on the **SCOPE** button and select the PD family **gender::female**.
Read the quotations. Remember that the results are always shown in the query tool window not the scope window.
- Change the scope to **gender::male** and read the quotations.



RQ6: Is there a difference between male and female survey respondents WITH CHILDREN regarding their perception of parenting (positive or negative)?

To find an answer to this question, the following objects are needed:

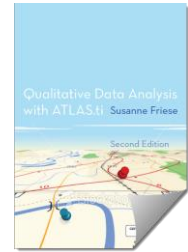
- The two code families for **effects of parenting (positive and negative)**

Further, you need to create two super PD families:

- Open the P-Docs Manager.
- Click on the Venn diagram so that only the intersection is colored in gray.
- Select the two PD families 'Gender::male' and 'has children::yes' by holding down the CTRL key. These two characteristics apply to six documents. You can see the frequency at the bottom left of the P-Docs Manager (Figure 6.31).
- Right-click on any of the two selected families and select the option **CREATE SUPER FAMILY**. The new super family is immediately created and ATLAS.ti assigns a default name. You can rename the family later.
- Next, create a super family for all female survey respondents who have children.

To answer the research question:

- Open the Codes-Primary Documents Table. Select the two new super families in the Primary Document Families pane, and the two code families 'effects of parenting: negative' and 'effects of parenting: positive' in the Code Families pane. The result is shown in Table 6.4.



Skills Training 6.6

RQ7: What is the attitude toward the relationship between children and happiness of those responding to the blogs and who question the study design?

To find an answer to this question, the following codes are needed:

- **children: < happiness / children: = level of happiness / children: > happiness / children: unrelated to personal happiness**
- **study design: asking the wrong question / study design: critique**
- **#blog entry**

- Open the query tool.
- Double click on '#blog entry' → 139 quotations.

Next, we combine the two study design codes:

- Double click on 'study design: asking the wrong questions'.
- Double click on 'study design: critique'.
- Select OR → 30 quotations.

Now we can identify those quotations that occur within the blog entries:

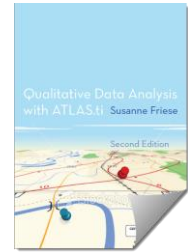
- Select ENCLOSSES (or COOCCUR) → 23 quotations

This is how the query looks in the query tool:

(“#blog entry” COOCCUR (“study design: asking the wrong question” / “study design: critique”))

- To save this query, click on the **SUPER CODE** button and enter a new name for the super code (e.g. #those who question study design).

#those who question study design {*-0}



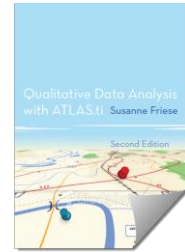
Having created this super code, we can explore the attitude these people have regarding the relationship between happiness and children:

- Click on the **C** button to clear the previous query.
- Double click on 'children:<happiness'.
- Double click on the newly created super code.
- Select COOCCUR (or WITHIN) → 0 quotations

Display of query in the query tool:

("children: < happiness" WITHIN "#those who question study design")

Repeat this for the three other codes in the C_CHILDREN category (Figure 6.34). Or, create a codes co-occurrence table. This is the quicker option. You will find two quotations for 'children: = happiness' and three for 'children: unrelated to personal happiness'. Thus, these findings are not very exciting.



Skills Training 6.7

RQ8: Explore the perception of various groups of blog writers with regard to how they view the relationship between happiness and children. Does it make a difference if they mention only positive or only negative or both positive and negative effects of parenting?

To find an answer to this question, the following codes / code families are needed:

- **#blog entries**
- Code families: **effects of parenting positive / effects of parenting negative**

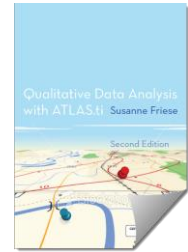
At first we need to find all blog entries where writers mention positive (resp. negative) effects of parenting and store the result as super code:

- Open the query tool.
- Double click on the code '#blog entries'.
- Double click on the code family 'effects of parenting positive'.
- Select the operator ENCLOSES (alternatively COOCCUR). → **12 quotations**

Your query in the query tool:

("#blog entries" ENCLOSES "effects of parenting positive")

- Click on the **SUPER CODE** button to save the query. Leave the default name or enter a new one. I used '#blog entries incl. pos effects'.
- Repeat the above steps to create a super code for all blog entries that include negative effects of parenting. I called it '#blog entries: incl. neg effects' → **14 quotations**.



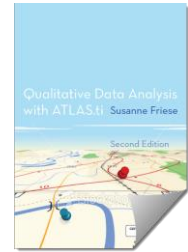
Based on these two new super codes, we can now create two more super codes that only include either positive or negative statements related to effects of parenting. Let's start with the exclusive positive statements.

- Double click on the supercode '#blog entries: incl. pos effects'.
- Double click on the supercode '#blog entries: incl. neg effects'.
- As we want to exclude all statements containing reports on negative effects of parenting, select the NOT operator.

The next step is to combine the two arguments currently listed in the stack of terms: the blog entries containing statements on positive effects of parenting and everything else that is not blog posts containing negative reports. If you look at Figure 6.42, we need the dark gray area that only contains statements on positive effects. And this is the intersection of the two terms currently in our stack.

- Therefore click on the AND operator. The resulting query looks like this:

("#blog entries incl. pos effects" & NOT "#blog entries incl. neg effects")



RQ9: Do the two groups of respondents (those who only mention negative effects of parenting and those who only mention positive effects of parenting) also differ with regard to other issues that have been raised in the blogs?

To find an answer to this question, the following codes are needed:

- super codes created to answer RQ8: ‘#blog entries only incl. pos effects’ and ‘#blog entries only incl. neg effects’. The actual names may differ depending on how you have named your super codes.
- All others
 - From the main menu, select **ANALYSIS / CODE COOCCURRENCE EXPLORER**.
 - Click on the arrow before **Codes** to open the tree. The number of codes may differ on your screen, depending on how many super codes you have created in the meantime.
 - Expand the tree for the two super codes created to answer RQ8: ‘#blog entries only incl. pos effects’ and ‘#blog entries only incl. neg effects’. The actual names may differ depending on how you have named your super codes.
 - If you want to read the quotations, click on a cooccurring code of your interest and expand the tree further.