



SECRETS AND THE UNKNOWN:

**A NARRATIVE APPROACH TO
NEGATION IN CHILDBEARING**

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SOWING THE SEED OF INQUIRY

- **“THIS WOMAN TURNED UP AT MY UNIT IN LABOUR HAVING CONCEALED THE PREGNANCY, IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH HER, AND FOLLOWING THE BIRTH SHE WAS VERY DISTANT AND EMOTIONALLY DETACHED FROM THE BABY WHICH SHE DID NOT WANT TO PICK UP, HOLD, LOOK AT OR ENGAGE WITH”.**



- **ROONEY, J (2016) RESEARCHER DIARY**

BACKGROUND & PREVALENCE – WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

<i>Author and Date</i>	Thynne et al (2012)	Jenkins et al (2011)	Nirmal et al (2006)	Conlon (2006)	Treacy et al (2002)
<i>Figure of Occurance</i>	1:148	1:475 in denial up to 20 weeks	1:2500 at delivery	1:403	1:768

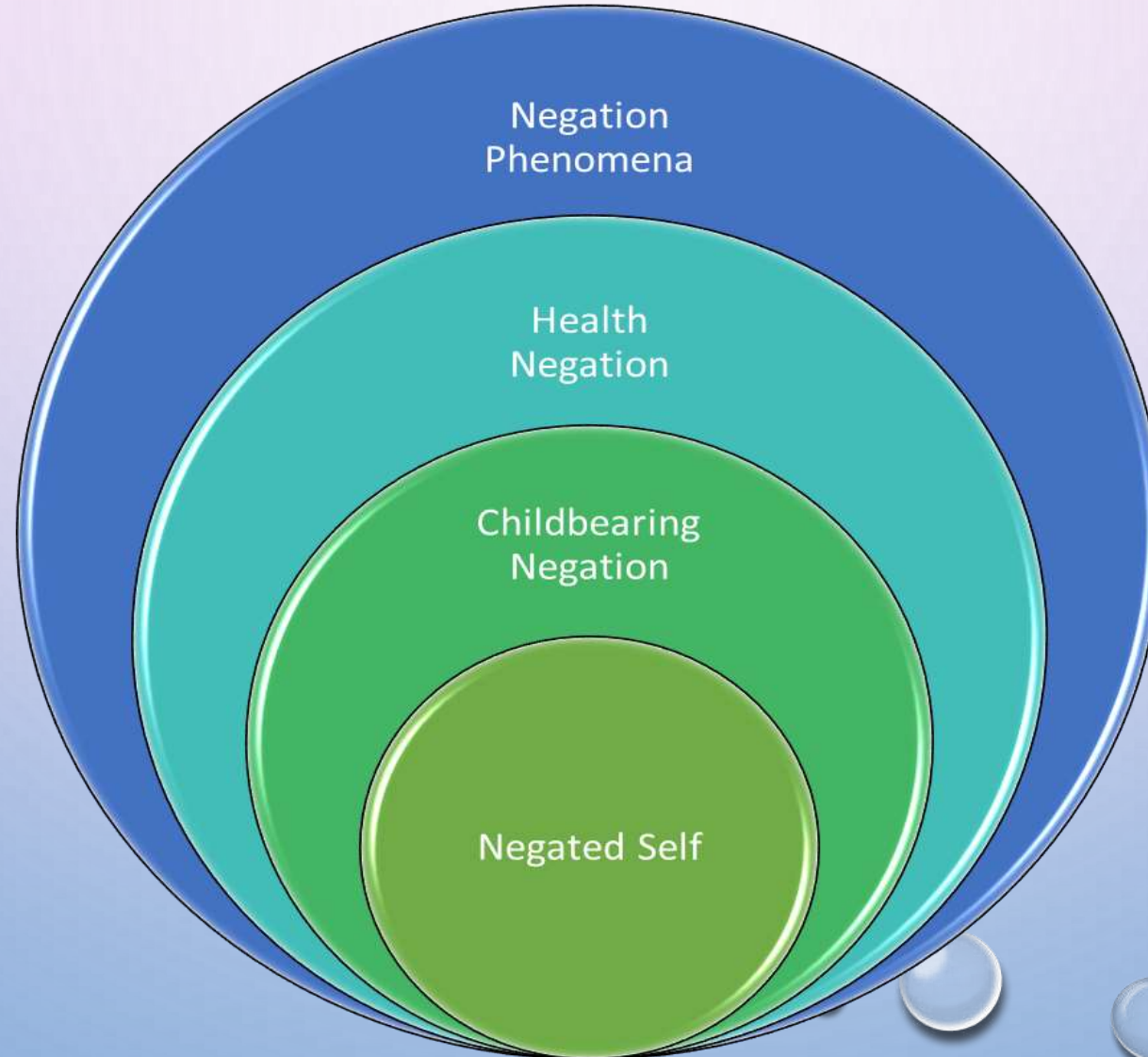
DECIDING ON A NARRATIVE APPROACH – MAKING A DECISION

- **UNDER RESEARCHED** AND LARGELY **QUANTITATIVE** SUBJECT AREA.
- THERE IS A **STANDARDISED** AND **ROUTINE** APPROACH TO **CARE**.
- DOES NOT ENCOMPASS AN INDIVIDUAL HOLISTIC PARADIGM.

- **CONSIDERATIONS:** HISTORICAL, FEMINIST, PHENOMENOLOGY

- “MIDWIFERY IS ALL ABOUT WOMEN’S STORIES IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ISN’T IT?”
- THE PERFECT FIT?

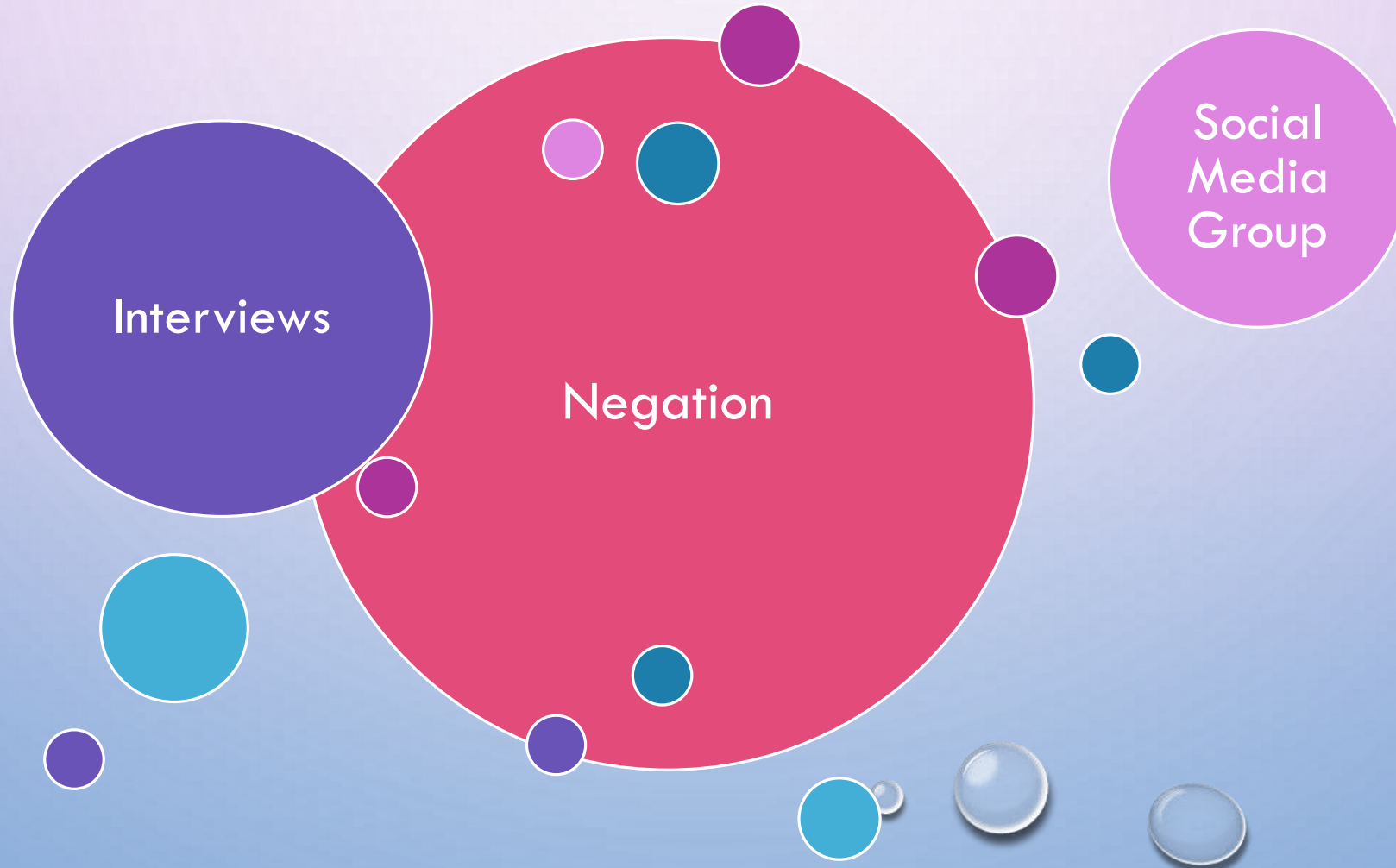
THE UNFURLING NARRATIVES OF NEGATION IN THE WORLDVIEW



NARRATIVE & MIDWIFERY

- **“HISTORICALLY, MIDWIFERY HAS BEEN AN ORAL CULTURE, WHERE THE GENERATION OF KNOWLEDGE OCCURS THROUGH NARRATIVE OR ‘STORYTELLING’ RATHER THAN THROUGH SCIENTIFIC DATA. IN RECENT YEARS, HOWEVER, THE PREVALENCE OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE HAS DOMINATED MIDWIFERY” (GOULD, J. 2017).**
- MOVING AWAY FROM THE BIOMEDICAL MODEL.
- MOST STUDIES USE A **“PARTIAL APPROACH”** TO NARRATIVE – COMMONLY USING NARRATIVE THEMATIC ANALYSIS.
- COULD BE CONSIDERED A **PIECEMEAL OR SHALLOWER VIEW RATHER THAN A DEEP DIVE OF AN OVERALL HOLISTIC NARRATIVE RESEARCH APPROACH & PROCESS??**

STUDY DESIGN: HOW TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO TELL AND SHARE THEIR STORY



ETHICS NARRATIVE

- **MULTIPLE INTERCONNECTED STORIES** ARE **INHERENT** IN THIS NARRATIVE RESEARCH PROCESS.
- THE STUDY REQUIRED NHS ETHICAL APPROVAL AT A NATIONAL & LOCAL LEVEL.
- CHALLENGE OF RESEARCHING **SENSITIVE, EMOTIONAL, DISTRESSING SUBJECT**.
- CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT GIVEN TO **PARTICIPANT WELL-BEING**: CONFIDENTIALITY, DIGNITY, PRIVACY, DISTRESS PROTOCOL, SAFEGUARDING, RECRUITMENT AND “BEING BELIEVED”.
- CONSIDERATION OF **RESEARCHER WELL-BEING**: SUPERVISORY SUPPORT, PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, CLINICAL COLLEAGUES, ACCESS TO EXPERTISE AS NEEDED.

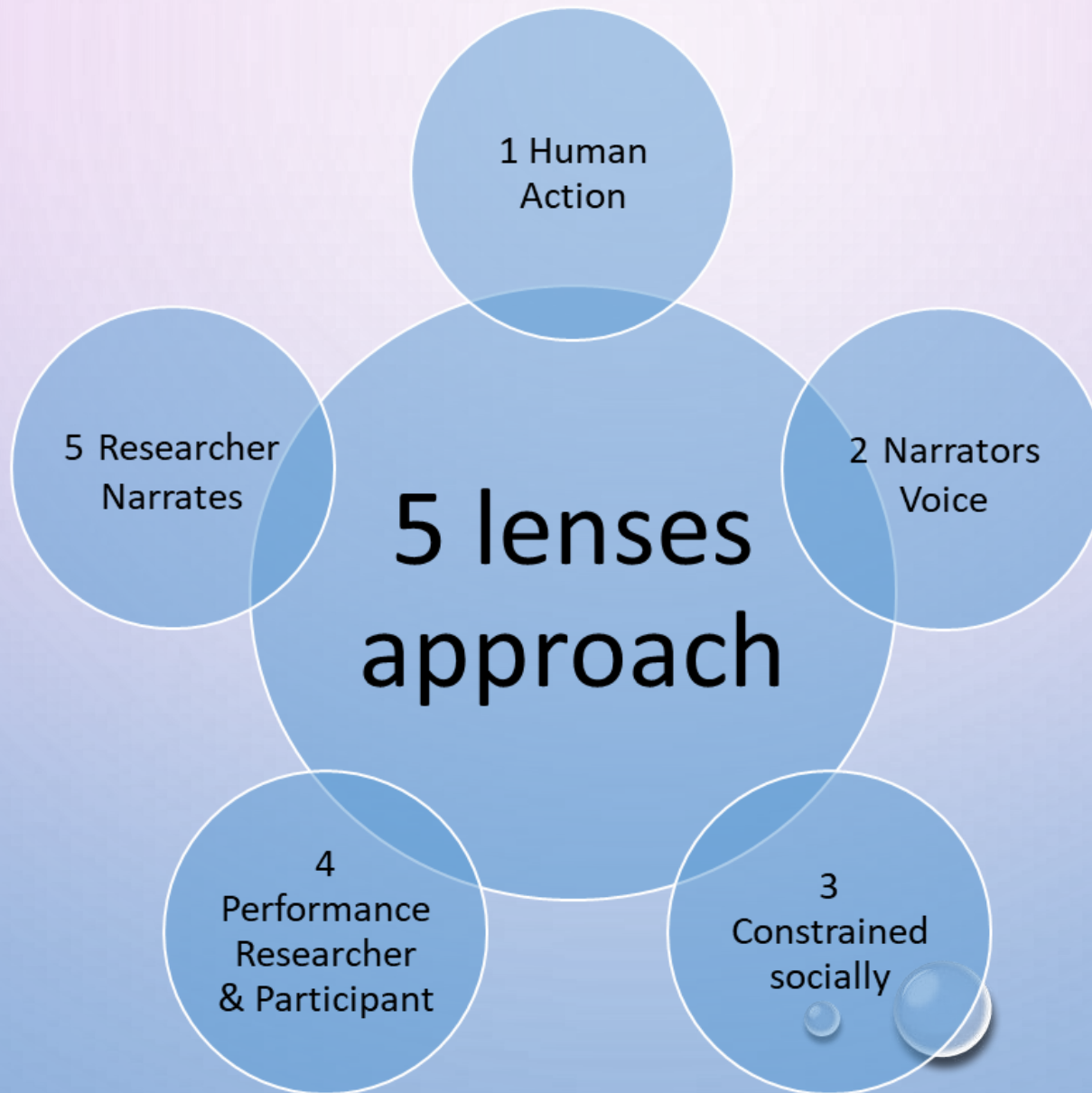
THINKING ABOUT ANALYSIS... A NARRATIVE IN THE MAKING?

- ALL QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS INVOLVES **INTERPRETATION** TO DIFFERENT DEGREES...? THUS AFFECTING HOW WE **REPRESENT THE STORIES** THAT ARE TOLD TO US.
- BUT HOW CAN I TAKE A **HOLISTIC NARRATIVE PATH** TO THE STORIES OF THE WOMEN?
- **CHASE** ENCOURAGES **INTERPRETATION ALONGSIDE ANALYSIS** ESPECIALLY WITH INTERVIEWS.
- STRIKE A **BALANCE** BETWEEN **DESCRIPTION, INTERPRETATION** – PROVIDE **EVIDENCE** FOR THE **REASONING** BEHIND THE RESEARCHER'S INTERPRETATION (CHASE 2003).
- **SIMPLY WE “ANALYSE WHAT WAS SAID”** (RIESSMAN 2008).

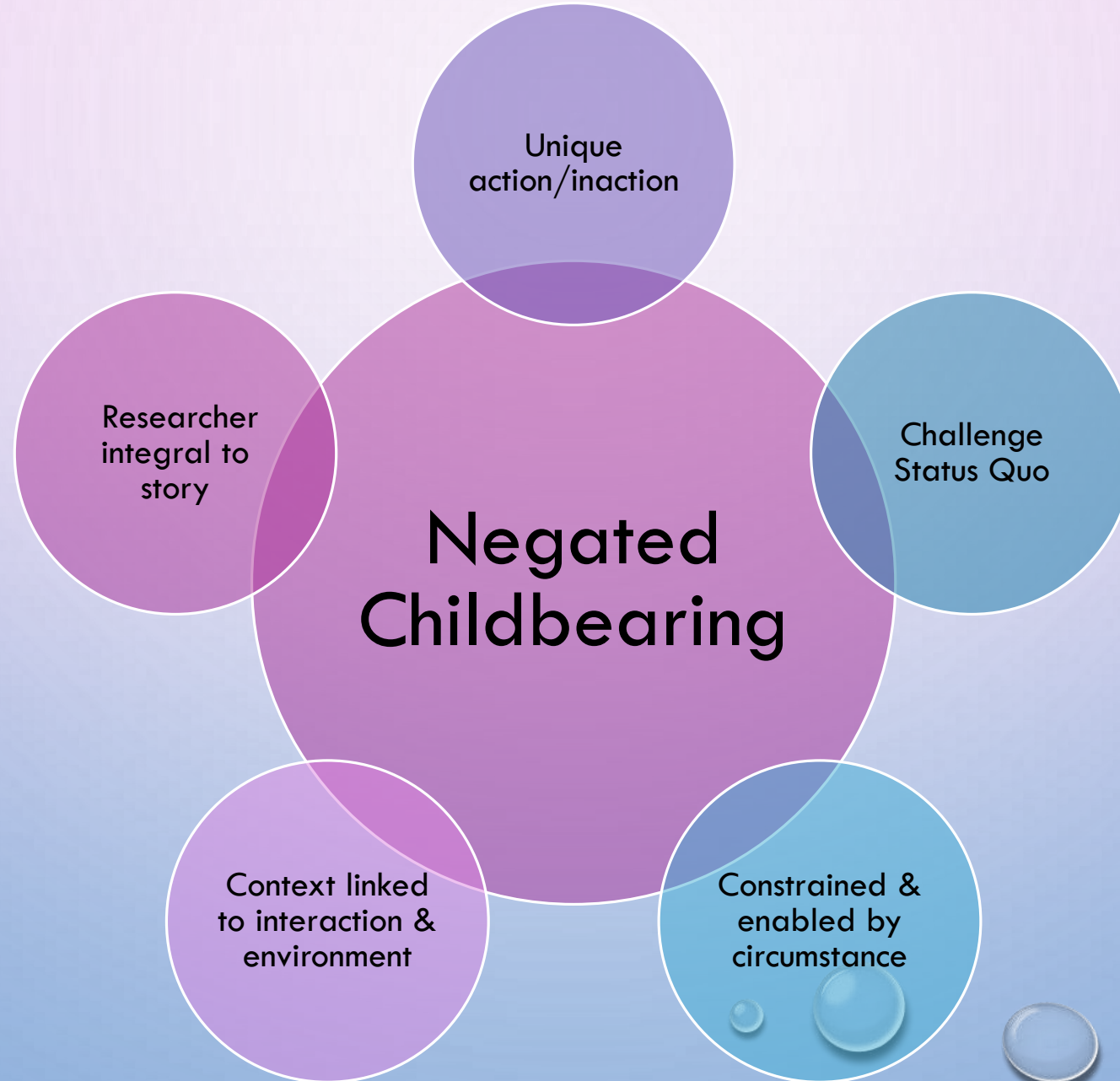
A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO STORIED DATA

- RESEARCHER **SUBMERGENCE IN DATA**.
- **RESISTING** THEMATIC ANALYSIS.
- CONSIDERATION OF THE CONCEPT OF “**NARRATIVE SMOOTHING**” (SPENCE 1986).
- THE **ORIGINAL STORY** BECOMES **FAR REMOVED** FROM THE INITIAL ACCOUNT.
- IT HAS BEEN ARGUED THAT THE PROBLEMS ARE MORE LIKELY TO OCCUR IF USING A **TRADITIONAL** APPROACH SUCH AS THAT ADVOCATED BY **MISHLER** (1986) – DELETION, SELECTION, INTERPRETATION.
- RECOGNITION OF A **SENSITIVE, FLEXIBLE AND NUANCED** APPROACH – SUCH AS **CHASES’ FIVE LENSES**.

CHASES'S FIVE LENSES APPROACH



APPLICATION OF CHASES' FIVE LENSES APPROACH



PARTICULARITY & SPECIFICITY

- THE WORD **VOICE** IN CHASES FIVE LENSES DRAWS OUR ATTENTION TO **WHAT THE NARRATOR COMMUNICATES** AND **HOW** HE OR SHE COMMUNICATES IT AS WELL AS TO THE **SUBJECT POSITIONS** OR **SOCIAL LOCATIONS** FROM WHICH HE OR SHE SPEAKS (CHASE 2007).
- **THIS COMBINATION OF WHAT, HOW AND WHERE MAKES THE NARRATORS VOICE PARTICULAR (THIRD & FOURTH LENSES).**
- **PARTICULARITY OF NEGATED CHILDBEARING** AS TOLD TO THE RESEARCHER, **LINKED** TO THE **SPECIFIC APPROACH** TOWARDS DATA GATHERED.
- **SPECIFICITY LINKS TO ALL THE FIVE LENSES.**
- BECOMES A **COMPLEX INTERACTION** OF **MANY** PARTICULAR AND SPECIFIC NARRATIVES WHICH FORM THE HOLISTIC NEGATED CHILDBEARING STORY FOR EACH WOMAN.

THE ESSENCE OF MATROYSHKA



SITUATIONALITY OF NEGATION

- WHY IS THE **CONTEXT** OF NEGATION IMPORTANT?
- CONSIDER **MULTIPLE CONTEXTS** LINKED AND INTERTWINED WITH **SITUATIONAL COMPLEXITY**.
- **HOLISTIC APPROACH TO DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS** IS KEY.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REFLECTION AND REFLEXIVITY

- KEEPING A **RESEARCHER DIARY** ALONGSIDE THE STUDY.
- DRAW ON REFLECTIVE SKILLS GAINED THROUGH MIDWIFERY EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICE.
- USING THE IDEA OF **REFLECTIVE** AND **REFLEXIVE 'PAUSES'** AS PART OF THE NARRATIVE ANALYTICAL JOURNEY.



A DYNAMIC NARRATIVE APPROACH

- ESSENCE OF **HOLISM**, IMPORTANCE OF THE **INDIVIDUAL**, INHERENT **WORTH** OF **CONTEXT AND SITUATION** FORM THE **CORE** OF THE STUDY APPROACH.
- EMERGENCE OF **COMPLEX, DYNAMIC AND CHALLENGING SUBJECT**.
- “FOR WOMEN TO BE ABLE TO TELL US THEIR STORIES OF NEGATED CHILDBEARING, AND TO ENABLE US TO LISTEN TO THE PERSONAL MEANING AND CONTEXT IN A POORLY UNDERSTOOD PHENOMENA”

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