

Table 3. Synthesis of Validity Criteria Development

Author	Validity Criteria
Lincoln & Guba (1985)* Guba & Lincoln (1989) *	truth value, applicability, consistency, neutrality
Sandelowski (1986, 1993)*	credibility, fittingness, auditability, confirmability, creativity, artfulness
Marshall (1990)*	goodness, canons of evidence
Smith (1990)*	moral and ethical component
Eisenhart & Howe (1992)*	completeness, appropriateness, comprehensiveness, credibility, significance
Maxwell (1992, 1996)*	descriptive validity, interpretive validity, theoretical validity, evaluative validity, generalizability
Altheide & Johnson (1994)*	plausibility, relevance, credibility, importance of topic
Leininger (1994)*	credibility, confirmability, meaning in context, recurrent patterning, saturation, transferability
Morse (1994)	credibility, confirmability, meaning-in-context, recurrent patterning, saturation and transferability.
Lincoln (1995)*	positionality, community as arbiter, voice, critical subjectivity, reciprocity, sacredness, sharing perquisites of privilege
Merriam (1995)	Internal validity: triangulation, member checks, peer examination, statement of researcher's biases, assumptions-presenting the orientation, submersion/engagement in the research situation External validity: thick description, multisite design, modal comparison, sampling within
Thorne (1997) *	methodological integrity, representative credibility, analytic logic, interpretive authority

Popay (1998)	interpretation of subjective meaning, description of social context and flexibility of design, attention to lay knowledge: theoretical basis, sampling strategy, scope of data collection, description of data collected, concern with generalizability and typicality
Healy & Perry (2000)	triangulation of several data sources and their interpretations with those multiple perceptions in the realism paradigm
Creswell & Miller (2001)	Constructivist Paradigm/lens: Researcher: disconfirming evidence Study Participants: prolonged engagement in the field External Reviewers/Readers: thick, rich description
Whittemore (2001)	Primary criteria: credibility, authenticity, criticality, and integrity; Secondary criteria: explicitness, vividness, creativity, thoroughness, congruence, and sensitivity.
Davies & Dodd (2002)	Investigator's attentiveness, empathy, carefulness, sensitivity, respect, honesty, reflection, conscientiousness, engagement, awareness, openness, context
Morse (2002)	Investigator Responsiveness: researcher's creativity, sensitivity, flexibility and skill in using the verification strategies that determines the reliability and validity of the evolving study Verification Strategies: methodological coherence, sample must be appropriate and adequate, collecting and analyzing data concurrently, saturation thinking theoretically, theory development
Morse (2015)	prolonged engagement, persistent observation, thick and rich description, negative case analysis, peer-review or debriefing, clarifying researcher's bias, member checking, external audits and triangulation.

* Adapted from Whittemore, Chase & Mandle, 2001