

Effects of dependent interviewing on respondents and interviewers

QUEST workshop meeting
April 28th to 30th
Helsinki (Statistics Finland)

Sophia Nebel



© Fancy / F1online / Flex Workers

Overview

- **What's the benefit of dependent interviewing?**
- **DI as a questioning method for the German microcensus –
Pretesting a prototype**
- **How to look for effects on respondents and interviewers?**
 - **Basic information of the pretest**
 - **Methodology**
 - **Test objectives**
- **Results and conclusion**

What's the benefit of dependent interviewing?

- Respondents are confronted with data of previews interviews
- Shortens the interview, increase of consistency
- Temporal and cognitive relief for respondents, but risk of underestimation
- Different DI techniques can be applied

E.g.: Last time we interviewed you, you said you were part-time employed because of <child care>. Is this still the case?

DI as a questioning method for the German microcensus

- **Microcensus is an annual household survey with a partial rotation procedure → Change to an infra-annual rotation**
- **Qualitative testing of applicability and practicability of DI**
- **Quantitative test in 2017**

Basic information	probands	Questionnaire	waves
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wave 1= 20 (+10 PI) • Wave 2= 18 (+8 PI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-programmed in Blaise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • t1, t2=t1+3 months • Wave 1= 20 CAPI • Wave 2= 10 CAPI/10 CATI

Main objectives of the test

Wording of DI
questions

Detection of
underreporting

Procedure of
interviews

Proxy
interviews

Results on questions wording and underreporting

Wording of questions

- Wording ok
- Problems with answer lists and recognition
- **Wave 1**
 - 20 clarification questions
 - 30 ambiguous answers
- **Wave 2**
 - 10 clarification questions
 - 3 ambiguous answers

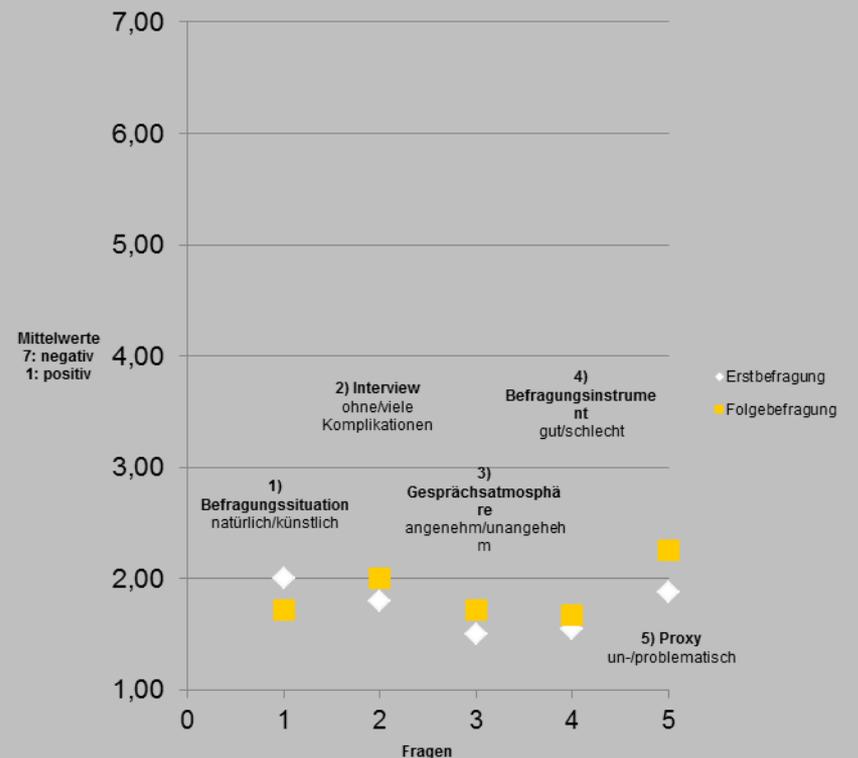
Detection of underreporting

- 10/18 TP agree on answering DI-questions without thinking about it

Effects on respondents and interviewers

Procedure of interviews

- **Respondents (18)**
 - 9 TP questions similar
 - 15 TP like the use of previous information
 - 4 TP want more DI questions
- **Interviewers (5)**
 - Managing the use of DI
 - 16 interviews = 1&2
 - DI influence future work
 - 8 interviews = 1&2
 - 6 interviews = 3
 - 3 interviews = 4
- **Length:** 25 % time saving
- **Consent:** 11/18 TP remember



Results on proxy interviews

Proxy interviews

- **Respondents**
 - 8/8 TP provide reliable data
 - 3/8 TP have problems (e.g. training)
- **Interviewers**
 - Wave 1
 - 7 interviews = 1&2
 - 1 interview = 3
 - Wave 2
 - 4 interviews = 1&2
 - 3 interviews = 3
 - 1 interview = 4
- **Length:** 33% time saving

Pros and cons of DI



Wording of DI works well
Amount and variety of DI-
question ok
Improved interview flow
Time saving method
Respondents agree with the
use of previous data
Time saving method
Works with proxy interviews



Probands are open minded
towards official statistics
Limited Change in the data
Experienced interviewer
Self programmed
questionnaire less plausibility
checks and minor changes in
the process

Discussion

- **Do you use DI in your surveys?**
 - **Which questions?**
 - **Need consent for data use?**

Thanks for your attention.

Sophia Nebel
Federal Statistical Office (Germany)
Questionnaire Testing, Data Collection Methods
Sophia.nebel@destatis.de

