The Essence of Salience in Nursing Education: A Concept Analysis

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BACKGROUND & PURPOSE
The rigid application and generic dictionary definitions do not seem to meet the needs of nursing education. In 2010, Benner and colleagues most notably introduced the concept of salience into nursing education while highlighting the need for educators to teach for a “sense of salience”, however a void remains regarding a universally accepted definition of the term. The purpose of this concept analysis was to define salience from a nursing educational perspective.

DEFINITION FOR NURSING EDUCATION
For nursing education, the concept of salience is defined as:
Influenced by the senses, salience is the essence of heightened awareness towards details or circumstances of intrinsic value perceived to be of particular importance at a moment of time.

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Salience Operationalized</th>
<th>Salience Measured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Science</td>
<td>Visual cued recall; recall characteristics of visually recognized cues</td>
<td>Open ended questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Vested interest theory; thinking, considering, on my mind</td>
<td>Likert type scale; subscale</td>
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<td>Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
<td>Salient network, top-down vs Bottom-up attention processes</td>
<td>Recall and MRI</td>
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<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Noticeable, manipulative, important, perception, conspicuousness, attention</td>
<td>“Saliency Toolbox 2.2”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Importance, priority, increased understanding, sense</td>
<td>Open ended questions; clinical performance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yoga Findings
+ Engaging senses
+ Concentration
+ Meditation
+ Awareness of Self
+ Aura enveloping the head & heart

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
The author graciously thanks Dr. Baumberger-Henry for her guidance and support in this research.

METHODOLOGY
Chinn and Kramer’s approach invites researchers to glean inspiration from a variety of sources including professional literature as well as art and anecdotal sources to capture the concept from a holistic perspective. Through a naturalistic inquiry method, data are collected and interpreted through perceptual experience. As nursing is both an art and a science, the author has researched the concept from both paradigms.

Modified version of Chinn and Kramer (2008):
1) Select a concept
2) Clarify your purpose
3) Sources of evidence
4) Methods for testing
5) Formulating criteria for concept; as exemplified through an antecedent, attributes and consequence
6) Conceptual meaning through a definition

FORMULATING CRITERIA
ANTECEDENT: Consciousness
ATTRIBUTES: 1) Heightened Awareness 2) Importance 3) Intrinsic Value
CONSEQUENCE: Synthesis of stimuli with previous experiences for delivery of authentic, safe and effective patient care.

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CONCLUSION
Faculty may ideate educational interventions that are designed to influence, rather than manipulate, students’ salience towards achievement of learning outcomes and the ultimate goal of delivering authentic, safe and effective patient-centered care.