Reviewer’s report

Title: Language and rigour in qualitative research: Problems and principles in analyzing data collected in Mandarin

Version: 2 Date: 8 May 2008

Reviewer: Sheila Twinn

Reviewer’s report:

This extensively revised paper reads well and makes a valuable contribution to the available literature on the use of language in qualitative research. The paper is now much more clearly focussed on the issues of language and rigour, highlighting the issues of working collaboratively across languages and how these issues might be addressed in ensuring rigour in the research process. In my view, the authors have addressed the comments made on the first version of the paper in a thoughtful and considered which has contributed to the quality of the revised version.

I recommend the paper is now accepted for publication. I would, however, like to suggest one discretionary revision relating to the reference to conceptual equivalence (page 7). It would be helpful to elaborate how this term is being used in the context of assessing the accuracy of transcribed data.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests