

Fathers' experiences of parental care after divorce

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SUMMARY

This narrative study explores the terrain of South African fathers' experiences of parental care after divorce. A war metaphor enabled the writing of this narrative.

I began the expedition with surveying the terrain in which fathers fight for their parental rights. The map takes us to the political, social and statistical arenas which converge to make for a complex picture for fathers to exercise their parental rights and responsibilities in the aftermath of divorce. The journey continues with a visit to the “war” archives, where existing literature on fatherhood is critically explored. The scope and importance of fatherhood is debated from divergent camps, and the South African legal context in which fathers find themselves is examined.

The journey concludes with a qualitative reading in to the narratives of three participants, where an attempt was made at not only gaining more insight in to three fathers' experiences of parental care following divorce, but to begin to contribute to a desolate literature on this subject.

KEY TERMINOLOGY

Fatherhood

Divorce

Family law

Parental rights

Gender

Narratives

Experiences

History

Culture

Qualitative research

OPSOMMING

Hierdie narratiewe studie verken die terrein van Suid-Afrikaanse vaders se ervarings van ouersorg na egskeiding. 'n Oorlog-metafoor het die skryf van hierdie narratief moontlik gemaak.

Ek het hierdie ekspedisie begin deur die terrein te verken waar vaders vir hulle ouerlike reg moet veg. Die verkenning van die kaart neem ons na die politieke-, sosiale- en statistiese arenas wat bymekaar kom om 'n komplekse beeld te vorm vir vaders om hulle ouerlike reg en verantwoordelikheid na te kom, na egskeiding. Die reis gaan voort deur 'n besoek tot die "oorlog" argiewe, waar die bestaande literatuur oor vaderskap krities verken word. Die omvang en belangrikheid van vaderskap word gedebatteer vanuit divergerende kampe. Die Suid-Afrikaanse wetlike konteks waarin vaders hulle self bevind word ook ondersoek.

Die reis word afgesluit met 'n kwalitatiewe analise oor die narratief van die deelnemers, waar 'n poging aangewend is om nie net meer insig oor die drie vaders se ervarings oor ouersorg na egskeiding te kry nie, maar ook om by te dra tot die verwaarloosde literatuur oor hierdie onderwerp.

SLEUTEL BEGRIPPE

Vaderskap

Egskeiding

Familie Reg

Ouerlike regte

Geslag

Narratief

Ervarings

Geskiedenis

Kultuur

Kwalitatiewe Navorsing

CHAPTER 1

“WAR” TERRAIN

“Fatherhood should be a role that integrates men into families, rather than separating them from children, women and other men” (Morrell, 2006, p.3)

This is a story about fathers. The story begins with an exploration into the terrain in which fathers fight for their paternal rights. Our map takes us to the political, social, and statistical arenas, which are introduced through externalizing conversation (Freeman, Epston & Lobovits, 1997). We conclude this leg of our journey at the doorstep of the daily media and public discourses which circulate our daily lives. For now, I would like you to become aware of your situatedness.

Look around..... You are surrounded by countryside. Depending on your position in the world, the landscape may be filled with divergent elements, adding to the dynamic nature of the geography. Your countryside may be a meandering one that is exposed to many forces. The seasons may come and go sporadically, signalling the end of one period and the beginning of another, contributing to growth. Other landscapes are attacked by natural disasters or wars, changing the landscape significantly, often leaving ecosystems obliterated in their paths, where they are left in the position to compensate. These forces can lead to the creation of new habitats, or even the merging of old habitats with the new. I would like you for a moment to reflect on the landscape you are positioned in.....

The unique countryside we find ourselves experiencing represents our subjective views and experience of our “family” of origin. Family has traditionally been viewed as consisting of a set of specific elements: Father, mother and child(ren) (Giddens, 1997). Landscapes, however, are dynamic, taking on many contours today, and may experience disruptions, which can take on many forms. For example, a death in the family, unemployment, development of chronic illness, disability, working away from home, or divorce, to name a few, can have an impact on the family.

I am particularly interested in exploring the landscape of families that have had to weather a “natural disaster”, “a freak storm”, or disruption to their family as they have known it: families that have experienced divorce.

These divorced families or “developing landscapes”, have been researched extensively throughout the years, especially as society has noticed that this is a phenomenon on the increase. However, my interest lies in the exploration of fathers’ experiences of parental care after divorce, where the landscape seems reminiscent of a battleground, one that has changed dramatically for these *soldiers* in the midst of possibly one of the most life altering events. I would like you to come with me for a moment to terrain that is less familiar to me.

As I step off my armed vehicle, my bare feet tread on foreign territory. The terrain is speckled with debris of stories of families, telling my feet of their sensitivity. I would like you to come with me into the middle of the battleground, where the silence of fathers is deafening. As we stand here together in *no mans land*, a *soldier* tells us of his experiences in the war of words. As we survey the surroundings, we see his infantry gathering around in the distance, whispering sullenly that they have received correspondence informing them of the hardships their fellow brothers’ experience. It is the “band of brothers” that we will be exploring...the route less travelled and the territory less familiar.

What I have come across in my exploration of the archives on *developing landscapes* that turn into battlegrounds, is a war in which there are two main trenches, each employing strategic war tactics in the battle over their minor children. On the one hand we have the maternal trench that employs her legal army in the fight over her children. On the other hand, are soldiers in the paternal trench, sending their legal reinforcements to fight for their right to be involved in their children’s life. This war is often fought in what I perceived as reminiscent of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force (UN), where it is assumed that the judge will settle the dispute in a fair and honourable manner, with the “best interests of the child” guiding their decision making. However, the judge’s vision may be blurred as the two legal teams employ their war tactics. What complicates the

picture is that this battleground is situated within a dynamic macro system, which is assumed to be built on the core principles of “equality”, as is illuminated in the Constitution of South Africa.

Using the metaphor of a war, I hope to provide you, my passenger, with an experience that is reminiscent of my journey with the fathers that I name here as *soldiers*. Exploration of the battleground may be atypical, where not only the hardships are explored of the lived experiences of these soldiers, but where times of strength, bravery, courage and mastery over circumstances have been achieved, despite their situations. Moreover, there are those experiences that are contrary to this metaphor, as you will see in later chapters, that question the analogy itself and turn it on its head, leaving us exploring a terrain that is on the outskirts of the battleground, but connected to it nevertheless.

1.1. EXPLORING THE TERRAIN (CONTEXT)

Interested in the neglected paternal trench, I decided to meet as many role players that are involved in the war as possible. I made appointments with Lieutenant Democratis and later Colonel Bill, who both play a pivotal function in this battle. I later scratched around the dusty statistical archives and concluded this part of my journey at the South African Refugee Camp, where I heard some interesting stories circulating.

1.1.1 Lieutenant Democratis (The Political Context)

Come with me for a moment, to the day I spent with Lieutenant Democratis, who gave me the opportunity to take a glimpse at his photo album and home movies. He is the youngest of the characters you will meet here, but one who has an album thick with experience. We are fortunate enough to have the wisdom of the future guide our hands, so he has a good idea of where we should begin.

We turn to that part of the album that captures his teenage years, the point where South

Africa had begun to see the manacles of the former oppressive regime of Apartheid dismantled. This is a time that Lieutenant Democratis referred to himself as ‘John Doe’ since he was uncertain of his future. Now that Lieutenant Democratis has been emancipated from the preceding subjugation for more than a decade, he reports that his experimental years and the resultant ramifications are still being absorbed around him. However, with all the political transformations in public policy, he states that dynamic changes have attempted to redress the social inequalities that were perpetuated by the former National Party government.

With excitement, he mentions that he has seen reformations at macro level with regard to the establishment of a majority government after decades of Apartheid. He comments that he has been privileged to be part of the process of developing one of the most progressive and egalitarian Constitutions. When read on *paper*, he whispers, it is inclusive of *all* members of society, with regards to gender, race, language and creed (Act 108, 1996).

As he relays his story to me, it seems that people’s human rights seem to be the skeletal structure around which the Constitution was constructed. South Africans are relatively well informed about public policy, where people are said to be equipped and empowered by the knowledge that their government is cognisant of the transgressions of the past, where human rights were violated on a daily basis (Netshitenzhe & Chikane, 2006). The drafting and implementation of the Constitution seemed to have signalled a turning point for this country. In my conversation with him and the *soldiers* I anticipated interviewing, I naturally expected that its application in the day-to-day practices in custody litigations would be of no exception. However, there are stories of fathers that demonstrate that there seems to be hairline fractures in this essential framework, which has spread and meandered its way into courtrooms, when deciding on the fate of their relationship with their children. I once naively aligned courtrooms with having a similar function to the UN, one in which a decision would be made democratically and justly, but have come to slowly question this.

What follows is a brief introduction to our next character, who has been very close with Lieutenant Democratis for as far back as they can both remember. Our conversation with Colonel Bill focuses on his role in the lives of South African citizens. Specifically we will look at legislation that he employs to protect the rights and responsibilities of parental involvement in their children's lives. A close exploration of law pertaining to fathers in particular with regards to the protection of the father-child relationship will be highlighted. Emerging in this legal abyss, are the stories of many fathers who argue that what is recognised legally is not being practiced in reality.

1.1.2 Meet Colonel Bill (The Legal Context)

My days spent with Lieutenant Democratis, led to my setting an appointment with Colonel Bill to find out how their relationship shaped his way of life, and those around him. He began to share his experience by exploring his values with me. His narration introduced me to his motto in life, which he learnt from his father. This motto is built on the fundamental principles of equality for all. He named this motto, the Constitution, and he began to give a biographical account of how this motto developed. You may notice that his story is told in a somewhat 'matter of fact, periodical manner', making as if there are no grey areas, no sight of a "no man's land". However, we will explore these grey areas later. For now, I share with you, our conversation.

In general, he speaks highly of his motto that has begun to increasingly guide his way of living. He tells us that the Constitution of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996, has as its core, the Bill of Rights, which attempts to ensure democratic principles are upheld in South Africa through its application to *all* laws in the country. He stipulates that everyone is equal before the law, which includes, amongst other things that everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms and that no one is unfairly discriminated against. Therefore, the relationship between him and Lieutenant Democratis is intended to be a symbiotic one.

Through his experiences, he began to focus on more specific segments of society, in the advent of Lieutenant Democratis' rise to power. In particular, parallel to international concerns, Colonel Bill began to concentrate more on children's rights. A case in point

was the review of the Child Care Act (1983) which set out to uphold the constitutional protection of children by addressing, amongst other issues, the development of children in a family structure - highlighting parental rights and responsibilities. His message was explicit: the “best interests of the child” are regarded as foremost in all matters concerning children (Project 110, 1997).

Colonel Bill has set up an infrastructure for dealing with issues concerning parent and child, which falls within the sphere of family law in South Africa. According to the Children’s Status Act, 82 of (1987) a child born of marriage is subject to the parental power of *both* parents. This is reiterated in Act 108 of (1996) section 28 (b) and (c) of the Bill of Rights which stipulates that every child has the right to family or parental care; and every child has the right to be protected from neglect and abuse (Gallenetti, 2006; Van Heerden, 1999).

That being said, statistics tell a different story, despite the perfect picture of equality Colonel Bill paints. Legal processes are juggernauting their way through father-child relationships, amputating and altering them severely in many cases.

1.1.3 The Statistical Archives (Statistical Context)

Subsequent to my conversation with Colonel Bill, I decided to let my fingers take a walk in order to clear my head. As I was “surfing the information super highway”, I began scratching around the dusty South African archives, and I began learning that he has a story to tell about the relationship between Lieutenant Democratis and Colonel Bill, and their influence on the conditions in which our *soldiers* fight. His relationship with these two characters is a long standing and dynamic one, in line with the experiences of these two influential characters. His story reflected a bleak picture.

According to him, South Africa saw an escalation in single parented households from 16, 2 % in 1996 - 18, 5 % in 2001. Consequently, coupled with these dynamics, nuclear families plummeted from 46,3% in 1996 - 41,1 % in 2001 (Netshitenzhe & Chikane, 2006). It is a matter of conjecture how these dynamics affect

the lives of children and the quality of family life. He seems to give a negative commentary on the potential of negative consequences on family life in general, especially in the midst of messy divorce litigations, with children seeming to be in the line of fire, in the war between the maternal trench on the one side, and the paternal trench on the other.

He tells us of similar history keepers in the United States, who found that fathers indicated a strong preference for joint custody, while despite this, in 77 % of these families, sole custody was awarded to the mother (Braver, Wolchik, Sandler, Gogas & Zventina, 1991). The reason for fathers not receiving sole custody seems to have sparked some debate between archivists. Braver et al (1991) cite Weitzman (1984) who reported that mothers felt that fathers who expressed their desire for full custody were doing so as a “bargaining chip” while Levy (1990) cited by Braver et al (1998) argues that lawyers inform fathers of the biased legal system and attempt to steer them away from filing for full custody.

In the Archives, I found a box which contained the results of the 2003 census, stating that 31 566 marriages dissolved in South Africa that year. The number of minor children said to be involved country wide mounted to 30 855 (Statistics South Africa, 2006). This number may well be underestimated, considering I and my family of origin were excluded from the census, leaving room for many families to have been overlooked. In the face of this alarming situation, I wonder about the dynamic transformations family structures face in the midst of this change. Serious decisions involving parenting, in part seems, to come under the guise of the omnipotent family law system, who states that “the best interests of the child” are paramount in all matters (Project 110, 1997). The legal system informs to a large degree, the parameters of our mobility. However, the general infantry that makes up a family unit play a huge role, when it comes to deciding the fate of their children.

Our history keeper, tells us that fathers usually bear the brunt of the legalities in South Africa too, where in 1998, 42% of children lived with their mothers, and 1% of children

with their fathers (Richter, 2004). Children now seem faced with the reality of a single parent household, while fathers are faced with the possibility of adopting the role of “forced absenteeism” – being missing in action.

Some adventurers of the past have come back from their travels and reported that fathers’ involvement in the lives of their children, in the aftermath of divorce, can potentially ease the impact of divorce on children (Hetherington & Stanley-Hagan, 1999; Thomas, 2005). Academic and public narratives however, illustrate a myriad of factors, which impact on fathers being involved with their children. Nevertheless, there has been skeletal exploration into this abyss, which I name here “no mans land”, to explore how these soldiers experience fatherhood in the midst of divorce.

1.1.4 The Refugee Camp (Public Context)

My tour through the cyber archives and my prior conversations, led me to questioning what the refugees make of all of this. The Refugees’ stories centred on the domain of public discourse, where some view *Fatherhood* as a fluid concept, influx with the dynamics of society, explaining that the content and importance of this role has shown signs of malleability (Buchanan, 2005; Morrell & Richter, 2006).

Our discussions left me feeling as though their experiences with this issue have taken on a pendulum effect. On the one hand, I became aware that leaders reporting on this issue, such as newspapers and magazines, frequently highlight fathers who are abusive and/or abscond from their parental duties. On the other hand, there is an alternative story that fathers, aside from their biological bonds with their children, yearn for active involvement in their children’s lives. While both these narratives are played out in society, and circulate, the overriding theme of gender bias and thus, gender inequality still seems to be implicit in many messages society receives (Anderson, 2004; Fitzpatrick, 2005; Rondganger, 2005; Venter, 2005).

My contact with their stories left me feeling that when fathers are faced with the

dissolution of the family structure, fathers seem shackled and incarcerated in a system of (in)justice which makes them accountable for paying maintenance, restricted visitation rights, and further alienation from their children by other legal processes which are abused in many instances (Smith, 2005). Therefore, dominant public narratives concerning what is in “the best interests of the child” seem to bleed in to the court room, where subjectivity seems to reign supreme. This highlights the importance of *uncensoring* soldiers’ stories in exploring how they experience parental care in the aftermath of divorce.

1.2. QUESTION

The research question for this research project was:

“How do South African fathers experience parental care after divorce?”

1.3. GOALS

1.3.1 General Goal

The general goal for this research project was to understand and describe how South African fathers experience parental care after divorce.

1.3.2 Specific Goals

The specific goals for this research project are as follows:

1. To explore the “war” archives (literature review).
2. To describe the “war” strategies (research methodology).
3. To conduct the research project.
4. To report on the “war” findings and the “war” aftermath (research report)

1.4 STRUCTURE OF REPORT

The report began with an introduction to the war terrain. The subsequent chapter will

explore the war archives. Chapter 3 will focus on the war strategies used in the project and will be followed by the war findings in chapter 4. The report concludes with a reflection on the aftermath of the war.

In this chapter we had space to reflect on the landscapes we form part of and how these landscapes are moulded by various elements. We focused our attention to “developing landscapes” and the battleground that can develop. By exploring the numerous contexts that play a part in the war, it seems that there have been dramatic transformations since the demise of Apartheid, and yet in this exciting time, the South African statistics demonstrate the marginalisation of fathers’ rights when it comes to divorce litigations.

CHAPTER 2

“WAR” ARCHIVES

We were inseparable, spending our time stacking wood, fishing at the river, playing catch in the middle of the quiet street, or at night time...I'd hold him in my lap as we gazed up at the stars. When Patsy picked Stephen up, the magnitude of our separation exploded like a bomb in the pit of my Stomach.

(Pelzer, 2004, p. 44)

The dust has settled. Now what remains are remnants of what has happened. In the dusty archives, I have seldom heard individual stories amongst the thousands. Experiences are often storied in a generic form by others, robbing *individuals* of their experience. So as I walk the expanse of the battleground, I take a respectful look. A word that pierced a *soldier's* breast lies smoking on the floor of the archives, an abandoned garrison opens up our curiosity as to what happened there, leaving space for the telling of different stories as we pass them by.

In order to explore these artefacts, I chose to approach the literature review in a manner similar to what Massey (1996) described as “literature as animal tracks” – plotting the journey according to where others had been before, while recognising there are routes not yet travelled. I thought it best to allow men, fathers (*soldiers*) and masculinity to take turns on chauffeuring us around the war archives, while I provide a running commentary of the scenery as I see it, as we travel through it. We will bravely venture down meandering roads, with differently positioned signage, signalling alternative routes, with each telling their own story.

Using the metaphor of being chauffeur driven through the archives, it is my intention that we join the many voices of the *soldiers* we spoke of previously, whose stories are at times, told in a fragmented manner in academic terrain. We tap certain stories and ask questions about what is not being storied. We may leave many questions unanswered, fuelling our curiosity as we strap ourselves in. For now, I elect to drive the tour bus and tell you of my travels, while you travel “shot gun”.

2.1 OVERVIEW OF FATHERHOOD

The journey begins with a brief background to the areas I have explored concerning fatherhood. These territories have highlighted the importance for father involvement in the lives of their children, and the importance for further navigation in the future, and perhaps opens up space for navigating differently.

The following areas will be addressed by means of taking you on an historical tour of the following:

1. The fluidity of fatherhood.
2. The importance and scope of fatherhood
3. The family and fatherhood in historical perspective
4. Overview of South African law relating to fathers parental rights

The tour begins with us becoming acquainted with the course that fatherhood has run over time. As we travel, I will point out things that I have found meaningful...feel free to ask questions as we continue our travels...

2.1.1 The fluidity of fatherhood

My encounter with my tour of the *Fatherhood* archive has been a dynamic one, telling me that it is a fluid concept, in flux with the dynamics of society and seems to resist a solitary definition. As I ventured further into the literature, it seemed to me that there was a distinction that ebbed and flowed continuously between two divergent positions.

These two camps, centre round two distinct fundamental issues. One concerns the debate around *defining* what a father is, and the other is what a father can *contribute* to the relationship he has with his child.

Let me introduce you to the leaders in the first camp. “The bats” camp look at fathering through the lens of a microscope, explicating that “father” denotes biological connection

only. Informants from the other camp, “The eagles” prefer an aerial view, a broader way of looking at the picture. These researchers say that “fatherhood” is an inclusive term, associated with the roles, scope and choice of fathering.

Let’s crawl into the *bat camp*, that is if you don’t mind if things get dirty for a moment. Informants from the bats view “father” as referring to a male parent, or a male guardian through adoption. Used in the vast South African terrain, “father” has many connotations. “Small father” refers to a father’s younger brother, while “big father” refers to a father’s elder brother. Interesting to notice, as I became acquainted with their earlier dogma, that the word “fatherhood” dates back to before AD 1150 which indicates it is an Old English [OE] word (Branford, 1993, p 271). This demonstrates the landscapes fatherhood has travelled and indicating how it has been shaped by its journey.

It seems to me, after my encounter with the *bat camp* that a widely held belief is that a man becomes a father after impregnating a woman with the result being that a child is born. Technological advancements geared towards the creation of human life, such as anonymous sperm donations which are used for artificial insemination, is one example which makes this definition problematic (Braver, Evans, Lamb & Peters, 1998; Morrell & Richter, 2006). I feel that the term “father figure” seems to encapsulate the idea that one does not have to be the biological father in order to choose to act as a father towards a child. Thus, to differentiate between biological fathers and the act of fathering, the term “fatherhood” is often employed.

Let us take some time to survey more closely the map of fatherhood for a moment, by touring the archives dedicated to how fatherhood can be *conceptualised* and *exercised* in diverse ways (Brandth & Evande, 1998; Braver, Evans, Lamb & Peters, 1998; Choles, 2004; Matta, 2006; Mkhize, 2006; Morrell & Richter, 2006; Roberts, 2006; Tiihonen, 1999). The *Eagles camp*, maintain that the concept of fatherhood can include the social and legal definitions of “father” (which refers primarily to genetic paternity), but also encompasses the cognitive, affective and behavioural aspects of male parenting as a continuous interpersonal process (Braver et al, 1998).

In this section of our tour I am reminded of a deposits and withdrawals system, reminiscent of a banking institution. Braver et al (1998) employ the concept “social fatherhood” as an interdisciplinary term, which highlights the core areas of male parenting. Fathers, they argue, provide their children with *human capital* (e.g. skills and knowledge), *financial capital* (e.g. money, experiences purchased with income), and *social capital* (e.g. family and community relationships, which nourish the child’s cognitive and social development). Thus, it seems that these *capitalists* view fatherhood as a multifaceted process, of inputs and outputs, which determine growth.

As we explore the *Eagle camp* further, and get to know the city better, I begin to realise that fatherhood can be understood as a socially constructed concept since it is understood and exercised in a variety of ways by different cultures, religions and societies (Brandth & Evande, 1998; Braver et al, 1998; Choles, 2004; Mkhize, 2006; Roberts, 2006). Fatherhood therefore resists a solitary, generic definition, since it seems to be organic in nature

Consistent with a social constructionist paradigm, one’s identity is co-created or co-constituted in processes of relations with and between others (Gergen, 2001; Vorster, 2003). *Eagle’s* representatives maintain that fatherhood is co-produced in men’s daily relationships and is therefore an ongoing process of social construction and is continuously shaped by cultural, economic and interpersonal relations (Brandth & Evande, 1998; Matta, 2006). Fatherhood, therefore, seems to be an ongoing process “of becoming”, continuously developing over time.

Learning more from the *Eagles’ camp*, we see that there are those such as Kwasniewski (2006) who we have stumbled across on our travels, who argues that fatherhood is not a legal, psychological, social, or physiological phenomenon, but has a *divine origin* and sacred function, which transcends all the intrinsic and extrinsic ways of demonstrating a fathering role. Supporters of this idea, such as Furrow (1998) argues that religious values shape fatherhood, while Palkovitz and Palm (1998) maintain that fatherhood and its diverse forms, can impact on men’s religiosity, moral and value development. Thus,

religious doctrine has an important place in understanding the multidimensionality of fatherhood.

In my tour of the archives which tap diverse South African contexts, I came to realise that fatherhood for many men, has meant providing for and protecting their children, and to do so work has been sought. For many Black African men, they have had to work far from their children, enduring hardships which have travelled alongside the migrant labour system (Morell, 2006). African men have had to manage the disparity between tribal values, which rest on patriarchal shoulders, as well as the Apartheid legacy and the pressure to assimilate into a Western Culture due to the effects of rapid globalization (Choles, 2004). Many fathers, therefore, seem to view their children as part of their identity, and therefore, part of their masculinity (Morell, 2006). So let us give masculinity a turn to chauffeur us for a few moments through his archives...

Masculinity, tells us that he and his brothers, manhood and gender, seem to be intertwined in the concept of fatherhood. These are wrapped up in cultural belief systems implicit in societies, and can inform one's perceptions of fatherhood, as well as societal views of fatherhood (Morrell, 2006; Tiihonen, 1999). It seems that masculinities which support caring for and supporting one's children, can give meaning to men's lives and can be one of many ways to explore and express one's emotions.

There seem to be similarities and differences between the manhood and fatherhood terrain (Tiihonen, 1999). Manhood and fatherhood can be seen as similar since they are shaped continuously by the times and zeitgeist in which we live. However, they also differ in that Tiihonen (1999) views masculinity as being situated in the public context, while fatherhood is reserved for private life. Amidst this complex juggling of masculinity and fatherhood, men, he argues, need to "write their own man/father stories". Therefore, he argues that fatherhood and manhood should be an expression of personal beliefs and not solely a product of culture and society.

As we venture deeper into the expansive South African context, there are those who tell us that a hegemonic model of masculinity exists in the sub-culture of South African

society, which can be both restrictive and damaging to men and society (Bantjies, 2004). Before we leave this place, I must say that if this claim has some validity, then men could be viewed through the narrow guise of suspicion, since they could be regarded as mere perpetrators of violence and other socially atypical behaviours, while ignoring that there are other possibilities.

However, Choles' (2004) commentary on South African maleness depicts masculinity as facing a paradigm shift. He argues that dominant discourse concerning maleness holds a dichotomy of expectation of what it means to be a man. On the one hand, men are expected to be successful and able to provide for their family, while on the other hand they are expected to understand and be affectionate partners and fathers in families. This perceived dichotomy, I think, can lead to confusion, and a sense of disconnection, where some choose to express their maleness through violence, while others are drawn to an arena of feelings and nurturing that was once reserved for woman due to set gender roles.

In the distance we see the theatre...let's catch a preview of the South African play "Defending the caveman", which depicts stereotypical gender roles, to see if we can gain more insight into masculinity and fatherhood. After sharing this experience together, we will all take different meanings from it. However, since it is an educational tour, I feel that it is appropriate to share my experience of it with you. I view it as an example of discourse that legitimises the strong message that men are, because of their genetic composition, merely docile prehistoric beings, on the look out for the most expedient solutions to everyday challenges, and capable of abuse and violence. This can have varied implications for the ways men choose to act on their maleness, and has implications for fuelling public narratives which perpetuate these dominant stereotypes (Choles, 2004). The alternative story that "all men are not bad" and that fatherhood is a valuable part of many men's lives, I think is largely underplayed, and is granted limited space from time to time in the media (Smith, 2005).

However, there has been an increasing interest in father-child research over the years. Some research has focused on the benefits of father involvement, while others focus on the negative roles fathers can play in the lives of their children. Thus, the quality of the

relationship between father and child and the child's need for care and support is an important area of concern, where we make a stop over next.....

2.1.2 The Importance and Scope of Fatherhood

As will be seen on our travels, fathers can care for and be involved with their children in a variety of ways, with social, cultural and individual variations in the expression of fatherhood. What I have seen on my tour of the archives is that there seems to be a symbiotic relationship between fathers and their children. Father and child can mutually benefit from the relationship when it is a "healthy" one, and conversely, in relationships characterised by many flaws, can serve to be detrimental to the child and fathers' development, on many levels, and has the potential to filter into various contexts later in life.

Our journey continues by exploring a further two camps present in the literature regarding fathering: one is the "*deficit model*" camp, focusing on the effects of father absence, and seems to be a rather linear way of conceptualizing fathering, suggesting that only the child suffers (e.g. the father is either there or not). On the other hand, the "*generative model*" camp, views fathering as a complex, reciprocal, and a continuously developing process that is mutually beneficial to father and child (Braver et al, 1998; Palkovitz, 1997). We will alternate our course of exploration, between the findings that are more consistent with a *generative model*, and that of *deficit model* understandings of the importance of fathering, to illuminate the importance and multifaceted nature of fathering.

One of the spokespersons from the *deficit camp*, Talitwala (2005), reports that South African children who have good relationships with their fathers are more confident, secure and stable, and capable of having lasting interpersonal relationships. Furthermore, Jones (2004) writes that academic performance seems to be positively correlated with the frequency of father-son contact and the quality of their relationship.

Conversely, Talitwala (2005) goes on to say that where the father-child relationship is an unhealthy one, children may be unsure of themselves, may withdraw, and find it more

“family” can be viewed as existing within a dynamic ecosystem, in which economic, political, cultural and social forces can mediate how individuals respond to, and coerce change (Amoateng, Richter, Makiwane & Rama, 2004). The transformations in family structure, and with that, the evolution of law in reaction to these transformations, have impacted on the nature and form of families and thus on the meanings attached to parental roles and responsibilities.

Owing to my contact with the archives, I have placed the concept “family” in parenthesis and would like to make clear my reason for doing so at this juncture. It is no easy task to define what constitutes a “family”.

In the preceding chapter I asked you to reflect on the countryside you are a part of. I would like you to take a moment to take a close look at the unique contours and to reflect on the transformations your system has endured. These contours and disruptions make the landscapes in which we live unique, and thus defy the dated traditional and linear view of “family”. Some believe that “family” constitutes a fundamental social group in society, typically consisting of one or two parents and their children. However, Reber (1985) recognises the above definition and goes further to acknowledge that a group of people with strong social or personal ties can constitute a family.

Where I chose to punctuate the landscape in this study, is on how fathers experience parental care following divorce, where the landscape of their father-child relationship is altered by legal, social and emotional elements.

As we continue our exploration of the landscape that surrounds fathers, I would like you to become aware of the television screen on our tour bus. As we stop to fill up our petrol tank, I switch the television on, and the program introduces you to the next terrain we will be exploring together. The documentary begins by familiarizing you with the next two camps we will be visiting, which view the current state of the “family” differently. One camp sees the family as in a state of *decline* (Mabetoa, 1994), while the other sees the family system as responsive to social change, and therefore is constantly in

transformation (Viljoen, 1994). Recognizing the diverse forms “family” can take, I agree with Bateman (1996) who stated that what people regard as their family, is their family. Throughout the ages the concept has developed, and brought with it artefacts of traditional ways of being, but by no means do I propose that the types of “family” listed below, occurred in completely distinct periods of time. I am sure, there were overlaps and those “rebels” of the time, who chose to do it differently. When referring to family hereafter, I acknowledge the various meanings people attach to the institution they name family.

The documentary shows us the different forms a family can take, and in which ways we have come to categorise, highlighting its malleability. Families can take the form of an extended or multigenerational one, where more than one generation resides in the same dwelling (e.g. grandparents, parents and children). Furthermore, we find nuclear families, consisting of parents and children; single-parent families; child-headed families; blended families (consisting of stepchildren and stepparents); and homosexual families. (Amoateng, et al., 2004; Giddens, 1997).

Edgar (1992) draws attention to an alternative way to view what makes up a family, namely, the life cycle and developmental models. These models view families as passing through a number of stages, specifically: the newly established family; child-less family; child-bearing family with infants and preschool children; family with children of school going age; family with adolescent children; family with young adults; family of middle-aged parents, whose children have left home; and the family of aged parents who have retired.

The documentary takes us around the world, showing us the dynamic nature of the family system, where continuous adaptations in the “family” in relation to social, economic, and political conditions, meet against cultural, religious and social beliefs of family systems, which can buffer, filter or mediate the changes occurring at the time (Zeitlin, Megawangi, Kramer, Colletta, Babatunde & Garman, 1995). Social transformations in history such as colonization, urbanization and globalization, are but a few social forces, which have

impacted on the family. I give a brief overview of the “renovations” families have undergone throughout the ages, in a somewhat compartmentalized fashion, to give a sense of the flow of change in relation to the social zeitgeist of the times.

The documentary stops...now that we are orientated, I start up the engine...shift into 7th gear....a gear that will take us back in time, so that we can explore the evolution of the family for ourselves...we land back in time and explore the 14th and early 15th century. As we have walked around, and asked questions, it seems that the European family could be viewed as similar to a “nuclear family” at that time, consisting of mother, father and offspring. These families had deeply embedded networks with the community (Stone, 1977).

As we continue our travels, it seems that this period was followed by a transitional type of family in the 1700's, which was more distinct, separating itself from local community. The importance of parental love was emphasised and it is said to have seen the increase in authoritarian power of fathers (Giddens, 1997). Fathers were seen as rational and strong, while mothers were seen as taking up a more dependent, loving and emotional role (Jordaan & Jordaan, 1998). It seems that this was followed by the emergence of the family that is most familiar in the West. Marriage centred on the personal selection of a spouse, and “affective individualism” (Giddens, 1997, p. 142).

Our travels of Europe left me wondering about African traditional societies, and so I hope you don't mind me taking you there for a moment. Fathers had an authoritative position both in the household and in the community (which was intertwined with the status of his family). This position was challenged during colonisation. Later, fathers moved to urban areas in search of work and this contributed in many ways to fathers' roles changing within the family (Mkhize, 2006).

Continuing the African exploration, in South Africa, the migrant labour system (one of the driving forces for urbanization) can perhaps be seen as a precursor for fragmenting family life, particularly among African extended family systems (Amoateng, 2004). Urbanisation and the changing patterns of employment and work by men and women

in section 19, explicitly stating that the biological mother, married or unmarried, has **full** parental rights. This is not a matter of “alphabetising”, but seems a biological one. Thereafter, the full rights and responsibilities of fathers are listed, in which case they are **tentative** and have to meet certain criteria in order to have the equivalent rights as biological mothers.

A biological father has full parental rights and responsibilities **if** he: (a) is married to the child’s mother or, (b) was married to the child’s mother at the time of the child’s conception; birth or any time between the conception and birth (Children’s Bill, 2004).

It is stated in the Children’s Bill, that a child’s rights should not be affected by the dissolution of a marriage. Remembering that the Bill of rights stipulates that children have the right to parental care, and this seems to specifically addressed in the Children’s Bill in section 39 (6) which states that a father of a child in a voidable marriage, where the marriage has been annulled, is in the same position as the father of a child who divorced the mother of that child. Therefore, he has full parental rights and responsibilities. This is what it says on paper, but the reality may be very different as a result of divorce proceedings.

In divorce cases, assignment of full or specific rights and responsibilities may be made an order of court, in which case, a number of subjective factors are considered when making such an important decision, such as the relationship between child and applicant, the degree of commitment the applicant has demonstrated towards the child, the degree to which the applicant has contributed to the expenses of the child, the “best interests of the child” and any other factor that the court considers should be taken into consideration (Children’s Bill, 2004).

The subjectivity that enters the court room in which rights and responsibilities are decided upon is numerous. How do you really quantify the degree of commitment between father and child, when considering the broad nature of fatherhood? How do you prove your financial contributions over a period of time, in a messy divorce case? How

children's lives and/or do not want to be. Secondly, it leaves room for one to think that it is but a few men who dare to attempt to gain custody of their children.

How do fathers experience parental care following divorce?

2.2 RESEARCH ON FATHERS EXPERIENCES OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AFTER DIVORCE

This is the part of our journey that I have been excited about exploring with you...it is the terrain that I mentioned in the beginning, where the silence of fathers is deafening. Here I wish for you to join me with an open mind on our first leg of our exploration of “no man's land”. Visiting no man's land can be messy and has left me feeling disorientated at times....so I explore this quiet place with you, by taking you first through where previous tourists have been before and later I share my personal experiences with *soldiers* who shared their experience with me so that the silence is broken...

This part of our journey is best experienced by foot...taking it slowly as we wade through the abundance of literature dedicated to assessing the relationship between non-residential fathers and their children. From my tour of this territory, I have found little is devoted to fathers' post-divorce experiences of paternal care. Perhaps this further demonstrates the dominant story that mothers seem to serve the “best interests of the child”, while fathers are largely neglected in legal decision making when it comes to custody and have been neglected by and large in the literature – perhaps as a reflection of what is happening in society.

A landmark that I have seen on my travels of “no man's land” are the attempts that have been made to understand non-residential father involvement post divorce, by examining fathers contact with their children, from a number of perspectives. I will take you through many meandering paths that “no man's land” is synonymous for, where we will look at research on the level and quality of contact (Braver et al, 1998; Laakso, 2004); socio-cultural, legal and maternal influences (Anderson, 2004; Fitzpatrick, 2005; Govender, 2005; Rondganger, 2005), as well as post divorce grief (Thomas, 2005).

directly tap how many men are fathers that do not reside with their children, and therefore are unable to allow us to detect changes over time (Posel & Devey, 2006). This has increased the sense of vacancy I felt when I have been attempting to hear what fathers have to say. But perhaps what this illuminates is that which I have been so frustrated with....that fathers are not being heard.

Questions regarding fathers residing in the same domicile can illuminate possibilities in family dynamics. In 2002, approximately 57 % of all children in South Africa, and 67 % of African children in particular, were reported as having “absent” or deceased fathers. The reason for father absence and the extent of contact children had with their “absent fathers” is contentious, since the statistics do not tap this specifically. Therefore, the lack of statistical information on the status of father-child relationships and contact, further illustrates the marginalisation of men in the family, and warrants further research.

Our travels have taken us through the dynamic nature of fatherhood, and its importance in both children’s lives, as well as that for fathers. We have ventured back in time, to see how the family and fatherhood have been shaped by the zeitgeist of the times. The overview of South African law relating to fathers parental rights has been dissected, with clear examples of where fathers are marginalized as parents. As can be seen, a gap exists in the South African literature regarding fathers’ experiences of parental care after divorce. This gap warrants further navigation into the unknown in order to attempt to answer the research question.

CHAPTER 3

“WAR” STRATEGIES

“My father didn’t tell me how to live; he lived and let me watch him do it”
(Kelland, 2007,para 9)

Soldiers faced with the reality of a *developing landscape*, can be met with many challenges. The skeletal South African research on fathers’ experiences of parental care after divorce, tells us that in this country they are a nameless infantry, often bestowed with a title of a “missing in action father” that can strip them of their identity, their history, and their parental rights and responsibilities. In order to challenge the status quo, I wish to share with you, individual South African father’s experiences of parental care after divorce in the subsequent chapters, utilizing war strategies that seem to go against the grain of modernist standards of “reputable” research.

Unlike many historical pieces found in periodicals, which to me, seem hollow in respect of individual stories, I would like to explore in this chapter the terrain of the research inquiry that was followed during this research mission, to aid you in understanding the importance I place on hearing individual stories. I do this through the means of a conversation I have with you through these pages. You know me as a tour guide now, but there are many selves. I would like to introduce you to “my personal self” and tell you about how the contexts that have influenced this research have invariably influenced me.

Together, we will take a glimpse at the research context(s), and get acquainted with the research participants, which inhabit the environment. Thereafter, I plan to take you through the colourful landscape of the research position that has guided this exploration in to the unknown world of the *soldiers* that I spoke with, and my self exploration. We will make a turn at this juncture, towards the research material, and then explore the research ethics that were considered. To end this part of our trip, I take you to what I consider to be the relevance of the research, which does not fully encompass the value of the research project in its entirety.

3.1 STRATEGY 1: CONTEXT

The academic context has wide reaching implications, which extends and impacts not only on this research project, but has a bearing on me as a novice researcher, and personally as a student and developing person. Allow me to step out of the war metaphor for a moment, so that I can tell you about my experience of the academic context.

I have felt, that as I have had more contact with this project, the academic context has become like the *older sister* I never had. I am the oldest of two in my family, only knowing the role of older sister in that subsystem. The academic context has, like I would imagine an older sister would, given me room to grow as an individual, but has placed restraints on me, in terms of me becoming aware of the social discourses that surround my ability to gauge the appropriateness of exercising that individuality.

The Department of Psychology at the University of Pretoria formed the older sister of which I found myself the younger novice. The department offers undergraduate and postgraduate training in Psychology. The postgraduate training is divided into three areas: MA (Clinical Psychology); MA (Counselling Psychology) and MA (Research Psychology). This Research fell under the MA (Counselling Psychology) programme.

My older sister has led to me questioning a lot of what I have done in the past. Have I been like a horse with blinkers on, uncritically accepting the way she wants to mould me? So the dilemma has been an exciting one, and at the same time, a way of learning to let go and have my novice voice heard.

Seemingly a recent phenomenon on the internet of late (and perhaps by the time you read this, not so recent) is “blogging”. It seems to be a space where you can share your personal experiences on topics of interest in a public domain on the internet. So I wish to have a blogging session with you regarding my experience of my older sister and her impact on this research project....

Firstly, my history with my older sister has been an extensive one, which has spanned

The research position for this research project lies within the field of narrative psychology, where “narrative” was the guiding metaphor. (Inter)views took the form of a narrative conversational approach, armed with curiosity at my side, space was created for conversations in which fathers narrated their experiences of parental care following divorce. I attempted to remain forever curious, trying not to assume to understand what was meant by what the fathers were narrating, but to enquire, probe, and gently sketch with them through my questions of their experience, a story which was “true“ to their experiences.

The “Narrative” metaphor, as I have come to learn from both my long distance conversations with the gurus and my new older sister, can be viewed as the primary method by which people organise, express, make sense of, and ascribe meaning to their experiences. We construct, and describe our understanding of self, through our narratives (Atkinson, 1998; Riesman, 1993; Rodriguez, 2002), living our lives with and by stories (White, 1991). From this position, the narration of experience is viewed as being shaped by history and culture and therefore is socially co-constituted in a process of relations with and between others (Gergen, 1998; Sclater, 2003).

Becoming aware of my “*narriteveness*” (Rodriguez, 2002), and its implications was a challenge on many levels. It challenged some hard and fast stereotypes of men, which say that men are not required to be emotionally expressive, which this research would inevitably penetrate. Further, it challenged me to go beyond the safety of my femaleness and to enter a world that I feel I have been on the periphery of: fatherhood. Being *female*, having not entered the domain of *motherhood*, and having never been *divorced*, posed, what I initially saw as obstacles. How would these men share their stories with a *childfree married woman*? What would this do to the process? And, how would this impact on me? However, that is where the beauty lay in the conversations, the unfolding of stories that entertained a completely desolate dessert, and painted a landscape of experiences which *could* have been tainted by maleness, divorcedness, and a hoard of children.

interviews.

The fathers were asked to narrate their experiences of parental care after divorce. The method of “telling” was by means of unstructured interviews, and was recorded by Dictaphone. This was done in privacy at an agreed upon location.

The choice of an unstructured interview method was a deliberate one. I believed that this would progressively open up space for fathers to enter conversational terrain freely. Yes, there was the guiding question of “how do fathers experience parental care after divorce?”, so in a sense, that seemed to be the theme that guided the talk. However, it did not begin and end there. Many scenic routes were taken, as opposed to short cuts, determined by a previously established interview schedule. This, I believe allowed for what I call “concentrated conversation”, where a context is provided for, making “visible the unseen realm of experience” (Wiles, Rosenberg, Kearns, 2005).

3.4.2 Phase 2: Transcribe (Narrator)

I transcribed the data that was recorded by means of Dictaphone, allowing me to become acquainted with the research data.

3.4.3 Phase 3: Analyze (Recipient)

The data was analysed by means of narrative analysis, which followed an inductive reading of the data. As Rodriguez (2002) puts it, “Interpretation makes for new and different meanings, experiences and understandings...the legitimacy of different narratives is derived through interpretation and negotiation...” The analysis (refer to Appendix C-E on accompanied CD) aimed at understanding how history and culture were employed by the divorced fathers to construct their narratives of parental care after divorce. I followed the following process:

1 Phase 3a: Reading the field narrative

The field narrative consisted of the entire interview transcript.

In appreciation

Adele

4.1.2 Letter 2: *Playing Off Centre*

Dear Tim

It has been some time now since you allowed me room into your world. Over the last few months I have given my thoughts some space to consider how the conversation could speak for itself, and at the same time how I could communicate my experiences of our conversation. This letter continues our exchange.

A man of two worlds, Dutch and British, you introduced me to the divergent cultures that gave you life. Your mother's *Dutchness* seemed magnetic, drawing you close to the ideals of open-mindedness and the safe haven of support that it provided. *Dutchness* encouraged your individuality and provided an alternative path in which to explore life. You seemed to experience the British approach to life as restrictive regarding expressing both your identity and emotions. How interesting that you have embraced the virtues of *Dutchness* and you live them in your role as father in your sons' life despite societal restrictions.^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6}

As you allowed me to ride in the front with you, taking me down the meandering paths of your experiences with life, we stopped off at the infancy of your fatherhood. It seemed to me as we explored this area of your life that you wanted to do things differently, being active in your sons' life from the beginning, and making your son a priority from day one. Your gentleness as a father and your nurturing role seems to contradict what society has often told us is expected from a father.^{7 & 8}

It seems that *Dutchness* embedded itself into your relationship with your son from the very beginning, where you took the lead in providing for your sons emotional and

physical needs. The way you spoke of your role as father it was as if it chose you instead of you choosing it, in that you described it as “just natural”.

Being the mouth piece of a segment of a gendered social circle, I often hear these ways of describing parenting being affiliated with the “maternal role”. It has been an exciting experience to have been taught that this is not necessarily a maternal instinct as it is often referred to, but a “parenting instinct” or a “paternal instinct” or a way of describing parenting which includes, instead of excludes, males from these feelings.^{7 & 8}

It seems you did not abandon this way of being with your son when you were faced with the reality that your marriage was ending. This goes against the grain of what I am often told by the media. I was moved by your selflessness and the fight for full custody of your son in the moments of what I imagine to have been very difficult under the circumstances. You said to your wife “...*you need to make this decision knowing that you walk out with your suit case.....*” Not quite the quintessential picture that is often painted of divorce, where wife leaves with suite case and kids in tow.⁹ Instead, in your case you stayed, keeping your son at your side.

You tell a story of difference and change regarding your experience of parental care after divorce. Divorce has been life changing and has brought with it a sense of being different.¹⁰ It seems that your experience of fatherhood after divorce is different from other fathers who have faced divorce, and this seemed to be a pivotal realisation for you, making you different from the rest of the “divorced men’s club” so to speak. You compared your situation of having full custody of your son, with other men who either take over the responsibility of someone else’s family, or combine with other families, making your sense of normalcy rather different from other men you know. You told me of the importance the pub holds in these men’s lives, letting me in on an important area of learning.

The way in which you introduced me to the Pub defied the stereotypical connotations I as an outsider held. From our conversation it seems that the Pub serves as an informal

support group for men who share similar experiences, providing an opportunity to come together to talk and to momentarily escape the reality of their situations. A watering hole for the soul, it seems that you make use of this opportunity only when it does not interfere with your parental duties. Making it clear to your comrades that your son comes first, you seem to take pride in the “taken-for-granted” aspects of parenting after divorce, such as picking your son up from school, preparing dinner, and tucking him in at night. Your reality does seem different from many divorced men, shedding more light on those who are removed from their children after divorce.¹⁰

The story of difference extends further in your contact you have had with men who have confronted the territory of divorce. You vividly described the difficulty these men have experienced when confronted with the possibility of divorce. It seems that divorce is an undesirable, something that people don’t want to see happen to others and something you don’t want for yourself. Divorce brings with it, an infantry of emotions, such as antagonism, hurt, pain, and resentment making it a process filled with hostility and pain¹¹ &¹². Equipped with the knowledge of what divorce has done to you, you suggest that it is an all consuming period, faced with raw emotions which men need to sit with and work through, before they can see that there is life after divorce. Divorce seems to be an ambiguous process, describing it as “not clear cut”, which may be attributed to the legal process as well as the emotional process it seems. Divorce seems to be taxing, requiring time to heal, and the period of healing differs from man to man. It seems that you are angry with people flippantly saying to “get over it”, it is not as easy as that. Taking a naked look at your relationship, realising and acknowledging the difficulties and the changes in the relationship and in each other, seems to be one that is difficult, and painful, which outsiders do not seem to understand.^{11 & 12}

It seems that men’s self esteems are often the casualties in these wars. Men see themselves differently after divorce. It seems that women who are armed with resentment, use the access to their children and undesirable circumstances in the marriage as a “stick to beat them with”, as you put it. It seems that the continuous lashings divorced men are subjected to, injuries their self esteem, changing you and changing their

relationships with their children. Like your brother in law, who is left fighting “tooth and nail” for his children to come and see him, is the untold story of the wounded.^{11 & 12}

Just like an eminent war with the option of a peace agreement or the harsh reality of battle, men faced with this difficulty seem to fear the strategies that could be employed by the maternal trench. You told a friend *“listen you cannot stop who you are and she kind of, she kind of is going to screw you ... and she’s going to do that nicely, understand it and move on with your life”*. Your friends reply demonstrates the potential crippling effect divorce can have on men: *“...but this woman is going to walk away with more of my salary than I walk away with ...”*, of which you replied *“she is going to shag you and that is the definition of alimony”* It seems that men prepare themselves for the possibility of dealing with revenge and the casualties that war can bring.¹¹

I wonder what gender would say about the divorce process. It seems that gender tends to leave men the losers and women the victors in divorce litigations. How did you manage to defy societal views of gender in guarding your rights as a father? What could other fathers learn from your experience?

Your experience of parental care after divorce has not been without its own set of difficulties, marginalising you from other fathers. It seems that divorce has redefined the meaning you attach to sport. Sport seems to hold many connotations, of which I think competition, commitment, and if it is a team sport, playing as a group is important. Your involvement in playing action cricket with men last year seemed to illustrate just how different you are from other divorced men. There were times that your responsibilities as a father took you away from the game, which seems to have been misunderstood by some. It seems that there is no contest between your son and spending time with friends. Since the divorce sports’ function in your life has changed from competitive to one of relaxation.¹³ Fatherhood after divorce not only seems to distinguish you from other men on the basis that you have full custody of your son, and with that, responsibilities that cannot always fit in with scheduled “guy time”. You also are the minority, since it seems that other men do not understand the position you come from, since it is not within their

realm of experience.

Your contact with fatherhood has gone beyond the borders of providing financially, elevating your relationship to one that is symbiotic. You shared that this is a different experience from other divorced fathers, who are forced into the role of financial provider and coerced into negating the emotional aspect of fathering. These men seem to find themselves in a double bind, being forced to work excessively in order to meet the financial demands of a single income family.¹⁴ At the same time these men are wrapped over the knuckles for the time spent at work and limited time at home. It seems that this situation forces men to define themselves as financial provider, and yet this is the stick that is used to beat them when marriages end, making men look like they are emotionally unavailable and more career orientated, when this is not necessarily the case.¹⁴

You taught me that fatherhood is inclusive in its scope. Fatherhood after divorce for you has been about quality time with your son, making the time to play with him and learning to engage him on his level. It seems that you are an emotionally and physically present father who believes in communicating openly with your son.¹⁵ Difficulty seemed to enter your earlier experience of parental care following the divorce, where you went through a period of adjusting to single parenthood. It seems that post divorce fatherhood required support, of which you found in your uncle. Your uncle and his *Dutchness* taught you that you needed help in order to balance and manage your life. Your son's child minder seems to serve an important function in helping you achieve that.¹⁵

It seems that joy has entered your post divorce experience of fatherhood. It seems that you enjoy all aspects of parenting. You find joy in the hurdles, joy in the rewards, and joy in the responsibility that parenting brings.¹⁶ You speak of the joy you receive in the recognition that you get from parenting Adrian.

Although all of these aspects of parenting are worthwhile in exploring, I found myself wondering about recognition. It seems that you hit against societal norms in your parenting after divorce since your full time fathering is not what society expects.

Recognition seems to go one step further in respect of your situation. You spoke of your son's epilepsy throughout our conversation and this, coupled with your full time custody, makes your circumstances that much more different from others and this is recognised. Beyond others recognising your situation as different, you have begun some recognising of your own. You have recognised that your situation is different from others. You have also recognised that conversations are different now, moving from a superficial nature to a deeper conversation regarding your circumstances, which you enjoy. It seems to me Tim that your unique circumstances make your relationship with your son that much more different for you on a personal level as a father. You seem to get a sense of meaning through what you do as a parent.¹⁶

You described your post divorce fathering as being viewed by bystanders as *off-centre*. It seems that society has told you that having full custody of your son is different to the norm. Society has also told you that deciding on full custody of a son who has epilepsy is far from conventional.¹² I suppose when I listen back to our conversation, you have always done things differently, so why would it be different when it comes to being a father? From your school days you challenged societal norms, living an *off centred* life.¹³ How did you manage to go against the powerful gaze of society? How did you manage to turn societal views around, using these views as a conversation piece, which enriches your life, rather than pressurises you to conform? I wonder how much *Dutchness* has to do with it?

It seems that *Dutchness* has walked a long road with you. It sauntered along side you when making decisions growing up. It entered your marriage, and then moved with you in your post divorce fatherhood. It sounds as if *Dutchness* brings with it open-mindedness and maturity in respecting people's right to make choices in life. It sounds as if *Dutchness* has filtered in to your full time fathering, where you made a decision that you are comfortable with, however different this may be from the norm^{17 & 18}

You spend twice as much time with your son than most fathers who are divorced, which seems to provide an opportunity for more quality time to spend together^{19 & 20} While

exploring the alternative story of what it would have been like for you to have been like other fathers, who only get to see their children every second weekend, it seemed unimaginable for you. You explored in great depth the extent you would have fought to have custody of your son. You described how you would have been like a “typical” rotweiler, never giving up. Having been raised with a rotweiler myself, I draw on my own experience of her here, and how loyal and protective she was. She was head strong too, and when someone seemed to threaten anyone, her jaws became her weapons, guarding us with her life. I wonder if this is what you meant? That you would have fought hard to protect your relationship with your son, never letting go like the jaws of a rotweiler. You also compared it to being a persistent thorn in your ex-wife’s side until you had won the battle for your son. Perhaps your exploration of the hellish territory you were saved from sheds light on the untold stories of the immensity of emotions that fathers may feel when their children are taken from them. Your experience certainly is different from those fathers who are denied rights to their children.²⁰

Funny how a book that you read while growing up is similar to the journey of fatherhood you took me on.²¹ The book was called “life and the art of motorcycle maintenance”, which held for you the global message of exploring experiences together, being open-minded in life regarding people, being comfortable with being different and being open to exploring alternatives in life.²⁰ *Dutchness* seems to align itself closely with the messages you drew from this book, and the tour you took me on of your pre and post divorce experiences of fatherhood.^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 21, 22 & 23}

It seems that you put your son in the front seat with you when exploring life together. The front seat has had a metaphorical and literal function in your exploration of life together. Metaphorically, Adrian being in the front seat with you allows you to experience things together, where learning takes place and where boundaries are defined, communicating these openly. It also allows an egalitarian relationship to be cultivated. In a literal sense, it has become essential part of your parenting, where you can be there for your son when he experiences seizures, and where you can see to it that his well being is looked after.²¹

Amazing how you have come to learn so much from a small guy like Adrian. You described your son as being “therapeutic” for you. It seems that being Adrian’s father has brought you closer to gentleness and further away from hardness that you used to feel before, perhaps from your own father. Fatherhood seems to have allowed you to work through issues from your own childhood, and has made you more aware of the importance of certain values in your life such as humility and kindness.^{24 & 25}

It seems that the discussion amplified your feelings of a sense of ownership and responsibility when it came to considering the possible difficulties Adrian could confront in the future. It seemed as if your concerns centred around how epilepsy would impact on Adrian’s’ future independence. It seemed as if South Africa would fail your son in dealing with the care and assistance he would require at mainstream school and would fail him in assisting him living a financially independent lifestyle in adulthood. It seems that your parental care will expand borders, possibly taking you to the United Kingdom, where you can be assured that Adrian’s needs will be met. This demonstrates that your commitment to your son exceeds what society would assume declines when a child reaches a certain age and separation takes place. It also demonstrates that your love knows no borders, taking you overseas if that is what is in the best interest of your child.²⁶

So yes, you are not the “typical case study material”, since your story has highlighted the less conventional route, the alternative.^{12, 13 & 17} Although, I have been left with some wondering of my own. You mentioned how you have begun to notice how Disney movies are beginning to centre on fathers playing the nurturing role. It seems like these movies tell you that nurturing is not only part-and-parcel of a mother, but a role that men can, and are, actively playing out. You question if these movies are trying to indoctrinate society or whether perhaps it is telling society about what is beginning to happen in the world.²⁷ Perhaps the world is beginning to move closer to virtues that you hold dear, such as open-mindedness, and being comfortable with being off-centre, where *Dutchness* may be in infiltrating the boundaries of society? Perhaps we will see more off-centred dads like yourself.

In appreciation

Adele

4.1.3 Letter 3: Driving the wagon of life

Dear George

Since we last spoke, your life has seen a lot of change. I hope the United Kingdom is being a good host and is allowing you and your son to live the life of difference that you so eagerly spoke about the day you invited me to speak to you.¹

I would like to thank you for allowing me to come close to understanding your experience of divorce and the course that your fatherhood has taken. I know that it must have been rather difficult since you have a long standing relationship with quietness, preferring to be a listener instead of talker.^{1 & 2}

That February afternoon, brought with it a breeze and the telling of a story of difficulty, where the plot seemed to enter many scenes over the years. I would like to tell you about my experience of your story about difficulty in your life and later, how you claimed supremacy over it in the most ingenious ways.

Your story of difficulty took me through the developmental milestones of your relationship with your ex-wife. It seemed that you attributed many situations in which Difficulty entered to the demise of the relationship. The early stages of your courtship with your future wife involved difficulty, with your conscription to the army leading to a lot of time spent apart. It seems that your maleness saved the day, giving you the ability to pursue the relationship, which later paved the road to the altar. Amazing how difficulty seemed to fuel you, motivating you to fight for your relationship.²

Marriage brought you a son, and with it, a myriad of novel experiences. It seems that in

Letter 3: Numbers 1-34 in text refers to excerpts of the research analysis of the field narrative
(See Appendix E)

the formative years of your parenting experience, difficulty meddled with many aspects of fatherhood. Difficulty entered your routine and lifestyle that you had come accustomed to over the years. It seems that ten and two o'clock signalled changes, not only of your son's nappies, but changes to your independence, habitual sleep patterns and relationship with your wife.²

Fatherhood brought with it the problem of disciplining, which seemed to be fraught with difficulty. It seems that the role of primary disciplinarian did not sit comfortably with you. You seem to attribute your quiet nature with the difficulty you have in asserting yourself and the discomfort you have in managing others.³ You also doubted the method of disciplining that you employed as a young father, questioning the disciplining style, your frustration in the moment, as well as the problem of disciplining when he had not offended you.²

A marriage made of a couple who were vastly different from one another, it seems that divorce was entertained by all the difficulty the relationship endured over the years. The logistical aspect of the divorce seemed emancipated from difficulty, with the legalities being hassle free. But, the shell shock to the heart when D-day came was what seemed most difficult for you. The difficulty when it came to the emotional divorce seemed fuelled by unanswered questions of the cause of the divorce.⁴ It seemed like your heart was restless and confused until it knew the reason for the divorce.⁴

It seems like the emotional toll of the divorce infiltrated other aspects of your life, like work. Shortly after the divorce you resigned from your job, sitting at home for two months.⁵ It seems that the divorce left you searching for meaning, which led you to the pages of a book. Like a map, it seemed to guide you to discovering the path which could help you emancipate your life from the claws of difficulty. The book introduced you to the idea of looking at the positive things in life. Leaving your job and trusting that work would find you, was a decision that the book seemed to help you with.⁶ You decided to do things differently after the divorce, leaving work which you found unsatisfactory. With hindsight it seems that you feel that you could have done things with a little more

caution. saying “I probably didn’t go the right road, I fell off the bus.” It seems that the vehicle that you used to give you direction after the divorce took you on a path less travelled, yet it seemed to have all worked out in the end, giving you the opportunity to take a scenic route of your emotions, giving you time to come to terms with the divorce. How did you manage to make such a difficult decision, despite people’s opinions?^{6, 7 & 8} Like pins and needles that signal a waking limb, the reality of your financial and parental responsibilities ushered in Difficulty in the aftermath of your divorce.⁴ As we spoke of your experience I got the sense that you were describing the axiom of “being in two minds”, that you were confused at the time, where your mind propelled you to act, no longer acting as a voice of reason which could forecast the consequences of you leaving your job.⁵

It seems like your sister taking your son gave you the seven days you needed to get back on to “solid ground”.^{4 & 5} Moving from Cape Town to Johannesburg, brought with it a physical and mental shift, from a life of financial independence to being dependent on your parents. From an environment with no support, Johannesburg could offer you emotional and physical support from your parents.⁹ It seems that your initial experience of parental care following divorce was one of difficulty, since you were trying to understand and come to terms with the emotional turmoil that divorce brought with it, which sabotaged your ability to provide for your sons financial needs.¹⁰

You contrasted the ease of dividing material goods, with the difficulty of the custody process. It seems that despite the difficulties you have faced in the past concerning parental responsibilities and adapting to your role as father, as well as your wife’s request for full custody, you looked after your son in the months following the divorce. When the judge acknowledged your commitment as a father and awarded full custody to you, it seems that this change in initial custody arrangements was difficult for you to fully understand at the time. This period seemed to have been entangled with confusion, where you seemed to be questioning the reasons for your wife wanting a divorce, and questioning the reasons for her agreeing on the divorce despite knowingly losing the rights to her child.¹¹

Faced with the reality of full custody, it seems you were confronted with difficulty in the days, weeks and months following the divorce, making it tough for you to fully comprehend the responsibilities in which full time parental care brought. It seems that the impact of the divorce seemed to have a delayed effect, making you conscious only of the here-and-now and less focused on the future. It seems that you went through a process of mourning the loss of your relationship, of which you were still searching for reasons. It seems that a rationale for the end of your relationship would have brought you closure, and with that, clarity on what was to happen to your son. With the problem being a mystery at the time, and further casualties of the divorce such as your job and goals, difficulty seemed to inhibit you from understanding the scope of responsibilities that full time custody entailed.¹²

It seems like it was challenging to look after yourself shortly after the divorce, and the extra responsibility of looking after your son proved tough. I got the sense that full time fatherhood, on top of the emotional stress you experienced after the divorce, was like a shock to the system, challenging your emotional and physical strength. Yet, it was the one thing that saved you from ruin. It gave you purpose. Fatherhood seemed to have made you live for someone else, helping you to evade the grips of loneliness and despair. How amazing that with such a huge responsibility, at a time so difficult, you managed to muster up the strength to look at things differently, and lived life differently.^{13 & 14}

Fatherhood as a life saver, breathed purpose into your body, and with that, gave you the charge you needed to fulfil your duty as a “fit parent”. You enlisted the help of many people, such as your parents and crossed paths with your ex-boss.¹⁴ Your story showed me just how an extended family can be affected by divorce. It seems that your parents opened their hearts and home to you, providing you with physical and emotional shelter when you needed it the most.¹⁵ Your ex-boss gave you work, which seemed to be a catalyst for further change, helping you to incorporate motivation and purpose into your life again. With that, you were able to provide for your son’s basic needs again, resurrecting that “fit parent”.¹⁴

I was wondering how you were a fit father in other ways during this time that you were without work? How were you a father to Chris when the pennies were running dry? Asking for help seems to have a history with difficulty, how did you manage to conquer difficulty during such a challenging time?¹⁰

Being a *fit parent* for you seems to be broad in scope. You mentioned that financially supporting your son is a sign of being a fit parent.¹⁴ Later you expanded on this scope, extending on a fit parent being one who takes on the responsibility of the full time care and disciplining of your child. It seems that you consider your mom to be the fit parent at this stage, since Chris resides with your mother and she is the one who disciplines him.^{16, 17 & 18} I was moved by the freedom of choice you give your son, when it comes to asking him where he would like to stay. It seems that you incorporate talking into your relationship with your son where you have agreed together on seeing each other on the weekends.¹⁹

Perhaps you could give yourself more credit George! Gender has taught you over the years that you are the wrong sex to discipline your child. It has also taught you that men don't communicate openly with their children until they are much older.²⁰ Yet, you have defied Gender on both accounts. Parenting has brought with it discipline, and with that, difficulty. Yet, you have persevered with the trial and error of finding ways to teach your son appropriate behaviour.²¹ Your relationship with your father in your formative years was one where talking was absent.²² Yet, you are doing things differently with your own son, asking his opinion when it comes to making important decisions. Congratulations, you are outmanoeuvring difficulty as you tackle life.

You described fatherhood after divorce as being different “in a big way”. One of the things that you experience differently is time. Time has changed on many levels. Firstly, your son seems to share your appreciation of sleep now, sleeping more than he did when he was younger, which gives you the time you need for rest, making things easier on you. However, you do not get to spend as much time with him as you did when you were married, spending two days out of seven with him. It seems that the future holds promise

for you in your ability to cope with the demands for discipline this may bring.²³

It seems you have, over time, been challenged by your sons' stubbornness. You have thought about the potential impact of stubbornness' on your son's future in school, work and relationships.²⁴ It seems that you worry as a father about this, and have experimented with understanding it, trying to change it, and trying to work around it.²⁵

Post divorce fatherhood seems to have encountered periods of doubt and worry along its journey. It seems as if doubt has ebbed and flowed, where sometimes you have concerns regarding how you have performed as a father, and doubts about how you have handled situations in the past. Sandwiched between doubt and worry, are periods where you are able to recognise the positive – your son's health and how he functions, acknowledging your role in that. However, worry seems to consume your thoughts at times, where you worry about your son's well-being and the appropriateness of your worrying and whether you will be able to overcome it.²⁶ It seems as if you wonder whether it is a biological phenomena that comes part and parcel of fatherhood.²⁷ Yet, despite the path of doubt and worry that you trod as a father, you are able to change course and look for the alternatives that challenge their existence. Hope seems to be the alternative to doubt and worry that you experience, where you use your son's academic success as a way to measure your son's success at this stage of his life.^{26 & 27}

You recognise school as having played a pivotal role in your son's development, providing you with a timeline of change. Your son seems to have used school to learn not only the curriculum, but to learn latent skills of listening and being cooperative too, which you seem to admire as a father. It seems that school has been a great teacher in helping to challenge stubbornness.^{28, 24 & 25}

When I asked you how you have grown as a man through being a father, you seemed to be stumped.....it seemed like it was inconceivable for you to imagine a life without being a father. Your identity seems so entrenched in fatherhood, that the thought of considering yourself as someone who is devoid of that role, was problematic. It seems

that manhood and fatherhood are so closely immersed for you, that you cannot tell the one from the other. And so perhaps, this answered my question. You are who you are through being a father!^{29, 30, 31, 32 & 33}

It seems that you use life, and the experiences it throws your way, as an opportunity to learn, just like your son did with school. Your map seems focused on the present and future direction of your life, where you place little importance on the past. It is ironic that the past was once a part of your present, which you tackled as life experiences, which you learnt from. Perhaps the past is your present in another form, driving the wagon as you travel through life.^{33 & 34}

Thank you for sharing your story with me; I am privileged to have visited your world for a day!

Adele

4.1.4 Letter 4: Refresher

Dear soldiers

Thank you all for allowing me to talk to you about experiences that reunited you with aspects of your past. Like a time machine it catapulted us to revisiting painful experiences, which you all so openly and genuinely shared. I am extremely grateful!

This letter is one of difference. On a simplistic level, this letter shares with you, some of my experiences in participating in this project. It tells you the story of how doing this research has impacted me at the level of researcher, and on a personal level and the insights I have taken with me because of your participation in this project. Our conversations have helped me integrate a better understanding of my own processes and issues that I find challenging at times.

Being a novice researcher, worry and anxiety accompanied me as I walked into each interview. As I reflect now, I think I was most worried by the history and wealth of life experience you all brought with you. I was walking cold turkey, into a domain desolate with personal experience.

Worry was fuelled by many questions! How could the age and life experience I bring with me, influence the interview process? Would it render me blind to important experiences you would share, or beget 20/20 vision? I wondered, before walking into each interview, what I would need in order to keep the blind fold at bay. I wondered what I was going to bring to the conversation. Since communication is a two-way process, I wondered what I could share with you on a subject that I am a stranger to?

Divorce is a subject occupied by values and governed by a strong orthodoxy, and so worry was accompanied by my own spiritual beliefs, which could have served as obstacles. With a head populated with ideas, I was intensely aware that I needed to allow curiosity to take control, in order to go bare foot into the process and walk a day in your lives. I think this realisation had much to do with the training I had the previous year.

The training that I received in my first year in Masters, I lapped up like a dehydrated paint brush. Unbeknown to many in my life, I was immersed in a world of wisdom, which taught me so much about what it means to be human. This world was an interactive one, where I added two proverbs to my repertoire of experience: the one, being uttered by my supervisor, Dr Human, who said “you are your own best tool”, which I interpreted as “trust yourself, and use yourself effectively in the work you do”. That statement unshackled me from the mechanistic Psychologies that, I have to say, I battled to understand and believe in at times. The second insight that for me, feeds into the first, is that I was emancipated from my creative “claustrophobia”, given the green light to incorporate creativity and imagination in the work I do. With ability no longer being the question, I believed in the liberating potential creativity could bring in assisting people to understand their experiences.

How my training links with the experiences I shared with the three of you as we spoke, is very simple. Our conversations reaffirmed what I learnt, serving as a refresher course for me. It was through the process of interviewing, that each one of you, in your own unique ways, taught me that you would tell me all I needed to know about your experience. The process taught me that my limited research experience, my femininity, and being married without children, do not have to be seen as obstacles. I could look at these differently, as opportunities to learn, not opportunities to fail.

Writing up your stories was one of the greatest challenges. I approached the blank pages with all sorts of preconceived ideas, which had been drummed into me since the beginning of my academic career. What particularly perturbed me was the idea of what is often considered “scientific work”, or “valid research”. My history with university institutions has taught me that academic work, and in this particular instance, research, is to be disseminated in a specific manner, often using prescriptive jargon which is of tertiary standards. These ideas collided with the epistemology of my Masters training, which provided me with some radical views on how I could approach this research.

My training was like what the hippies had done to the world, revolutionising how I viewed everything, including research. Yikes! Taking the plunge and writing this research up the way I have, has been the ultimate paradox for me. I have never been so comfortable in my discomfort. I chose to write your stories in a manner that I hoped you could resonate with, which I hoped would draw you closer to it, instead of removing your identity and experience from it, with instruments that I think modernistic Psychology is sometimes very successful in doing.

I realised at the end of the interviewing process and became increasingly aware of it as I wrote my experience of your narratives up, that the dividing line between the role of researcher and therapist is a grey one. The questions I asked you all, all performed different functions. At times they were limiting in the response it allowed and at other times, they amplified your voices, and filtered through a wealth of experience. You have taught me to focus questioning, which is a two-way reflexive process: Firstly, I need to

be aware of why I am asking the question. Secondly, how could I ask a question so that it can broaden the corridor of experience, instead of eliciting limited responses?

The lessons I have learnt through participating in this project are numerous, and I thank you for your contribution in my self awareness.

Adele

War findings storied three fathers' experiences of parental care after divorce. Each story was voiced through the medium of a letter, which explored the meanings the men contributed to their experience of divorce, fatherhood in general, and fatherhood in the aftermath of divorce. The journey I have taken with these three men, and the analysis of the research data obtained, attempted to answer the research question - "How do South African fathers experience parental care after divorce?" I believe that through these men's experiences, I have been able to answer the research question. It seems that the experience of fatherhood after divorce is a very personal and individualized one, where a complex picture of emotional and physical aspects of divorce, interact with the emotional and physical aspect of fatherhood. I will explain the results in more detail in chapter 5. The chapter concluded with a letter addressed to all three of the men, which shared my reflection of this process and how it has contributed to my development.

CHAPTER 5

“WAR” AFTERMATH

The father who would taste the essence of his fatherhood must turn back from the plane of his experience, take with him the fruits of his journey and begin again beside his child, marching step by step over the same old road. (Patri, 2007, para. 8)

Most wars are documented. How the story is narrated is influenced by numerous contexts, some of which include the medium of telling, as well as the cultural, political and social zeitgeist of the time. This dissertation is immersed in a kaleidoscope of contexts, which has influenced the way in which I chose to plot the territory of the research and the reporting of the findings. It was my hope that your own social *situatedness* would enable you to critically engage with the meandering paths we have travelled together.

To gauge what has been learnt, this chapter serves as a reflexive process. I begin with a synopsis of the “war” archives, reminding us of the limitations of the academic terrain in its coverage of fathers’ experiences of parental care following divorce. We then revisit the “war” findings, summarizing what was learnt from the conversations I had with the men who participated in this study. Thereafter, the “war” archives and “war” findings are integrated in order to broaden our wisdom on fathers’ experiences of parental care after the divorce process. Recommendations concerning the research project conclude our journey.

5.1 REVISITING THE “WAR” ARCHIVES

I have come to learn that the terrain of divorce is a travelled one, being covered extensively in the literature. However, the voices of fathers are often absent, or if voiced, are muffled in a comparative study, where men’s experiences sit on the periphery of women’s opinions regarding men’s commitment to their parental duties. The gender biased literature left me with many questions.

I wondered to myself as I began to ponder on this topic: is this the situation in South Africa? Are most men absent fathers after divorce, or are they absent in the literature, providing a biased picture of their commitment to their children? This dissertation attempted to begin, however humble, to redress the imbalance in the literature, by exploring this “no mans land”, to feed more information about fathers into a desolate archive devoted largely to women.

The expedition into “no man’s land” began with a surveillance of the vast fatherhood terrain. I came to realize that fatherhood defies a solitary definition, since the content and importance of the role has shown signs of malleability as society has developed over time (Brandth & Evande, 1998; Braver et al., 1998; Choles, 2004;; Matta, 2006; Morrell & Richter, 2006; Roberts, 2006; Tiihonen, 1999).

The literature boasts two camps concerning fatherhood: The “bats camp” takes a narrow perspective, concerned with *defining* fatherhood by using biological connectedness as a measure (Branford, 1993; Giddens, 1997). The “eagles” take an inclusive approach to fatherhood, including the *scope, role, choice* and *masculinity* into account. (Brandth & Evande, 1998; Braver et al., 1998; Choles, 2004; Furrow, 1998; Gergen, 2001; Kwasniewski, 2006; Matta, 2006; Morrell & Richter, 2006). Therefore, fatherhood seems to be multifaceted in nature. How do fathers experience fatherhood when the family is divided?

A family exists within a dynamic ecosystem, in which economic, political, cultural and social forces can mediate how individuals respond to, and coerce change (Amoateng et al., 2004). The transformations in family structure, and with that, the evolution of law in reaction to these transformations, have impacted on the nature and form of families and thus, on the meanings attached to parental roles and responsibilities.

Emerging in this legal abyss are stories of fathers who argue that what is recognized legally is not being practiced in reality. The Child Care Act (1983) set out to uphold the constitutional protection of children by addressing, amongst other issues, the

development of children in a family structure, which highlights parental rights and responsibilities. The message is explicit: the “best interests of the child” are regarded foremost in all matters concerning children. The Children’s Status Act, 82 of (1987) concurs that a child born of marriage is subject to the parental power of *both* parents.

However, the statistical archives tell a different story despite the perfect picture of equality painted by the legal context. Fathers usually bare the brunt of the legalities in South Africa, where in 1998, 42 % of children lived with their mothers, while only 1 % with their fathers (Richter, 2004). Children are faced with the reality of a single parent household, while fathers are often faced with the possibility of adopting the role of “forced absenteeism”, doomed to being a missing in action father.

Some adventurers of the past maintain that father involvement in the lives of their children in the aftermath of divorce, can ease the impact of divorce on children (Hetherington & Stanley-Hagan, 1999, Thomas, 2005). However, “no mans land” in the literature, is proof of a neglectful void, excluding the lived experiences of fathers in the aftermath of divorce and the potential advantageous impact that continued contact with children could have on fathers. The stories of three South African men help shed new insights into an emaciated literature.

5.2 REVISITING THE “WAR” FINDINGS

The unique stories the three men shared with me regarding their experience of divorce and parental care following divorce, has begun to fill some of the gaps identified in the archives. Their experiences tell a story which goes against the dominant discourses that fathers are absent from their children’s lives or are denied access to their children. This is where I found their stories to be invaluable, novel and reassuring. Men can get it right!

Dean’s long standing history with loss in his life entered his marriage, robbing him of his wife, children and possessions. His experience of parental care following divorce has been a difficult one, especially financially.

Dean experienced difficulty with the repeated legal requests to pay additional maintenance for his daughter. These repeated financial demands have put Dean under increasing emotional and financial strain. The law seems to have left Dean confused. On the one hand it mediated a peaceful divorce process, and on the other hand has been an active participant in exploiting more and more money from him, so that he can see his children. It seemed like Dean's efforts at being an active father are threatened by his ex-wife's financial exploitation. As I spoke with Dean, I wondered to what extent these demands impacted on his definition of fatherhood, since he equated providing financially as an imperative part of fatherhood.

It seemed that Dean experienced his post divorce responsibility to pay maintenance as being difficult on many levels. Maintenance kept him connected to his ex-wife, which has not only kept him imprisoned to his Past relationship, but has infiltrated his future, impeding on the development of new intimate relationships.

The divorce left Dean in the position to attempt to cope under the circumstance of change, trying to readjust to the world as a single man, and readjust his role as being a divorced father. This involved a process of re-evaluating his life, and revisiting his priorities.

Divorce acted as both a catalyst for developing his repertoire of paternal scope and provided him with many gains: Firstly, Dean's priorities had shifted after the divorce, placing his children first in his life. Secondly, although there was a physical divide created by the divorce between him and his children, it provided the space for developing his paternal scope, where he has brought listening and talking into his relationship with his children, opening the channels of communication between them. Further, he reached a level of independence, enabling him to defy gender, where he could perform the functions this wife did when he has his children over (e.g. cooking, cleaning, buying clothes). He continues to fight off his ex-wife's legal army, in order to see his children.

Divorce ultimately seems to have enriched Deans' relationship with his children.

George shares both similar and differing experiences to Dean regarding the psychological impact divorce had on his life. It seems that the logistical aspect of the divorce was relatively peaceful, with the division of assets being mutually agreed upon, as well as custody arrangements. His experience highlights the alternative story, where he escaped a volatile divorce, which seems to be the case for many men, as demonstrated in Tim's narration.

The divorce however, took casualties elsewhere. It infiltrated his thoughts, leaving him confused by the unanswered questions regarding the reasons for the divorce. The emotional process that George was going through seemed to have made it difficult for him to realize the extent of his paternal responsibility with him being awarded full custody of his son.

It seems that George was left in the position to search for meaning in his life after the divorce, where he found shelter in a book which encouraged being positive. George saw the literature, coupled with the effects of the divorce, as mobilizing him to resign from his job. It seems like George was going through a process of mourning the loss of the relationship with his wife, which impacted on George's ability to fully comprehend the responsibilities that full time fatherhood brought. This seemed to challenge his emotional and physical strength to tackle the responsibilities of fatherhood in the beginning.

What was amazing about George's story is that this very challenge was the thing that saved him. Fatherhood seemed to have given him purpose in life, motivating him to begin to pick up the pieces of his forlorn life. It enabled him to enlist help from people, which he was uncomfortable in doing in the past.

Fatherhood in the aftermath of divorce seemed to have not only affected George, but had a ripple effect on his family of origin, where they felt it necessary to assist him and his son in integrating the experience and helping him to move on.

George's experience of fatherhood after the divorce seems to have met with doubt and

worry. It brought with it questions about financially providing for his son, which George uses as a benchmark for ascertaining whether he is a fit parent. Another area of concern has been his responsibility to discipline, with questions centring on appropriateness, methods and history of the female being responsible for discipline. Giving his son freedom of choice has been another area of importance for George, where the channels of communication are opened between them, which was very different from his relationship with his dad, where communication came with maturity.

Tim's experience of parental care following divorce simulates his approach to life – where he does things that depict him as being *off centre*. He defies the limitations of societal norms and standards regarding divorce, fatherhood and individualism.

Tim recognizes his experience as not mirroring the experience of most divorced men. He shared that divorced men are bombarded with hostility, antagonism, and ambiguity, during and after divorce, with their children being the ultimate weapon of punishment used against them. Divorced fathers seem to require support after going through such a process, which they seem to get from one another at their local meeting place: the pub. This seems to give him and other fathers a place to share their experiences, escape the reality of their situations and to share tips. Beer replaces coffee, which is often synonymous with women's experiences of sharing.

Tim has always been an active father in his son's life. When his marriage ended, he pursued full custody of his son, wanting to remain active in his son's life. His son's health concern, as well as his electing to have full custody of his son, marginalized Tim from the rest of the divorced fathers he knows.

Tim's full time custody has aligned him more with the single maternal trench than his fellow paternal compatriots. Tim spends twice as much time with his son than other fathers he knows, picking him up from school, cooking dinner, playing with him, and putting him to bed at night. He seems to take ownership of a nurturing role in his son's life, which defies the gender stereotypes associated with this role. These are the day-to-

day experiences he has that seem to set him aside from other fathers' experiences of forced absenteeism.

Tim experiences joy in parenting his son. He enjoys the challenges, as well as the recognition his experience affords him. It seems that his parental care after divorce has allowed more meaningful conversation, where he can express how he copes and the meaning he gets from his role as father. He described fatherhood as "therapeutic", signalling that parenting is a healing process, as well as a symbiotic process which has enriched his development as a father and man.

5.3 BROADENING THE ARCHIVES

These three *soldiers* stories of the scope, role and content of fatherhood, support the literatures findings concerning the multifaceted nature of fatherhood. (Brandth & Evande, 1998; Braver et al., 1998; Choles, 2004; Matta, 2006; Morrell & Richter, 2006; Roberts, 2006; Tiihonen, 1999). Each father seemed to punctuate their experience of fatherhood uniquely, being influenced by their upbringing, social, religious and cultural contexts that they have interacted with over time.

The "war" findings were consistent with the findings of the "eagle's camp" in the literature, which described fatherhood as an inclusive term. (Brandth & Evande, 1998; Braver et al., 1998; Choles, 2004; Furrow, 1998; Gergen, 2001; Kwasnieswski, 2006; Matta, 2006; Morrell & Richter, 2006; Palkovitz & Palm, 1998; Roberts, 2006; Vorster, 2003). Dean and George place much emphasis on financial provision for their children as an imperative component of being a fit parent. However, George, Dean and Tim all seem to place much emphasis on open communication, spending quality time with their children and attempting to look after their children's emotional needs. Dean and Tim seem to encompass a nurturing role in exercising their parenting, which hits against societal narratives that circulate, aligning nurturing with a maternal instinct.

George's inability to conceive of his life without being a father is consistent with the

notion that fatherhood is intertwined with men's masculinity (Morrell, 2006; Tiihonen, 1999).

Dean's experience of parental care after divorce demonstrates that the guiding principle of "the best interest of the child" set out in the Child Care Act (1983) is not always applied in practice. Dean experiences continued legal requests for additional maintenance to be paid to his ex-wife, where contact with his children is used as an ultimatum. This contravenes the Children's Status Act, 82 of (1987), where children born of marriage are subject to the parental power of both parents. If Dean cannot keep up with mounting maintenance requests, he will be extradited from his youngest daughters' life. This scenario is not only crippling Dean financially, but emotionally. Dean's situation supports Smith (2005) who argued that fathers often fall victim to a systems of injustice, making them accountable for paying maintenance and restricted visitation rights, and further alienation from their children through the abuse of other legal processes.

Tim and George's experiences seem to provide an alternative story, where they seem to have been empowered by the legal system, being awarded full custody of their children. This highlights that things are changing in South Africa. What is in "the best interests of the child" is not always, by default, the mother. It seems that some judges are beginning to take the blinkers off, recognizing fathers as an equal co-creator of a child, who should be provided the same opportunity to demonstrate to the court, the commitment to their children. These are examples of the Constitution of South Africa in action.

This study has tapped into fathers' experience of parental care following divorce, providing new insights into a domain that I have found to be desolate. Not only does it support the notion that father involvement can help ease the impact of divorce on their children (Hetherington & Stanley-Hagan, 1999, Thomas, 2005), it looks at how father involvement in their children's lives can help ease the impact of divorce on fathers.

For George, fatherhood provided purpose, motivation and a search for meaning in his

life. For Tim it was a continuation of a role that he was so accustomed to and could not conceive of part-time parenting. For Dean it taught him to be both emotionally and physically present in his children's lives. The three of these men find fatherhood in the aftermath of divorce challenging, yet they continue to pursue the active participation in their children's lives. Surely these qualities are in the "best interests of the child"?

I feel that this research was able to answer the research question, highlighting that these three fathers' have access to their children, and are enriched by and through their continued relationships with their children.

5.4 LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The epistemological stance of the reader will ultimately provide a different critique of the methodology of this research project. I provide a synopsis of the limitations as I see them.

This research project concentrated on three South African men's experiences of parental care following divorce. The size of the sample may be an area of concern for many readers, where it may be viewed that more would have been gained if I interviewed more participants. Secondly, the demographics of the participants do not mirror the population demographics. The three fathers I interviewed were white, middle aged men, two of which were Afrikaans and English speaking, and the other an Immigrant.

Future studies on this topic could use a larger sample base, and should include participants from other cultural backgrounds, in order to tap into experiences we still are unaware of.

I would also be interested in reading literature from other paradigms to see the findings of their research.

This chapter reviewed the "war" archives and "war" findings. An integration of the two demonstrated that there were holes in the literature, some of which this project were able

to fill. The chapter closed with limitations and recommendations for future navigation in to this important area of enquiry, thus concluding this research study.

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX A: Information letter

Dear

This letter is an invitation to consider participating in a study I am conducting as part of my Master's degree in the Department of Psychology at the University of Pretoria under the supervision of Dr Lourens Human. I would like to provide you with more information about this project and what your involvement would entail if you decide to take part.

The recent developments in Family law have sparked interest on children's rights. With the Review of the Child Care Act (1983), parental rights and responsibilities, were amongst some of the issues on the agenda, in which case the message was explicit: "the best interests of the child" are to be regarded as foremost in all matters concerning children. According to law, a child born of marriage is subject to the parental power of *both* parents.

Through the radical developments in both legal policy and discourse concerning parental rights and responsibilities of fathers, I have become interested in exploring the importance and the nature of father involvement in the lives of their children after divorce. According to media reports, it seems that some fathers seem shackled and incarcerated in a system of (in) justice which makes them accountable for maintenance, restricted visitation rights and further alienation from their children by other legal processes which are abused in many instances. Children may be faced with the reality of a single parent household, while fathers may be faced with the possibility of adopting the role of "forced absenteeism".

The **purpose** of this study therefore, is to explain and describe fathers' experiences of parental care after divorce. I would like to include you as one of several participants to be involved in my study. I believe that because you are a father who has gone through divorce, your experiences of parental care are invaluable not only to fathers in South Africa, but serves to broaden the legal systems knowledge and Psychology fields understanding of fathers experiences of parental involvement after divorce and the impact this has on their lives and the lives of their children.

Participation in this study is voluntary. It will involve an interview of approximately one and a half hours in length, to take place in a mutually agreed upon location. You may decline to answer any of the interview questions if you so wish. Further, you may decide to withdraw from this study at any time without any negative consequences by advising the researcher. With your permission, the interview will be tape recorded to facilitate collection of information, and later transcribed for analysis. Shortly after the interview has been completed, I will send you a copy of the transcript to give you an opportunity to

confirm the contents of our conversation and to add or clarify any points that you wish. All information you provide is considered completely **confidential**.

Your name will not appear in any dissertation or report resulting from this study. With your permission, anonymous quotations may be used. Data collected during this study will be retained for **five years** in a locked safe. Only researchers associated with this project will have access. There are no known or anticipated risks to you as a participant in this study. However, should you wish follow-up sessions due to this study, this will be provided by the researcher.

If you have any questions regarding this study, or would like additional information to assist you in reaching a decision about participation, please contact me at **082 561 9888** or by email at **Wybourn@gmail.com**. You can also contact my supervisor, Dr Lourens Human at (012) 420 – 3685 or email **lourens.human@up.ac.za**

I would like to assure you that this study has been reviewed and received ethical clearance through the Ethics Committee by the faculty of Humanities **at the University of Pretoria**. However, the final decision about participation is yours. If you have any comments or concerns resulting from your participation in this study, please contact the researcher on the aforementioned number above.

I hope that the results of my study will be of benefit to those participants directly involved in the study, other fathers not directly involved in the study, as well as to the broader research community.

I very much look forward to speaking with you and thank you in advance for your assistance in this project.

Yours Sincerely,

Adele Wybourn

Student Researcher

			<p>we are still involved with each other, we speak maybe once or twice a week in connection with the children.” It seems that the P views the age of his youngest child as keeping the connection going between him and his ex-wife, making it more difficult for him to move on – “Maybe if the small one wasn’t in school anymore, maybe it would have been something else because we don’t speak about the big children anymore...”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of Difficulty in moving on (post divorce relationships)</p>
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5

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
P	<p>And now she sues me for maintenance, which she didn’t do for the last four years now, and all these things, it’s eating me up, it’s really eating me up.</p>	<p>Maintenance</p> <p>Event 8 builds on Event 5, elaborating on the narrative of change, contextualizing it regarding maintenance. Further, in the context of Event 7, it may build on the narrative of his difficulty in moving on in new relationships and links with Event 6b, where the narrative of difficulty in establishing new relationships is further explained.</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P is trying to extend the narrative of change which he introduced in Event 5. It seems that paying maintenance is a <u>new</u> addition to his post divorce connectedness with his wife. Further, his connection to his wife through his children is extended further through his accountability of paying maintenance.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of Change</p>

16

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	When your ex-wife asks you for money and things like that, what does that do to you as a father?		
P	Well I have to, I have to pay. I don't want to pay, but I have to pay because I want to see my daughter go through school and I can't say no I won't give you money for school fees and school things, and things like that, I can't do that.	Maintenance Event 3b, 6, 7, 8,8b and 9 are further extended on in Event 8d, and the narrative of difficulty is further broadened, in the context of maintenance and the role this plays on him and on his new relationships.	It would seem from this event that the P is constructing a narrative of the difficulty he experiences with having to pay to support his daughter. His experience seems to take on a two-pronged dilemma: Firstly, it seems that he feels trapped – he cannot say no to his ex-wife. Secondly, it seems that he finds himself in a difficult position because school seems very important to him, and his providing will allow his daughter to continue to go to school, so he cannot say no. Summary: Narrative of difficulty (daughter)

17

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	It seems that the role you align yourself strongly with as a dad is that of financial supporter		
P	Well I must do that....	Maintenance Event 8g extends on the narrative of provider, which extends on events 5b-c, 3c, 5f, 6c and 7c,d and g. Providing is contextualized regarding his financial support of his children.	It seems that the P sees providing financially for his children as an “absolute” – something that is part-and- parcel of him being a dad. It is a role that is expected. Summary: Narrative of providing

P	<p>Why's that?A lot of your story has centred on your role as financial provider and how you feel that you could have been and done more, in other ways. Yet you have mentioned how you are trying to be more, emotionally and financially</p>		(financially)
	<p>Well at this moment, financially ...(laughs)...I'm so poor I can't even pay attention (laughs)...they know it, and that's why they want more and more from me. But I will survive, I will stand up again, one day.</p>	<p>Maintenance Event 8h extends on the narrative of provider, which links with events 5b-c, 3c, 5f, 6c and 7c,d, g and 8g. Providing is contextualized regarding financial support of his children. The P also extends on the narrative of difficulty, contextualized here regarding financially supporting his children.</p>	<p>From this event it seems the P is extending on the narrative of provider. It seems from this event that he finds providing financially for his children, a struggle. He uses the metaphor "pay attention" to illustrate the immensity of the strain. By comparing his current financial situation to something that does not require money, it seems to illustrate how difficult it has become for him to exercise his parenting role of 'provider'. The narrative of difficulty is continued here regarding him fulfilling his role as financial provider. The P says "I will survive, I will stand up again, one day", which seems to speak of how his current circumstance are crippling him financially, and perhaps emotionally.</p> <p>Summary:</p>

			Narrative of provider (financial) Narrative of difficulty (financially providing)
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18

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
	<p>Then the agreement between us, and the letter her lawyer sent to me, said that she doesn't want to sue maintenance from me, nothing, nothing. The small one can come to me every second weekend, every second school holiday..... It went on for about six, seven months like this, and then suddenly they couldn't afford to bring her anymore to Krugersdorp to come and see me, and I had to go and fetch her that side.</p>	<p>Divorce agreement</p> <p>Event 13 extends on the narrative of change, linking to events 5, 8, 8c, 11, 11b-c, and 8c, contextualized regarding his children.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is constructing a narrative of change post divorce. The change seems to mean two things: Firstly, there is a change in routine – he does not have to provide financially for his children, and he only gets to see his youngest child every second weekend and every second school holiday. Secondly, there are changes to these plans, which seemed to run smoothly for 6/7 months, when suddenly the arrangement changed, to him having to fetch his child in order to see her. All of these changes seem to be one directional decisions, where his ex-wife seemed to be the one, with her lawyer, to determine how things would proceed.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of change (routine) Narrative of change (children)</p>

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
	<p>And then suddenly, she wanted to sue me for R10 000 for school fees, and then she</p>	<p>Maintenance</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P is constructing a</p>

	was still in Primary School, and then I said no, I'll pay the school fees every month and I still buy the school books and everything, and I did that. And then last year, she wanted to sue me for R10 000, when the little one was going to High School. So we got an arrangement, and the court helped us with that, and I said ok, I will pay R5000, and she would pay R5000 to cover the school books, school clothes, school fees and things like that. And then suddenly, last week, I get a letter from the sheriff's office, and now she is suing me for maintenance of R800 a month.	Event 8i extends the narrative of Change, linking to events 5, 8, 8c, 11, 11b-c, 8c and 13, contextualized regarding his children.	narrative of change regarding providing financially for his children. He seems to construct his story as a one-sided attack on the arrangements they had, of which he has to attempt to defend himself against total financial defeat. It seems that the P has an elusive relationship with the law: On the one hand it seems that it has helped mediate an "arrangement" with regards to his financial obligations to his children. On the other hand it seems that the law is part of the unpredictable situation he finds himself in. Sometimes the system is fair, other times it is not. Summary: Narrative of change (maintenance)
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19

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	You said that you were a mother and a father to your kids, what did you mean by that?		
P	Mothers are always loving, caring....(laughs). No, I was a mother and a father to my children when we were alone. I was cooking the food, preparing their lunch for them, and I was still being a father for them, taking them out, caring for them, but when they grow up, and leave the house, then you get the old man syndrome.	Parenting roles Event 15 extends on Event 1a-c and e-f, substantiating the narrative of difference further here, through contextualizing it regarding parental roles post divorce. The P extends on the narrative of loss linking to events 1, 2, 3,1d, 4, 3b, 6, 6b, 5d, 5e, 7c, 7e, 7f and 5g-h and 14a-b, this time contextualized regarding his children growing up.	It would seem from this event that the P is constructing a narrative of the family being a place of difference post-divorce. He adopted another way of being that he associates more with a motherly role "always loving, caring" and "cooking the food, preparing their lunches ..." He also maintained the role that he knew well, which he associates more with a fatherly role, "taking them out, caring for them". The P seems to

			<p>associate his children growing up with two things: Firstly, losing his children Secondly, adopting yet another role, that of “old man syndrome”, which he later goes on to discuss in event xx below. Summary: Narrative of difference (parenting) Narrative of loss (children)</p>
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20

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	Which is?		
P	<p>That loneliness (laughs), suddenly you get a big house that’s empty, then you’ve sold the house, like I did, I sold my house, then I bought a flat, and then I’m selling the flat because it is getting too small for me. But I’ll stand up, I’ll become the old Dean again. The good one, the one that’s....but I don’t know. Like I said, I have to get the past behind, and that’s very hard to get the past behind.</p>	<p>Maturing</p> <p>The event seems to extend on the narrative of change, linking to events 5, 8, 8c, 11, 11b-c, 13, 8i-j, 14, and 14a. Change is contextualized regarding his experience of his children leaving the house. Event 11d extends on the narrative of loss, which links to events 1, 2, 3, 1d, 4, 3b, 6, 6b, 5d, 5e, 7c, 7e, 7f and 5g-h, 14a-b and 15, this time contextualized regarding the loss of people and residence. Further, it seems that the P is continuing the narrative of difficulty in moving on, linking to events 3b, 7, 7b, 6b, and 6c 12, 12a.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P attributes “the old man syndrome” that he mentioned in event 15, to loneliness that the elderly experience in later life when their children have grown up and left home. It seems that after the divorce, he can compare his experience to that of an old man who has seen his children grow up and leave the house, and where a feeling of loneliness sets in. It seems that the P experiences the loss of many things post-divorce: The loss of his children living with him The loss of a “full house”, which has now become empty The loss of that property through having to sell it, due to it being too big for one person. Buying a flat and then losing that due to it feeling too small and needing a bigger property. The loss of his mobility and sense of identity-</p>

		<p>“But I’ll stand up, I’ll become the old Dean”</p> <p>It seems from this event that divorce has brought a bought many changes, with his children no longer being with him on a full time basis and his changing residence to accommodate his new, altered, lifestyle.</p> <p>It would also seem from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of difficulty in moving on, due to the Pasts hold on him.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of loss (children, residence, mobility and sense of identity) Narrative of change (children leaving, and residence) Narrative of difficulty in moving on (Past)</p>
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21

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	<p>I’m stuck on your relationship with your kids now.....ummm...it seems that you are doing things very differently now....so maybe the question I have been sitting with is what has divorce done to you as a father? Has it taught you something?</p>		
P	<p>It has. It has taught me how to look after my children by myself. How to mimic her role. How to do the washing and how to do the ironing. How to clean the house up by yourself, how to look after your children by yourself. And when they need clothes then to go and buy it for them, and when they need money, to give it to them, and when they need this, then to give this to them. It’s hard for a daughter to stay with a father because you know woman’s this and this and this and this, and then I used to give my daughter the money and I said, go and buy it yourself because I never had the guts to do anything like that.</p>	<p>Parenting roles</p> <p>Event 15a seems to build on the narrative of difference, linking to events 1a-c and e -f ,1g, 7k, 19 and 19b. Here difference is contextualized regarding his parenting roles post divorce. The narrative of independence is introduced here, with regards to his parenting roles.</p> <p>The narrative of change is</p>	<p>It seems from this event that divorce has been a great teacher for the P with regards to his parenting roles: He has learnt to look after his children on his own Do domestic chores (washing & ironing; cleaning house) Become more aware of his children’s’ needs (clothes, money) Able to deal with awkward situations</p>

		<p>extended here regarding his parenting roles post divorce, and links to events 5, 8, 8c, 11, 11b-c, 13, 8i-j, 14, 14a, 11d, 7j-k, 11e, 7m, 11f and 7n.</p>	<p>(daughter) It would seem from this event that the P has extended on the narrative of difference, with regards to how he positions himself with his children, post-divorce. It seems that the P introduces the narrative of independence here. Divorce has taught him that he is able to look after his children on his own. It would seem that the narrative of change is further extended on here, where all of these abilities that he has gained, are new, and are different from the way it used to be when he was married. The narrative of teaching is extended here, with regards to how divorce has taught him how to be a father post-divorce. Summary: Narrative of difference (parenting roles) Narrative of independence (as a father) Narrative of change (parenting roles) Narrative of teaching (how to be a father)</p>
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APPENDIX D: Excerpts of research analysis (Participant 2)

The tabled information below is excerpts of the interview material that pertains to the research question. In column one, **R** represents Researcher, and **P** represents participant.

1

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
		<p>Goal: The goal of this section is to (1) determine the sequence of events in the narrative and (2) to understand how an event links with previous and/or following events.</p>	<p>Goal: The goal of this section is to try and understand what meaning(s) (made sense) the participant contributed to an event.</p>
R	So...maybe just to get started you can tell me a little about yourself...maybe general stuff like how old you aretell me about your folks...just a bit of background....		
P	Well....*Tim Roberto...39...umm...I think that...that who we are is often made up of ummm...what we come from and what we come from is inevitably the parent that made the largest impact on your life and for me....aah, this was my mom.	Identity	<p>The P begins by indicating his chronological age. He continues by discussing how he understands how he has come to be who he is. He relates this to the most influential parent in his life, which was his mom.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of influence (mom's influence on P's i.d.)</p>

2

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
	My mom was Dutch, so she was insightful and the aah... typical Dutch view point is that ...you know...I will... “what ever you wanna do is fine...understand that I just want the best for you...and that’s it” An example....standing at the train station in Amsterdam in Rozebell...I was standing behind a bloke who’s asking the assistant	<p>Culture</p> <p>The narrative of open-mindedness is introduced in event 3, contextualised regarding the P’s Dutch culture in respect of decision making. The narrative of</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P views his mother’s culture as important, something he seems to identify with. The Dutch culture – insightful and supportive - “what ever you wanna do is fine...understand that I</p>

<p>that he was looking for accommodation throughout the city in Amsterdam...she asked “where you wanna stay?”, “I wanna stay in the red-light district”...”, “mmm...aaah...you don’t really wanna stay in <i>the</i> red-light district...” ...” “Aah...I do...”, “I will...I will book it for you...it’s not what I’d recommend, but it’s fine...you stay in the red-light district...I’ll book it for you” and that was our upbringing...a little bit of advice, but you make the decisions.</p>	<p>support is also introduced here, contextualized regarding the P’s decision making.</p>	<p>just want the best for you...and that’s it” The P seems to be constructing a narrative of open-mindedness, in relation to his cultural heritage. Furthermore, the P introduces the narrative of support for his decisions, which is related to how his culture seemed to support the personal views people hold. It seems that this Dutch culture is important to the P since he elaborates on the qualities that the Dutch possess by giving an example which the P relates to his upbringing: *He got advice, but was given the space to make his own decisions. The “red-light district” example seems to be rather idiosyncratic, which seems much like the P’s rebellious behaviour that he described in his formative years.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of insight (Dutch culture) Narrative of open-mindedness (Dutch culture) Narrative of support (decision making)</p>
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3

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	I’ve heard you speak about your mom a lot...where was your dad in all of this...?		
P	(sigh).....aaah...my dad and I ...my dad and I had over time, our difficulties. I was aah ...too much of a rebel. My dad is aah...very British ...very English...aah...so there were times that we had our difficulties...umm...and... (sigh)...I suppose, I suppose for my dad, it was a sign of his Britishness and Englishness and for me it was partly... kind of...rebelliousness which I inherited from my mom.	<p>Dad</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued here, linking to event 2. It is contextualized regarding his father. The narrative of difference is introduced here, linking to the P’s</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is extending on the narrative of difficulty. It seems that his relationship with his father was particularly difficult: *He begins the narrative with a long</p>

		father.	<p>sigh. *He describes the difficulty expanding over time *It seems that they were two different people: -The P was a rebel -His father was English It seems that the P understands their difficulty in light of their <u>cultural differences</u> – his father was British and he was rebellious (which he sees being inherited from his mom)</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (dad & him) Narrative of difference (cultures; dad & P)</p>
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4

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
P	<p>Ja...I don't know...I certainly align myself more towards...towards the Dutch stroke Jewish culture. My moms...my moms' grandfather was Jewish and there's been a lot of the Jewish culture which has been inherited...you know. This sense of embracing of life that comes from the Jewish side, you know... it's not British ...you know...embracing of life...it's not strictly British.</p>	<p>Culture</p> <p>The narrative of closeness established in event 2 is extended here, contextualized regarding the P's preference for Dutch/Jewish culture.</p> <p>The narrative of difference introduced in event 4 is extended, contextualized regarding the British and Jewish cultures.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of closeness here. It seems that the P is more comfortable with the Dutch/Jewish culture. In event 3, the P discusses the facets of the Dutch culture which he seems to respect, and which seems to have been passed down through his mother. In this event the P discusses how his mothers' grandfather passed down the Jewish culture, which he seems to have inherited. The embracing of life, which the P sees as stemming from the Jewish culture, seems to be important for the P. It seems that the P feels close to these values of "embracing of life". I get the sense that the P feels</p>

			<p>that the Dutch/Jewish culture allows you the space to come into contact with life, allowing you to experience life. The P continues the narrative of difference in this event, highlighting that the “embracing of life” is more a Jewish principle as opposed to a British value.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of closeness (Jewish/Dutch) Narrative of difference (Jewish VS British)</p>
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5

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	How would you then compare it to the British way of living?		
P	Well you know...it's just...it's just different...it's just that the British upbringing is stiff upper lip...you know...”don't talk about your feelings...goley!”	<p>Culture</p> <p>The narrative of difference is continued in this event, contextualized regarding British culture. It links to events 4 and 3a.</p>	<p>In event 3b it seems that the P is continuing to build on the narrative of difference. When looking at this narrative as an extension of narrative 3a, it seems that the P illustrates how, in event 3a, the Jewish culture “embraces life”, and in event 3b the British culture is different in that it seems to require you to not express your emotions – you need to be strong – “that the British upbringing is stiff upper lip...” and ... “don't talk about your feelings...goley!”</p> <p>It seems that the P finds more freedom in the Jewish culture than he does in the British culture – he may find it inhibiting and restrictive?</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (British)</p>
R	So basically your mom and her family		

	showed you a different way of being and you felt closer to that....		
P	Well...ja...ja...the thing was that I couldn't give a continental...and that was my problem that I if I didn't enjoy things, I just did my own thing anyway. The difficulty was that my father misunderstood that and my mother because of her background, understood it sometimes better than I did (laugh). So I ... not to say that she didn't object to it, she did...I mean I can remember, going back, my mom would lecture me for hours on end ...for hours and hours and hours on end....it was worse than boot camp actually	<p>Identity</p> <p>The narrative of individuality is extended here, contextualised regarding the P's identity. This links to event 3.</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is extended, contextualized regarding relationships with both dad and mom. This narrative links to events 2 and 4.</p> <p>It seems that the narrative of difference is extended here, contextualized regarding culture. It links to events 4, 3a and 3b.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of individuality. The P seems to construct this narrative through alluding to him not being concerned by what <u>others thought</u> of him – “the thing was that I couldn't give a continental”. Further, it seems that his individuality encompassed his ability to be <u>assertive</u> – “... if I didn't enjoy things, I just did my own thing anyway...”</p> <p>The P seems to view his individuality as problematic since he mentions these qualities, followed by “that was my problem” and “the difficulty was...”</p> <p>So it seems that these qualities got the P into trouble interpersonally at times.</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is extended here regarding how his individuality impacted his relationship with his father and mother. With his father he seemed to have been misunderstood – “The difficulty was that my father misunderstood that....” [possibly alluding to his fathers cultural background]</p> <p>It seems that the P felt understood by his mom, and he attributes this to her background.</p> <p>It seems that the narrative of difference is continued here, where it seems the P, through highlighting how his two parents approached his individuality differently, is illustrating how there was a great</p>

			<p>divide in how to understand things.</p> <p>It would seem that the P felt understood by his mother, even though his mother would object to his behaviour at times and lectured him. It seems that it was difficult for the P to be lectured by his mother, which he attributes as “worse than boot camp”.</p> <p>“Boot camp” from my knowledge, can be associated with discipline, routine, toughening up, rules, and information being drilled into you, which he may have found difficult since he respected his mom a great deal (as explained in event 2a).</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of individuality (P’s i.d.) Narrative of difficulty (dad&mom) Narrative of difference (culture)</p>
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6

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	Sure...what did you gain from those lectures?		
	<p>(Long pause) (sigh) I do...it’s the Dutchness....it’s the Dutchness of ‘I’ve got an opinion...and I’m going to share it with you...and whether you like it or not...I’m going to share it with you but also... whether you decide to keep quiet, or you take my advice or not, it doesn’t mean that we can no longer have a relationship. I have my opinion and you have yours. There’s a book that you may know or be familiar with....umm... a guide...umm...motorcycle...umm....I’ll think about the name just now...anyway...it’s a story about a guy that takes his young son on a ride through the States on his motorcycle...and all the difficulties he has with his son trying to create a bond with his son...and right at the end of the book...he had been riding through</p>	<p>Culture</p> <p>The narrative of open-mindedness is continued in this event, linking to event 3. It is contextualized regarding the Dutch culture’s allowance for opinions to be shared openly. The narrative of insight, linking to event 3, is contextualized here regarding the Dutch culture.</p>	<p>From event 3c, it seems that the P is continuing the narrative of open-mindedness. It seems that he learnt more about the Dutch culture through his mom’s lectures. It seems one of the most important things he appreciates about the Dutch culture is their philosophy of open-mindedness – “I’ve got an opinion...and I’m going to share it with you...and whether you like it or not...I’m going to share it with you but also... whether you decide to keep quiet, or you take my advice or not, it doesn’t mean that we can no</p>

	<p>the United States with his son at the back of his motorcycle...and right at the end of the book he was going through a particularly scenic route and speaks to his son at the end of the day about it, who said “I couldn’t see anything...all I could see was your back...” (Laughs).....Hell of a kind of Wow you know, you know what I mean...and that’s what...that’s what my mom’s Dutch culture did...it said... “try not to just see it from your perspective...try to see it from another persons point of view”...and if you can do that...then...you’ve...you’ve gained insight...</p>	<p>longer have a relationship. I have my opinion and you have yours.”</p> <p>It seems important to the P to be given the space to share his opinion.</p> <p>The P demonstrates the open-mindedness principle even further, by using an example from a book he read, of a father and son on a motorcycle trip, where the son road at the back of the father and saw nothing but the back of his dad. It seems that the P is trying to demonstrate how we can become short-sighted if we see things from only one perspective. That there is more to be gained from allowing space for both sides to be explored. He relates this back to his Dutch culture – “that’s what my mom’s Dutch culture did...it said... “try not to just see it from your perspective...try to see it from another persons point of view”...and if you can do that...then...you’ve...you’ve gained insight...” The narrative of insight is continued here, where the P seems to view open-mindedness leading to insight.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of open-mindedness (Dutch) Narrative of insight (Dutch)</p>
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7

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	Looking at yourself as a father...what would you say has shaped your sense of fatherhood?		
P	umm...I think...I think that there’s people who have a window on my life that may give you a different view, but the way I feel is that it is simple necessity... in that ...in that Adrian’s mom (sigh) was lacking in terms of what	Fatherhood The narrative of necessity is introduced in this event, contextualized regarding the P’s	It seems that the P is constructing a narrative of necessity , where the P seems to attribute his sense of fatherhood as being shaped by his wife’s

<p>it was that she needed to give and do for Adrian. Umm.... and I saw myself as the main player in the picture...an “I specialist”... “I”. Umm and then there was this little one, less than six months old and it was me getting up at night, getting up and sorting him out...I would go to sleep at night with Adrian sleeping on my chest and sleep without moving the entire night...Adrian just there...even before Adrian became ill it was everything. He needed to go to the dentist, I took him...Adrian had a snotty nose...I took him (sigh). When he became really ill...then I really stepped in. Why was that the case...there’s a ...there’s a difference of opinion. In my opinion it was something that I always did. In Leonie’s opinion it was something that I was able to do because, I was for the main part, I was in charge of my own time during the day so for me to say that I need two hours out of a day or I need six hours out of a day, or as the case may be ...where I needed days, where I wasn’t at work....umm...I had the flexibility....where as someone in full time employment... where I was no longer employed like that per say....but had supportive and understanding business partners. Ummm, how do I see it? Well....it’s probably fifty percent true ...probably fifty or so percent true...that is what I had...and there’s another side to it. If I didn’t have that...then...what would she have done...umm and looking at where she’s come from and what she has done for herself, she’s successful, and I’m happy for her, it’s cool, it’s lekker, you know what I mean. She was always destined for this and I told her that she was always destined for this....(sigh). It was just...it was just ...it was a difference in...there was a resentment you know what I mean...(sigh). I was able to do it and she never took the time to ask “can I have time off to go”...six months after Adrian was diagnosed with epilepsy, I introduced Leonie to Adrian’s neurologist(long sigh)</p>	<p>parenting of his son. The narrative of difference, links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a and 4a and is contextualized regarding priorities of the P and his wife.</p>	<p>inability to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• His wife couldn’t provide emotionally (sleeping on his chest) and physically for his son – so he took the lead parenting role (e.g. getting up at night and sorting him out, taking him to the doctor). <p>It was a role that he adopted from the beginning.</p> <p>The narrative of difference is extended in this event, where there seemed to be a difference between how the P viewed the development of his fathering roles and how his wife viewed his parenting – “there’s a ...there’s a difference of opinion. In my opinion it was something that I always did. In Leonie’s opinion it was something that I was able to do because, I was for the main part, I was in charge of my own time during the day....”</p> <p>The P seems to agree to a certain extent that he had a supportive business environment which was flexible, but there was more to be said about why he chose to be an involved parent:</p> <p>It seems this comes through when the P says - “If I didn’t have that...then...what would she have done...umm”.</p> <p>He seems to suggest that his wife chose her career over her son “looking at where she’s come from and what she has done for herself, she’s successful, and I’m happy for her, it’s cool, it’s lekker, you know what I mean.” ; “She was always destined for this and I told her that</p>
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			<p>she was always destined for this....(sigh). It was just...it was just ...it was a difference in...there was a resentment you know what I mean...(sigh).”</p> <p>The P seems to highlight his wife’s priorities, which seems to have been more work based – “I was able to do it and she never took the time to ask “can I have time off to go”...six months after Adrian was diagnosed with epilepsy, I introduced Leonie to Adrian’s neurologist(long sigh)”</p> <p>It seems that it was up to the P to take control of the parenting of his son.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of necessity (parenting) Narrative of difference (between the P & his wife’s priorities)</p>
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8

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	So resentment from your side...?		
P	<p>No...coz for me it was ...it was just natural...for me it was just “that’s what you do” that was no...no....there isn’t (sigh)...I could never hold resentment. There’s a dislike ...a dislike of the priorities that Adrian mother had, that Leonie has. She feels that ummm....that she’s going to get some kind of kick ...some kind of reward out of the work she does...she’s extremely successful...she’s on the brink of becoming a director in a listed company at the age of 32...that’s incredible in this country. Even with the AA advantages, that’s incredible...and I always told her that is what she was destined for....(sigh). Where Adrian was concerned, my feeling, my feeling was that there is another side to it...there’s Adrian, and hell, what about Adrian and what’s important for him and what he gets out of it all...umm...and some how through it all, through the growing up...until even the</p>	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of necessity is continued in this event and is contextualised regarding the P’s parenting. It links to event 7.</p> <p>The narrative of difference, links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a and 7, and is contextualized regarding priorities of the P and his wife.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P continues the narrative of necessity. It seems that the P did not resent the fact that he was the most involved parent, he saw it as natural – “No...coz for me it was ...it was just natural...for me it was just “that’s what you do”.</p> <p>The narrative of difference seems to be extended here, regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P had different priorities to his wife. Illustrates this through talking about her work, and her successes and the reward she thinks she will get out of work

	<p>age of four when Adrian’s epilepsy started, he was always ...his mom just, you know, she just struggled. She had the baby blues....I told her...I told her a long time before she had it diagnosed I told her “go and get the bloody tablet” and you know, she wouldn’t do it...and I mean, her background...her background probably had something to do with it, as well as that she is a bloody typical A type personality, so you can’t acknowledge that you need help...but at the same time you struggle just to get through the day...</p>		<p>and illustrates that there was another side to her life – Adrian. “my feeling was that there is another side to it...there’s Adrian, and hell, what about Adrian and what’s important for him and what he gets out of it all...” His wife was depressed – “his mom just, you know, she just struggled. She had the baby blues....”; “she is a bloody typical A type personality, so you can’t acknowledge that you need help...but at the same time you struggle just to get through the day...” It seems that his wife’s work priorities and emotional struggles made room for him to blossom as a father.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of necessity (fatherhood) Narrative of difference (priorities: wife & P)</p>
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9

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	Was that your way of saying that it was over?		
	<p>No...I think it was my way of telling myself it was over. It was weeks after that...by that time I said if you going to leave, cool, get on with your life, that’s fine...but , but you need to make this decision knowing that you walk out with your suit case...</p>	<p>Marriage</p> <p>The narrative of acceptance is introduced here, contextualized regarding the P’s marriage.</p> <p>The narrative of difference is further continued here, regarding the P’s wife’s decision to end the marriage. This links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b and 9d.</p>	<p>The narrative of acceptance seems to be introduced in this event. It would seem that the P had accepted, after the third indiscretion that the marriage had ended. It seems that it was a process for the P in that it took weeks for him to come to the realization of what had transpired meant for him and his marriage.</p> <p>The narrative of difference seems to be</p>

			<p>extended in this event regarding the P’s behaviour after the third indiscretion (it was now, after 2 occasions that he behaved differently and set out the rules of how things would proceed from then on) and laid down the rules of what was going to happen with their son – if she leaves, she leaves with a suit case.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of acceptance (marriage) Narrative of difference (marriage, 3rd affair)</p>
R	Where did this decision leave you and Adrian? It couldn’t have been easy....		
P	<p>I think...I think Adele thatI had fully embraced what ever was going to happen. Not intentionally, possibly subconsciously. At the end point, not initially, it never occurred to me that somebody wouldn’t want to know, and understand, support and want to be there...umm and I think she took the easy route...she said look you know I have to be at work...so Adrian can’t go to school, we needed someone to take care of Adrian, you know, somebody needs to show this person the way and that person is you. I thinkher sister has even said that she doesn’t have a good relationship with him...it’s something I think she is working on...but where did it leave me after the relationship? I was expecting it ...it doesn’t allow an iota of a question in my mind, that when she came home that day from work and said that there’s a bloke at work and I have the hots for him. That was a lot...but at the same time there is no question in my mind... I got away with murder...what would another husband have done?....</p>	<p>Marriage</p> <p>The narrative of acceptance is continued here, linking to event 9e. Finality is contextualized regarding the P’s marriage.</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, linking to events 4, 1a, 5,4a, 8a, 8b, 9a, 8c, 9b, 9c and 9d. Difficulty is contextualized regarding the P’s marriage.</p> <p>The narrative of difference is continued, regarding the outcome of the end of their marriage. This links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d and 9e.</p>	<p>From this event it seems that the P is continuing the narrative of acceptance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The P had accepted not knowing what was to become of their marriage “I had fully embraced what ever was going to happen” • Secondly, this was a process for him to reach acceptance: Firstly it was not something he wanted to do on a conscious level; Secondly, it was only when faced with the end of his marriage, that the P had to accept that his wife didn’t want to emotionally and physically be apart of the marriage – “it never occurred to me that somebody wouldn’t want to know, and understand, support and want to be there...” <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It seems that the P found the process of accepting that his marriage was over, difficult – “it never occurred to me that somebody wouldn’t want to know, and understand, support and want to be there...umm and I think she took the easy route” • Secondly, it seems the P found his wife’s actions difficult to understand – that she took the easy way out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leonie left him for another guy -Leonie told him that because of work, she wouldn’t be able to give Adrian what he needed -She told the P that he needed to guide Adrian. • It seems the P had difficulty with Leonie’s relationship with Adrian – “I think ...her sister has even said that she doesn’t have a good relationship with him...” • It seems the P had difficulty with his wife’s confession about her relationship. <p>The narrative of difference is extended further here, where the P seemed to have managed to do what other husbands may not have managed in this situation (perhaps the fact that he told Leonie that she needed to leave with only a suite case in event 9e).</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of acceptance (end of marriage)</p>
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			Narrative of difficulty (process, Leonies actions, rel.with son) Narrative of difference (outcome of divorce)
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10

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	How does something like this change your world...or I'm not sure...does it?		
P	Well it's different...it's different. Leo spoke to me shortly after, and he said to me "Tim you need to know one thing, your sense of normality is very different than it used to be and it is going to be very different from anybody else's", and that was an epiphany. It was like somebody slapped me in the face with a wet flat fish. You kind of think that was a pivotal point where you think, "yeah so my life is different from anybody else's..."	Post Divorce The narrative of difference is extended in this event, linking to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d and 9e. It is contextualized regarding life after divorce.	It would seem from this event that the P is extending on the narrative of difference : It seems that the P's life changed after divorce. It seems that the P's friend recognizing and pointing out to him that his sense of normality will be different than it was before, and different from other people, was an important moment for him after the divorce – "It was like somebody slapped me in the face with a wet flat fish." It seems that made him realise how different life was now for him, and how different it was compared to others. Summary: Narrative of difference (post divorce)
R	How is your life different from other divorced men that you know?		
P	Well the guys that are divorced are one of two things: they are either taking over somebody else's family, or combining to a certain extent, with somebody else's family... and they tend to spend a lot of time at the pub...and I'm not slating that, because that's where guys go to find other guys like themselves and they get into this to get away from it all and whatever it is. And what I say is that I compartmentalise, and my mates know that when Adrian's around, they invite me for supper, but the chances are, that I won't go. Adrian has a routine, and routine is important and when	Post Divorce The narrative of difference is continued in this event and links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e and 10. Difference is contextualized regarding the P in comparison to other divorced men.	The P seems to be extending on the narrative of difference in this event. The P constructs a narrative of difference through comparing himself to other divorced men (saying that he is different). Divorced men either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take responsibility over another family

<p>Adrian's not around, I go absolutely ballistic. I go out...I jol and jol and I sit with my mates in the pub...and I sit with my brother in law, my ex-brother in law, Leonie's brother, and we chat and hang out. I possibly compensate for the four days he spends with Leonie, out of the fourteen in a two week cycle that I have him. I compensate. But what it does, is that it allows me to say...I pick him up from school...make supper, put him to bed, and that's pretty much it...for two weeks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Or, they blend with another family. • Spend a lot of time at the Pub <p>The <u>Pub</u> seems to be a place of <u>difference</u> for the P. It does not seem to be what society would associate a Pub for (drinking), but a place where an informal "support group" get together, and to escape the reality of their situations for a while.</p> <p>The <u>P</u> is <u>different</u> in that he seems to have to divide his time to certain areas of his life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the P is with his son, he cannot commit to as much time with his friends – "my mates know that when Adrian's around, they invite me for supper, but the chances are, that I won't go". • The P respects his son's routine. • On the days he doesn't have Adrian, he has time for friends – "...when Adrian's not around, I go absolutely ballistic. I go out...I jol and jol..." • The P is different from other divorced men in that he has Adrian for the majority of the time, whereas his ex-wife has him for 4 days in a 2 week cycle. • The P makes up for lost time with friends when Adrian visits his mom – "I compensate" <p>The P is different in that he talks of the time he gets to experience day-to-day living with his</p>
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		<p>son, which many men are removed from after divorce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picks son up from school, makes supper, puts him to bed. <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (parenting after divorce)</p>
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11

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	When you speak to people going through a divorce, what is it that you bring to the conversation?		
P	<p>.....aaaah....You know what...you know what, when I speak to people who are going through a divorce, approaching that....approaching the territory where they utterly feel I can't do this, my first response is this is not pleasurable. My brother in law is going through a divorce and it's not what you want for them, it's not what they want for them, but it's incredibly tough. All the antagonism, the hurt, pain and everything that goes through it, it's not clear cut....but once you look at the big picture, there's life after that. For some people, it's not an option, for some it's not inevitable. It's not an option until you are faced with, where you say "you know what, we are just so, so, so, so different people" and respect that I just don't like this person, but if I'm honest with myself and I say I don't love you, not for who I am...that's just, that's justbecause of that (sigh).... I don't like the person you've become and I really don't love you any more. And for some people it's not even a possibility, but it happens....it happens.....You get to a stage where you say, you know what, good mates, we had good times, but as, as a best friendand you can fall out with a best friend and that's....So going through that process, you reach that crest where you're kind of pivoting between the two, and once you are over the other side, it becomes logical, it becomes a fait de compli. My advice, my advice to anyone through that process is give yourself a chance to recover. The thing is that we are who we are, you can't tell me just to get over it in a week, or a month or a year. I suppose if I'm typically on the ball, focused, factual, as opposed to an emotional, intellectual, kind of</p>	<p>Divorce conversations</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the divorce process. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d and 11.</p>	<p>The P is constructing a narrative of difficulty regarding the divorce process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The P describes it as something that is very <u>difficult</u>, something you feel you are unable to do – "I speak to people who are going through a divorce, approaching that....approaching the territory where they utterly feel I can't do this...." • Divorce is <u>undesirable</u>, something people don't want to see happen to others and what you don't want for yourself – "...my first response is this is not pleasurable. My brother in law is going through a divorce and it's not what you want for them, it's not what they want for them, but it's incredibly tough." • Divorce brings with it, a lot of <u>emotions</u> – "All the antagonism, the hurt, pain and everything that goes

<p>person, that's who I am and if the person that I'm with doesn't like that about me, so be it, there's nothing much you can do about it. My advice is always, do whatever you can until you reach that pivot point, and when you reach that pivot point, what you've got to do is be honest with yourself, just be honest with yourself. Do you honestly see this working? Do you see things picking up? Like my brother and his wife split up for six months or so and then they got back together and I wish I said to my brother that if she couldn't have a relationship with you now then what's going to be different tomorrow? Now I say to him, "listen you cannot stop who you are and she kind of, she kind of is going to screw you and she's going to do that nicely, understand it and move on with your life". To be put through that anger and that bickering between...that you realise in the momentis horrible. He said but this woman is going to walk away with more of my salary than I walk a way withbut I say, "she is going to shag you and that is the definition of alimony"screwing the dick for screwing things up (laughs)</p>		<p>through it..."It seems that there is a lot of hostility and pain in the process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divorce is an <u>ambiguous</u> process – "...it's not clear cut.....", which may allude to the legal process as well as the emotional process. • It seems that the P is describing the process as one in which you become <u>consumed</u> by it in the moment, but once you begin to work through it, you can see a future past it – "....but once you look at the big picture, there's life after that." • It is a process that you don't consider until you realise you have <u>both changed</u> or are <u>different</u> (people change and love can be lost) – "For some people, it's not an option, for some it's not inevitable. It's not an option until you are faced with, where you say "you know what, we are just so, so, so, so different people" • Divorce is a process that some people don't <u>consider</u>, but can happen unexpectedly. • It is a process of <u>uncertainty</u> – "So going through that process, you reach that crest where you're kind of pivoting between the two, and once you are over the other side, it becomes logical, it becomes a fait de compli" • Divorce is a process
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			<p>that takes a lot out of you, of which you need time to <u>heal</u> – “my advice to anyone through that process is give yourself a chance to recover” ; “The thing is that we are who we are, you can’t tell me just to get over it in a week, or a month or a year.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divorce demands <u>honesty</u> – there is a point in which you are faced with a difficult decision of whether to continue the relationship or to end it – “when you reach that pivot point, what you’ve got to do is be honest with yourself, just be honest with yourself. Do you honestly see this working? Do you see things picking up?” • Being faced with divorce leaves you with looking at your <u>relationship in a naked</u> way – asking if your partner will be able to give you what you need in the future if they could not meet your needs in the present (e.g. with brother-in law) • Women take full <u>advantage</u> of divorce - “listen you cannot stop who you are and she kind of, she kind of is going to screw you and she’s going to do that nicely, understand it and move on with your life”. ; “He said but this woman is going to walk away with more of my salary than I walk a way withbut I say,
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			<p>“she is going to shag you and that is the definition of alimony”screwing the dick for screwing things up (laughs)” It seems like it is an opportunity for woman to take revenge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes divorce is a better option, than continuing an unhappy relationship – “To be put through that anger and that bickering between...that you realise in the momentis horrible. “ <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (divorce)</p>
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12

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	So reflecting on our conversation tonight....is there anything we didn't speak about that you thought we could of.....?		
P	<p>I suppose.....I'm not quite sure.... I read your introduction and I understand in a very sort of general way, what insights you would like to gather. But it's such a reality....it's such a huge topic</p> <p>.....put it this way, if it is your intention to gain insight into the male and what happens to the maleyour intention to get insight into the effects of divorce on men</p> <p>.....ummm.....</p> <p>.....I'm not.....I'm atypical.....I'm not by any means the norm with which people would be kind of gauginggaugingkind of determining what it's about. The thing that I would do would be to, not sit down for an hour or two hours, but to try and understand.... what the intention of.....I know with a lot of my mates there's a lot of resentment....there's a lot of resentment. I said to you Adele....I'm one of the lucky people, I'm the exception</p>	<p>Divorce for men</p> <p>The narrative of difference is extended in this event, contextualized regarding the P in relation to other divorced men. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i, 1b, 7j, 14, 7k, 15, 1d, 1e, 15a, 1f, 7m, 7n, 7o and 7q.</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is further extended in this event, which is contextualized by comparing divorced men with himself. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 11, 12, 12a, 13a, 7d, 7f , 7g , 15a and 7p.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is extending the narrative of difference further, regarding his experience of the divorce process and the outcome, in relation to others who have been through the divorce process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that the P felt that his experience of the divorce process is not the typical experience of what most men go through, that it differed from other men – “put it this way, if it is your intention to gain insight into the male and what happens to

<p>to the rule. The point is that a lot of the guys don't.....they don't have it so easy. There's a massive amount of resentment, because it's used as a stick, time and time and time again. The access to the children, the....whatever the circumstances were... are used as a stick, time and time and time again, to beat the person with. I mean, I've got mates....ummm....good companies, reasonable small businesses, etc, etc, etc, and their lack of self....maybe not low self confidence....but it's totally different....they see themselves like this because it's been smacked into them. And you know what, you are different....I spoke to my brother in law, Mitch, and his wife just couldn't understand it. When he met Alice, that's the way he was and he carried on with it and stayed true to himself. She's the one who's changedshe divorced him, she's the one who's turned his daughters against him....and he's the one who has to fight tooth and nail to say to the kids, come to me for the weekend....there's a huge amount of resentment..... So I'm not typical case study material....</p>		<p>the maleyour intention to get insight into the effects of divorce on menummm..... I'm not.....I'm atypical.....I'm not by any means the norm with which people would be kind of gauginggaugingkind of determining what it's about.”</p> <p>It seems that the P is trying to illustrate how different his experience of the divorce process is, in relation to other men that he knows who have been through a divorce – that his experience is unique. He does this through employing the narrative of difficulty in order to illustrate the difference between himself and the conventional divorced man:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that the P differs from other men, and is unique, in that he does not experience the difficulties of resentment, which is an emotion that his friends have experienced due to divorce – “.....I know with a lot of my mates there's a lot of resentment....there's a lot of resentment. I said to you Adele....I'm one of the lucky people, I'm the exception to the rule” ♣ It seems that the P differs from other divorced men in that he has it easier than they do – “The point
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			<p>is that a lot of the guys don't....they don't have it so easy.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that divorced men experience being punished in the aftermath of the divorce. There are a number of mechanisms used to punish divorced men (feelings of resentment, their children, etc) – “There’s a massive amount of resentment, because it’s used as a stick, time and time and time again. The access to the children, the....whatever the circumstances were... are used as a stick, time and time and time again, to beat the person with.” ♣ The P highlights the difference divorce has made in the lives of divorced men he knows, with regard to the way they view themselves – “I mean, I’ve got mates....ummm....good companies, reasonable small businesses, etc, etc, etc, and their lack of self....maybe not low self confidence....but it’s totally different....they see themselves like this because it’s been smacked into them.” It seems that the on going punishment divorce men are subjected to damages their self esteem. ♣ The P highlights that divorce changes you – “And you know what, you are different....” The P goes on to
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			<p> discuss how things can be manipulated to suite woman in some instances, by giving the example of his brother in law. The P describes how the wife changed, turned his children against him, when he is not the one who has changed, but the wife has. It seems that the P is trying to illustrate the injustice of this, by stating that the father, who has done nothing wrong, has to fight for his children – “I spoke to my brother in law, Mitch, and his wife just couldn’t understand it. When he met Alice, that’s the way he was and he carried on with it and stayed true to himself. She’s the one who’s changedshe divorced him, she’s the one who’s turned his daughters against him....and he’s the one who has to fight tooth and nail to say to the kids, come to me for the weekend....” </p> <p> It seems that the P through highlighting all these differences is attempting to emphasize that these are not his experience of divorce and therefore, the research is taping into the less conventional story – “So I’m not typical case study material....” </p> <p> Summary: Narrative of difference (divorce/P & other men) Narrative of difficulty (other men and divorce) </p>
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R	<p>Like the boy, I got to ride in the front with you....I got a different perspective....and so that does not make your story any less of one</p>		
P	<p>No it doesn't....it doesn't.....it doesn't, but I'm not the typical case. The typical case is what is typically happening and that is what will give you insight intointo what is happening....where it is used as a stick to beat and beat and beat them with and that's what upsets me. The guy who works 16 hours a day to provide for his family and at the end of the day, the wife says, he doesn't have a relationship with his child ...and that's not fair. At the end of a 16 hour day, you are knackeredand at the end of Monday to Friday, 16 hours day, what you want to do at the weekend is just do your own thing....and so when he sometimes goes to the pub, and gets legless....that's what he needs to do. Whereas the guy who plays golf four times a week and takes off at the weekend on his motorbike,.....that's what he's able to do. And you know what, the guy that works 16 hours a day says, I've worked 16 hours a day ...he wants to kick back...and that can lead to resentment. Understanding that is important. The wife who doesn't work, looks after the kids, that bitches and moans that she's got to pick the one up at one o'clock, the other one at half past two, and take the one off to rugby and then after that have supper ready, because when the oke comes home from work at seven o'clock, he's hungry and had a full dayand then moan...well. When you both come home at seven o'clock, check homework is done, and make sure supper is ready, then cool ...but if you get sick of that role of mother, of care taker.....then of course there's going to be resentment. Can you imagine...the oke goes out to work, 14 hours a day, and she drops them off at school, does things around the house, picks them up from school, bupp-a bup a bup.....there's going to be resentment. So your question was, is there anything we didn't cover? Understand that.</p>	<p>Divorce for men</p> <p>The narrative of difference is extended in this event, contextualized regarding the P's divorce experience compared with other divorced men. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i, 1b, 7j, 14, 7k, 15, 1d, 1e, 15a, 1f, 7m, 7n, 7o and 7q and 16. The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, which is contextualized by comparing the "typical divorced man" with the P. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 11, 12, 12a, 13a, 7d, 7f, 7g, 15a, 7p and 16.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of difference regarding his divorce experience as compared with other divorced men:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P agrees with the R that his experience of divorce being different does not make his story any less important than other men's experiences. ♣ The P goes on to further describe how his circumstances are different from other divorced men, and that there is more to be gained in knowing about what other men are experiencing – "but I'm not the typical case. The typical case is what is typically happening and that is what will give you insight intointo what is happening...." It seems that the P is saying that there will be no insights gained into the dominant story of divorce, if his unique story is the only one explored. ♣ The P further illustrates his experience of divorce as being different from other divorced men through continuing the narrative of difficulty, by highlighting the difficulties they face: ♣ It seems that divorce and the circumstances that go with it are used against men, to punish

			<p>them and this punishment of men seems to disturb the P – “where it is used as a stick to beat and beat and beat them with and that’s what upsets me”.</p> <p>♣ The P goes on to further describe how demanding some men’s lives are with regards to their work obligations in order to provide financially for their family and how this leaves little room in some men’s lives for the nurturing aspect of fathering, which is brought up by the wife, which seems to leave men in a very difficult predicament. – “The guy who works 16 hours a day to provide for his family and at the end of the day, the wife says, he doesn’t have a relationship with his child ...and that’s not fair. At the end of a 16 hour day, you are knackeredand at the end of Monday to Friday, 16 hours day, what you want to do at the weekend is just do your own thing....and so when he sometimes goes to the pub, and gets legless....that’s what he needs to do. Whereas the guy who plays golf four times a week and takes off at the weekend on his motorbike,.....that’s what he’s able to do. And you know what, the guy that works 16 hours a day says, I’ve worked 16 hours a day ...he wants to kick</p>
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			<p>back...and that can lead to resentment.” It seems that men are often misunderstood and the P seems to find this an integral part of understanding divorce experiences of men, that there is resentment.</p> <p>♣ The P compares the lives of divorced men with their stay at home wives. It seems that the p is attempting to further illustrate how resentment can creep in to a marriage. It seems that the P attributes the resentment to wives becoming tired of their role in life which leads to resentment of their partners – “When you both come home at seven o’clock, check homework is done, and make sure supper is ready, then cool ...but if you get sick of that role of mother, of care taker.....then of course there’s going to be resentment. Can you imagine...the oke goes out to work, 14 hours a day, and she drops them off at school, does things around the house, picks them up from school, bup-a bup a bup.....there’s going to be resentment. So your question was, is there anything we didn’t cover? Understand that.</p> <p>♣ It seems that divorced men’s experience of resentment makes his experience of divorce different. The P spoke earlier of how his wife resented his bond with</p>
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			<p>his son, which seems to make his situation different from divorced men in general.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (divorce experiences) Narrative of difficulty (divorce experiences)</p>
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13

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	How is it to be a full time dad....as you said, your sense of reality is very different from the divorced dads you know....How is that for you?		
P	There's... there's... there's many ways to understand it and to acknowledge it and I suppose to a certain extent, to respect it and the other guys, honestly I couldn't give a toss. I couldn't give a toss, you know. Last year I played...I played action cricket and there was times when I couldn't play, and there were some guys that said like you know....and I said "walk a day in my shoes", "walk a day in my shoes"because you ain't my boy, who is going to win every single day and I am here to enjoy it...if you want to play action cricket where there is competitiveness, then it doesn't matter to me....You just accept it ...that's, that's my lot in life, that's just life	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of difference is extended in his event, contextualized regarding fatherhood. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a and 10b.</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of difference regarding his experience of fatherhood in comparison to other men. It seems that the P recognizes that <u>other people</u> may differ in how they view his life from the way he does– "there's many ways to understand it and to acknowledge it and I suppose to a certain extent, to respect it...."</p> <p>It seems that the P is not concerned by how his friends perceive his fathering roles, since his <u>priorities</u> are different now – "...the other guys, honestly I couldn't give a toss. I couldn't give a toss, you know."</p> <p>He is different in that time he spends playing <u>sport</u>, it is time for him to relax, time out from his life, it is not a serious game, and other men may not understand that. The P uses an example of action cricket where men didn't understand his regular attendance.</p> <p>It seems that the P puts his</p>

			<p><u>son first</u> in his life and his son’s needs come first, before spending time with friends or playing sport. It seems like it is not always easy for the P to be the supportive full time father and it is not always easy for other men to understand his prioritise, but he puts his son first– “walk a day in my shoes”, “walk a day in my shoes”because you ain’t my boy, who is going to win every single day and I am here to enjoy it...” It seems that the P is saying that there is no contest between the P’s son and spending time with friends.</p> <p>It seems that fatherhood after divorce has changed the P in that he does not identify sport with <u>competition</u> anymore, it is time out for him – “I am here to enjoy it...if you want to play action cricket where there is competitiveness, then it doesn’t matter to me....”</p> <p>The narrative of acceptance is extended in this event, where the P has come to accept that his life is different from many men, and that looking after his son is what life is about now – “You just accept it ...that’s, that’s my lot in life, that’s just life”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (fatherhood after divorce) Narrative of acceptance (fulltime fathering)</p>
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14

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	It seems that being a father goes beyond just providing on a financial level....		

<p>P</p>	<p>Oh ja....way, way more I mean, I was speaking to a friend about that the other day. The returns, oh my God....the returns. You know, there are guys out there that go out everyday and work their asses off, they earn a salary, a good salary, they support and provide and look after their family and in certain cases, their wife didn't approve of and she runs around and she has a fairly easy life. I don't know if they really realise it, full of complaints, but lives a fairly easy life and he carries on working and trying and does feats and she says....Like my brother he's working hard during the week and cannot attend to the kids, not all of the time, but a lot of the time. He comes home Friday and looks after the kids over the weekend. Well the other side of it is the guy that, that does that, comes home at the weekend and doesn't lift a finger and then gets it in the neck from his wife, which he probably does deserve. What he doesn't deserve is "why don't you spend time with your children, why aren't you in touch with your children, why, why, why?".....And they hit you hard with that stick....And we are providing for you to be driving in whatever car you driving, for you to be living in a house and blaa, blaa, blaa, blaa, blaa....and that's what I do I'm a provider and not the emotional giver, because by the time I've finished providing I am flat....</p>	<p>Event 7d: Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of difference is extended in this event, contextualized regarding the gains of parenting. This links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13 and 13a. The narrative of difficulty is further extended in this event, contextualized regarding providing for the family. This links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 11, 12, 12a and 13a.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is extending on the narrative of difference. The P agrees that there is more to parenting than providing. It seems that parenting for the P makes a difference to his life, in that he gains rewards out of doing it from his son – "Oh ja....way, way more I mean, I was speaking to a friend about that the other day. The returns, oh my God....the returns." The P highlights that is not as easy for some men, perhaps illustrating how he has had a different experience of fatherhood from other men. The narrative of difficulty is continued here, where the P gives an example of where some men (like his brother) experience only knowing the providing role of fatherhood, and are forced to negate the emotional part of fathering. It seems that the P is highlighting that some men find themselves in a double bind – they are forced to work to provide financially for their family, and then wrapped over the knuckles for spending so much time at work and such little time at home with their children in order to provide for a secure life for their family. It seems that the P is also highlighting that men are taken for granted a lot of the time by woman, where they are happy to spend their husbands money and live a certain kind of comfortable lifestyle, but complain about the attention and</p>
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			<p>time they spend with their children – “What he doesn’t deserve is “why don’t you spend time with your children, why aren’t you in touch with your children, why, why, why?”.....And they hit you hard with that stick....”</p> <p>It seems that the P is saying that providing financially for a family can leave many men exhausted and unable to attend to other parts of a fathering role – “and that’s what I do I’m a provider and not the emotional giver, because by the time I’ve finished providing I am flat....”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (fathering) Narrative of difficulty (fathering)</p>
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15

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	More to it?		
P	<p>Well such as enjoying time with him. Sitting down with him and playing with him and getting down to his level, and enjoying life at his level whatever that is, you know. Playing with army toys, colouring, or whatever it is....and sometimes I don’t get to it, and sometimes it’s half an hour and sometimes it’s ten minutes and sometimes it’s four hours. But he knows, he knows that I’m there, he knows that I’m there and there’s a relationship of trust. If I say to him....yesterday I said to him, I was home at four o’clock in the afternoon and I said “my boy, I’m going to sit in the study, I have work to do”, and he came through and asked “can you play with me”, and I said “I can’t do it now, I’ve got work to do” and that’s where Rod comes in and he was pivotal in saying “you cannot do it on your own, you need someone to help you” and so....now I can</p>	<p>Fathering</p> <p>The narrative of inclusiveness introduced in event 7e is extended here. It is contextualized regarding the scope of fathering.</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualized regarding parenting. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 11, 12, 12a, 13a and 7d.</p>	<p>It seems that in this event the P is extending on the narrative of inclusiveness regarding the scope of fathering. Fatherhood includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Spending time with his son ♣ Making time to play with his son ♣ Learning to engage his son at his sons’ developmental level – “getting down to his level, and enjoying life at his level whatever that is, you know.” ♣ Playing in a variety of ways (e.g. army toys (stereotypical) and colouring)

<p>say, “Sarah, please come and take Adrian”It’s kind of like having a robotic wife, when I can’t be there emotionally or physically, she’ll take over and in that way, there is balance. I suppose in a sense Adrian sees her as a mother figure but she’s more of a friend than a mother figurehis mother figure is his mother and his father figure is me ...she’s there to take care of him, and he knows that, he understands that.....they share a bondthere’s a bond between Sarah and Adrian and that’s lekker and that’s cool and she loves him to bits and pieces ...sometimes a little too much. But it’s about managing, about managing the situations and then creating a balance and that was the way I had to do it. I can’t...I can’t carry on spending the whole day at home , you know or do business on the phone, I can’t handle all the business by phone and so.....she walked in, I trained her and that was it. She filled the gap, so I was able to do what I needed to do</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Time spent varies: sometimes he has time to play with him, other times he doesn’t, other times are shorter than others. ♣ He is an emotionally present father – “But he knows, he knows that I’m there, he knows that I’m there and there’s a relationship of trust.” ♣ Fathering is about establishing trust. ♣ Openly communicates with son – “...yesterday I said to him, I was home at four o’clock in the afternoon and I said “my boy, I’m going to sit in the study, I have work to do”, and he came through and asked “can you play with me”, and I said “I can’t do it now, I’ve got work to do” <p>It seems that the P continues the narrative of difficulty in this event, where it seems that the P recognises fathering is a difficult task and that he required help in order to make sure his son was looked after emotionally and physically at all times, when he could not – “...and that’s where Rod comes in and he was pivotal in saying “you cannot do it on your own, you need someone to help you” and so....now I can say, “Sarah, please come and take Adrian”It’s kind of like having a robotic wife, when I can’t be there emotionally or physically, she’ll take over and in that way, there is balance.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that fathering
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			<p>requires support – the P had his uncle (emotional support) and child minder (physical support).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The child minder plays an important maternal function. <p>It seems that it was difficult for the P in the beginning – where the P was unable to balance work with full time fathering. It seem she recognised that he needed help in order to get the balance in his life that he needed – “But it’s about managing, about managing the situations and then creating a balance and that was the way I had to do it. I can’t...I can’t carry on spending the whole day at home , you know or do business on the phone, I can’t handle all the business by phone and so.....she walked in, I trained her and that was it. She filled the gap, so I was able to do what I needed to do”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of inclusiveness (scope of fathering) Narrative of difficulty (fathering)</p>
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16

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	Earlier you said you spend a lot of time doing things with Adrian.....and your face lit up.....		
P	I just get a kick out of it. I just get a kick out of his response to me. On Monday afternoon I needed to go up to warm baths with my dad to collect his car because he broke down on the side of the road and I picked Adrian up from school, and asked him if he wants to go to warm baths, he said cool. Picked my dad up,	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of joy is introduced in this event. Thrill is contextualized regarding parenting.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is introducing the narrative of joy. The P describes joy he finds in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Being Adrian’s dad - “I just get a kick out of it”

	<p>and we're driving, and he must have said he loved me about 65 times on the way there. Does he know exactly what he's saying?...maybe, I don't know, but I get a kick out of it. I get a kick out of everything. I get a kick out of the challenges, I get a kick out of the rewards, I get a kick out of the responsibility and yeah, you know what, there is a bit of recognition from people</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Adrian's reactions to the P – "I just get a kick out of his response to me." <p>It would seem that the P is somewhat confused whether his son is fully conscious of what he says and does, which means so much to the P. The P illustrates this with the example of Adrian on the way to warm baths, telling him that he loves him 65 times. The P questions whether he knows what he is saying.</p> <p>Nevertheless, it seems that the P finds joy in this aspect of parenting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P enjoys all aspects of parenting – "I get a kick out of everything" ♣ The P finds joy in the hurdles – ". I get a kick out of the challenges..." ♣ The P finds joy in the rewards ♣ The P finds joy in the responsibility parenting brings ♣ The P finds joy in the recognition he gets for parenting Adrian <p>Summary: Narrative of joy (fathering)</p>
R	Recognition?		
P	<p>People recognize that when a father...that when a child lives with his father...people recognise that as being a little bit off centre. When somebody like Adrian who lives with his father, that is fairly well off centre. Ummm and there's a certain amount of interaction that, that induces....and ja, there's a bit of recognition, not praise....but, shit you doing so well, how do you cope with that? It leads to conversation that I'm comfortable with. I'm not good at making idle chat. So when the conversation kind of gets below that level, I'm there and Adrian as an introduction to that, often expedites that.</p>	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of difference is continued in this event, linking to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a and 7d.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is constructing a narrative of difference. The P seems to find he gets recognized for being different:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ A father who looks after his son <u>full time</u> is not what society expects – "People recognize that when a father...that when a child lives with his father, people recognise that as being a little bit off centre"

	<p>But ja, there's a certain amount of recognition it brings, a sense of personal satisfaction, because all I can do is my best and I think...I think that Adrian appreciates it.....</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Since Adrian comes with epilepsy, this makes his circumstance that much more different from others – “When somebody like Adrian who lives with his father, that is fairly well off centre” ♣ Conversations are different now – interactions with people are different – “Ummm and there's a certain amount of interaction that, that that induces....and ja, there's a bit of recognition, not praise....but, shit you doing so well, how do you cope with that?” ♣ The P seems to enjoy deep conversations, as opposed to superficial chit chat – “? It leads to conversation that I'm comfortable with. I'm not good at making idle chat. So when the conversation kind of gets below that level, I'm there and Adrian as an introduction to that, often expedites that.” ♣ It seems that the P's unique circumstance makes his relationship with his son that much more different for the P on a personal level – he gets a sense of meaning through what he does – “But ja, there's a certain amount of recognition it brings, a sense of personal satisfaction, because all I can do is my best and I think...I think that Adrian appreciates it.....” <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (fathering)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	You described your experience of being a full time dad as <i>off centre</i> , which seems to show that you have lived your life differently from the norm.....how has that been?		
P	I've always been a rebel....I've always been off centre. At school...at school I was never....I enjoyed the in crowd, but I was never part of it. I enjoyed my mates, and they enjoyed me but they never formed part of that pivotal part that you find typical in a bloke. But I was accepted and that was cool. I didn't need to be accepted.....I was a rebel....I was...it's the Dutch way. Think back to what I said to you earlier, standing at the station in Amsterdam behind a bloke who says "I want to stay in the red light district" and the girl says "you don't really want to stay in the red light district" and he said, "no I do"....she said "I wouldn't recommend it, but that's fine, let me see what I can do". It's that Dutchness.....it's that Dutchness of...I don't know if have been to Amsterdam? You walking on the streets of Amsterdam and there's a street person or a child, male, female, young, old, and they are not frowned at, they are not looked down upon, they are not judged, it's their choice...you have chosen to be that, and I respect that....it's not what I would do, and it's your choice, but please respect me	<p>Identity</p> <p>The narrative of difference is extended in this event, linking to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d and 7i. Difference is contextualized regarding the P's identity. The narrative of open-mindedness is further extended in this event, linking to events 3, 3c, 12a and 7g. It is contextualized regarding the P's Dutch culture.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is constructing a narrative of difference in this event regarding his individuality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ He has not conformed to the norm – "I've always been a rebel....I've always been off centre" ♣ The P illustrates his difference to others by beginning with school, as an example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The P was never apart of the popular group – "I enjoyed the in crowd, but I was never part of it." - Friends were important to a certain degree, but were not the main influential factor in his life – "I enjoyed my mates, and they enjoyed me but they never formed part of that pivotal part that you find typical in a bloke." - It seems his Dutch culture played a bigger role in making the P who he was ". I didn't need to be accepted.....I was a rebel....I was...it's the Dutch way." <p>The P illustrates how important his culture was in moulding his nature, through bringing in the Amsterdam example again, to illustrate the open-mindedness of the culture and perhaps to</p>

			<p>show how that played apart in his development. The P further extends on the narrative of open-mindedness and difference, through bringing in how people in Amsterdam do not judge others for who they are. It seems that the P is saying that they are open-minded to people choosing to do things differently from the way they would, and are not judged for their decisions in life.</p> <p>It seems that perhaps the P has felt judged at times in his life (misunderstood and not respected) although he does not explicitly mention it –“... they are not frowned at, they are not looked down upon, they are not judged, it’s their choice...you have chosen to be that, and I respect that...it’s not what I would do, and it’s your choice, but please respect me.”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (identity) Narrative of open-mindedness (culture)</p>
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18

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	So there’s equality?		
P	No....there’s a maturity that this is me, these are my choice, that is you, that is your choice. Where Leonie is concerned....that is her and that is her choice and I respect her for it....I have my choices and this is who I am. The same in growing up, these are my choices and this is who I am, those are your choices, and that’s fine.	<p>Identity</p> <p>The narrative of open-mindedness is continued in this event linking to events 3, 3c, 12a, 7g and 1b. Open-mindedness is contextualized regarding decision making.</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P is extending on the narrative of open-mindedness, contextualized regarding decision making:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P disagrees with the R regarding the Dutch culture advocating equality, but rather a maturity to be open-minded regarding <u>one’s decisions</u>, even

			<p>though they may not choose the same path – “No....there’s a maturity that this is me, these are my choice, that is you, that is your choice.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P seems to demonstrate his own Dutchness, by giving an example of how he has understood his ex-wife’s choices in life – “Where Leonie is concerned....that is her and that is her choice and I respect her for it....” ♣ It seems that he illustrates how his Dutchness has spanned <u>over time</u>, by discussing how he should be accepted for his decisions and who he is now, as well as when he was growing up – “....I have my choices and this is who I am. The same in growing up, these are my choices and this is who I am, those are your choices, and that’s fine...” <p>Summary: Narrative of open-mindedness (Decision making)</p>
	<p>And so you asked about my mates, my choice is that my boy is with me and 10 days out of 14, that’s it, that’s me....and if they don’t like it....I couldn’t give a continental, I actually don’t care, I actually don’t care what you think of me</p>	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of difference is extended in this event, contextualized regarding fatherhood. This links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i and 1b.</p>	<p>It seems that the P relates how this Dutchness has filtered through to his full time fathering – that it is a conscious decision that he is happy with, even though others may not accept it – “And so you asked about my mates, my choice is that my boy is with me and 10 days out of 14, that’s it, that’s me....and if they don’t like it....I couldn’t give a continental, I actually don’t care, I actually don’t care what you think</p>

			<p>of me”</p> <p>His Dutchness and his full-time fathering seem to be ways that the P constructs the narrative of difference in this event. It seems that the P feels that he is more open minded and is comfortable having a full time commitment to his son, however different this may be from the norm</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (Dutch & Fathering)</p>
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19

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Of	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	You gave the example of the gentleman enquiring about staying in the red-light district. How did this Dutchness impact on the decision making of who would get custody of Adrian?			
P	<p>.....mmm.....to be honest with you I can't quite remember.....What I remember is that Leonie told me about what she was doing, and I said "you can leave, that's fine". And she sat there and her mouth gasping and she said "I was expecting for you to get up and slap me". So my response to her was that "I understand what has taken place in your life but the reality is that you have never really bonded with Adrian, you've shown little maternal instinct when his needs are concerned, etc etc, and if you want to leave that's fine, but when you leave, you leave with a suite case, but Adrian will stay with me....I will...I will get in astronomical amounts of debt to make that happen". And there were members of the family who have said that if anything ever happened between you and I it is clearly obvious that Adrian would live with me. And to her credit...to her credit...10 days, 2 weeks, whatever later, she came to accept it. So the detail, the detail was worked out later. So you are asking about the detail. The detail was kind of ironed out right at the eleventh hour. But it was a process.....initially, when we split up, Leonie would come round to my place in the evening to say good night to Adrian and 6 months into that I said "look this is no longer appropriate, it's just not appropriate...I need to sort my life out, you</p>	<p>Custody</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, linking to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 11, 12, 12a, 13a, 7d and 7f. Difficulty is contextualized regarding custody of Adrian.</p> <p>The narrative of difference is extended in this narrative, contextualized regarding fulltime fatherhood. This event links with events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i, 1b and 7j.</p>		<p>From this event it seems that the P is continuing the narrative of difficulty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that the P had come to terms with his wife's choice to leave, but had difficulty with allowing her to take their son –“ I understand what has taken place in your life but the reality is that you have never really bonded with Adrian, you've shown little maternal instinct when his needs are concerned, etc etc, and if you want to leave that's fine, but when you leave, you leave with a suite case, but Adrian will stay with me.....” ♣ It seems that the P

	<p>need to sort yours out”...we weren’t quite divorced yet. It just wasn’t appropriate that she came round, and she recognised that, she needed to go and do whatever she needed to do, you know what I mean. And at that time things were exceptionally intense where Adrian was concerned....and then there was this incredible release. As much as I love being with Adrian and I love Adrain being with me, I look forward to my weekends alonewhere I don’t have that responsibility, I can go out, I can come home at 8 o’clock in the morning if I like ...two weeks ago, three weeks ago, I was driving at 8 o’clock in the morning from the night before, and that for me is a release. For me, it’s always been about balance, about finding that, yin yang if you like.....finding balance. Most people who are divorced have their kids Friday and Saturday night, every second weekend, mine is Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday night and that gives us some really good quality time together....</p>		<p>found difficulty in his ex-wife’s relationship with their son – she did not establish a close relationship with him, and she was not nurturing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ I get the sense that the P was not completely accepting what had transpired between Leonie and the man at work, but he was adamant in setting the boundaries on how their relationship would work regarding their son. ♣ It seems that the P was willing to tackle any financial difficulty in order to have full custody of his son – “I will....I will get in astronomical amounts of debt to make that happen”. ♣ It seems that family members found Leonie’s relationship with Adrian problematic – “And there were members of the family who have said that if anything ever happened between you and I it is clearly obvious that Adrian would live with me.” ♣ It seems that decision making regarding Adrian’s living arrangements was a legal and emotional process – “So the detail, the detail was worked out later. So you are asking about the detail. The detail was kind of ironed out right at the eleventh hour. But it was a process....”
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that Leonie found it difficult to let go of the way things used to be in the relationship – “But it was a process.....initially, when we split up, Leonie would come round to my place in the evening to say good night to Adrian and 6 months into that I said “look this is no longer appropriate, it’s just not appropriate...I need to sort my life out, you need to sort yours out”...we weren’t quite divorced yet.” ♣ It seems that full time fatherhood in the beginning, was tough for the P, he needed some time to get used to it – “. And at that time things were exceptionally intense where Adrian was concerned....and then there was this incredible release. As much as I love being with Adrian and I love Adrain being with me, I look forward to my weekends alonewhere I don’t have that responsibility, I can go out, I can come home at 8 o’clock in the morning if I like ...” ♣ The responsibility of fatherhood can sometimes be overwhelming and the P needs time to relax, in order to recoup for his parental responsibilities – “two weeks ago,
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			<p>three weeks ago, I was driving at 8 o'clock in the morning from the night before, and that for me is a release. For me, it's always been about balance, about finding that, yin yang if you like.....finding balance.”</p> <p>The narrative of difference is further extended in this narrative, where the P compares his fulltime fatherhood to that of other fathers in similar situations:</p> <p>♣ It seems the more time he spends with his son, the more quality it puts into their relationship – possibly the P is highlighting where other fathers can miss out – “Most people who are divorced have their kids Friday and Saturday night, every second weekend, mine is Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday night and that gives us some really good quality time together....”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (divorce, custody, fatherhood) Narrative of difference (fulltime fatherhood)</p>
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20

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	So if the roles were reversed, and you were the typical dad who got to go to see Adrian every second weekend, what do you think that would have been like for you?		

P	<p>Gees.....I've never thought about that.....it would have done my head in. I would have, I promise you, I would never have given up, I would have been a rotweiler. I would have been the typical rotwieler, I would never have given up ever, ever. I would have been the thorn in Leonie's side every second of the day until she gave up. I would never let it go....I would never ever ever let it go. It would have been impossible. Alternatively, alternatively I would have done the impossible to keep the marriage together, albeit that I was in an impossibly bad place, absolutely impossibly bad place, but I would have done it.....it's just.....it's inconceivable , it's inconceivable that that would be the case</p>	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of persistence is introduced by the P in this event. This is contextualized regarding the P's custody of his son.</p> <p>The narrative of difference is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the P's fulltime fathering. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i, 1b, 7j and 14.</p>	<p>It seems from this event the P introduces the narrative of persistence, while exploring the alternative story of him not having got full custody of his son. The P seems to bring forward his determination to be an involved parent and how he would have persisted, had he not got full custody:</p> <p>It seems that the alternative of being a weekend parent is an unimaginable idea for theP – “Gees.....I've never thought about that.....it would have done my head in.”</p> <p>The P goes on to explore in depth the extent he would have fought for his son:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P seems to have found difficulty with the possibility of not having full custody of his son, and explores how he would have been persistent in his attempts to get his son back – “I would have, I promise you, I would never have given up, I would have been a rotweiler. I would have been the typical rotwieler, I would never have given up ever, ever. I would have been the thorn in Leonie's side every second of the day until she gave up. I would never let it go....I would never ever ever let it go. It would have been impossible.” The P seems to demonstrate his love for and commitment to his son and being involved. He would have gone into a legal battle for his son. This seems to highlight untold stories of some fathers and what they may go through – the immensity of the emotions fathers may feel when their children are taken from them. ♣ The P further demonstrates how persistent he would have been to keep his son in his life – he would have sacrificed his own
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			<p>happiness in order to be involved in his child's life – “Alternatively, alternatively I would have done the impossible to keep the marriage together, albeit that I was in an impossibly bad place, absolutely impossibly bad place, but I would have done it.....it's just.....it's inconceivable , it's inconceivable that that would be the case.”</p> <p>It seems that the narrative of difference is elicited implicitly in this event, demonstrating how different his world is from fathers who are denied rights to their children.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of persistence (son) Narrative of difference (worlds apart – fulltime dad VS part-time dad)</p>
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21

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	So you would not have wanted him to ride on the back of your motorcycle every second weekend.....it wouldn't have been enough for you...		
P	Ja...because, because, the thing is thatlife and the art of motorcycle maintenance	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of inclusiveness is extended in this event, contextualized regarding fulltime fathering. It links with events 7e and 7f.</p>	<p>The P continues the narrative of inclusiveness in this event. The P agrees with the R's comment about the P not wanting to be a part time dad, who has put his son second in his life.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of inclusiveness (son)</p>
R	Now that's the book!		
	That's the book and it's a long winded way, it's a long winded way....and I need to read it again. I read it when I was....19. It's a long winded way of saying....think about your environment, think about the people around you, and think about what this whole life thing is about. It had a huge effect on me....it had a	<p>Event 15: The book</p> <p>The narrative of difference is extended in this event, contextualized regarding a book the P</p>	<p>From this event it would seem that the P is continuing the narrative of difference.</p> <p>♣ It seems that the P cannot remember</p>

<p>massive effect on me. I got it in the big picture, I've not read it since then....so maybe I got it all wrong or maybe I got the big picture, and never got the detail of the bookbut the message of the book is.....kind of, try to understand other people. It talks about seeing things differently, open your mind to seeing things differently and look for alternatives and as I said to you...I've never been a run of the mill guy....it's not been important for me.....</p>	<p>read. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i, 1b, 7j, 14 and 7k.</p>	<p>explicitly the whole story, but views it as a lengthily story that he read at 19. He extracted a global message, which made a difference to his life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in the way he viewed the world around him - In the way he viewed people -Contemplated on life and its meaning. - “That’s the book and it’s a long winded way, it’s a long winded way....and I need to read it again. I read it when I was....19. It’s a long winded way of saying....think about your environment, think about the people around you, and think about what this whole life thing is about. <p>♣ The message had a huge influence on him – he doubts whether he understood the details of the book, but is convinced of the global message which he took from the book, which for him seemed to be that he should be <u>open-minded</u> in his life regarding <u>people</u> and seeing things <u>differently</u> – being more attune to <u>alternatives</u> and being comfortable with <u>being different</u></p> <p>-</p> <p>“...try to understand other people. It talks about seeing things</p>
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		<p>differently, open your mind to seeing things differently and look for alternatives and as I said to you...I've never been a run of the mill guy....it's not been important for me.....”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that this book was consistent with the Dutchness the P had spoken about throughout the interview, of allowing for difference, accepting it and allowing one's self to be different. It was consistent with his philosophy of life. ♣ The P describes himself as different, as never conforming and this book seemed to illustrate that this was acceptable –that difference can be understood in many ways if you are open minded “...open your mind to seeing things differently and look for alternatives and as I said to you...I've never been a run of the mill guy....it's not been important for me.....” <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (world, people, life)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	You drew more from living an alternative life..... not conforming.....		
P	Ja...it's never been important for me to conformno. You want to call me a non conformist then that's fine....	<p>Identity</p> <p>The narrative of difference is extended in this event, linking to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i, 1b, 7j, 14, 7k and 15. Difference is contextualized regarding the P's identity. The narrative of individuality is continued, linking to event 1a. Individuality is contextualized regarding the P's personality.</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of difference in this event, regarding how he views himself as different from the norm – “Ja...it's never been important for me to conformno. You want to call me a non conformist then that's fine....”</p> <p>This event seems to link with event 1a in which the P introduces the narrative of individuality, which seems to be continued here, with the P describing himself as a “nonconformist”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (identity) Narrative of individuality (identity)</p>
R	What would you call it?		
P	Aah...an individual...an individual. I was quite happy being myself	<p>Identity</p> <p>The P seems to be extending on the narrative of individuality in this event, linking to events 1a and 1d. Individuality is contextualized regarding the P's identity.</p> <p>The narrative of difference is extended in this event, linking to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i, 1b, 7j, 14, 7k, 15 and 1d.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of individuality, concerning his identity. The P mentions in event 1d that people may call him a nonconformist, but he views it as being an “individual” – which may mean that he may do things differently from others.</p> <p>It seems that in this event the P is further constructing the narrative of difference with regards to his identity – what comes to my mind when people compare conformity with nonconformity, is the differences that are elicited</p>

			<p>between the two. So perhaps through stating that people may see him as a nonconformist he may be saying that they saw him as different.</p> <p>The P describes that he was “quite happy being myself”</p> <p>So it seems that he had accepted his individuality.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of individuality (identity) Narrative of difference (individuality)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	How is it different to other dads then		
P	Well because it just is...I don't see the world through norms and standards	<p>Identity</p> <p>The P is continuing the narrative of individuality in this event, contextualized regarding the P's identity. It links to events 1a, 1d and 1e.</p> <p>The narrative of difference is extended further, contextualized regarding the P's identity. It is linked to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i, 1b, 7j, 14, 7k, 15, 1d and 1e, 15a. .</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of individuality regarding how he views the world.</p> <p>The P seems to implicitly make a distinction between the way he sees the world as compared to the way others may view the world – The researcher asked how things are different from other dads, and the P states “Well because it just is...I don't see the world through norms and standards”.</p> <p>It seems that the P is extending on the narrative of difference, where the P seems to view the world differently from norm, and his experience of fatherhood is different from the norm then.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of individuality (identity) Narrative of difference (identity and fatherhood)</p>

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	It seems like Adrian can learn a lot from you.....driving in the front with you.....		
P	<p>I hope so...I hope so....and I think he does, in fact in more ways than one. Often when he falls a sleep or is waking up in the car, he's inclined to have a seizure, and he'll often be in the car with me when he's having a seizure, and so you're driving on the road and he's having a seizure and so for the last five years, Adrian sat next to me in the front and not in the back. And so metaphorically...if there's such a word....but metaphorically there's a big difference between riding one person in front, one person in back, but realistically there's a major difference because, because in all kinds of things, Adrian is an equal, he's an equal and he's treated equally. And you know, you learn through that ...you learn to say, I'm not giving you that", or whatever.....you learn</p>	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of difference is continued, contextualized regarding Adrian. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i, 1b, 7j, 14, 7k, 15, 1d, 1e, 15a and 1f.</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P is extending on the narrative of difference. He does this through applying the metaphor of his son driving in the front with him in his life, both literally and figuratively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ On the one hand, his son driving with him in the front, allows space for his son to learn things as they experience things together – The P agrees with the R that Adrian can learn a lot from him, driving in the front with him, figuratively speaking –“I hope so...I hope so....and I think he does, in fact in more ways than one”. ♣ On a more literal level, the P discusses how important it is for his son to travel in the front with him, since he has seizures and the P can be there to help him (or be part of his experience) – “And so metaphorically...if there's such a word....but metaphorically there's a big difference between riding one person in front, one person in back, but realistically there's a major difference because, because in all kinds of things, Adrian is an equal, he's an equal and he's treated equal” ♣ It seems that the P feels there is a difference between being in the front with him in a metaphorical sense and a realistic sense, and that

			<p>realistically it is more important (physical well being of son). It seems that Adrian being in the front with him instills an egalitarian relationship – “... but metaphorically there’s a big difference between riding one person in front, one person in back, but realistically there’s a major difference because, because in all kinds of things, Adrian is an equal, he’s an equal and he’s treated equally.”</p> <p>♣ It seems that the P has learnt a lot about parenting through making his son part of the parenting experience – their egalitarian relationship has taught him to define <u>boundaries</u> and to <u>communicate</u> these openly – “And you know, you learn through that ...you learn to say, I’m not giving you that”, or whatever.....you learn”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (equal relationship with son)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	What have you learnt from Adrian?		
P	There was hardness before....and I think Adrian for me was therapeutic. From the experiences I had growing up as a youngster, which had a huge impact on me. But ja, ja he’s had a huge impact on me. It keeps your sense of morality, and keeps your sense of humility, and that’s what I’ve got from him....	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of difference is continued in this event, contextualized regarding his son’s impact on the P’s personal development. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i, 1b, 7j, 14, 7k, 15, 1d, 1e, 15a, 1f and 7m.</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P is building on the narrative of difference regarding the changes his son has elicited in him:</p> <p>♣ It seems that Adrian has brought out the P’s <u>gentleness</u> – “There was a hardness before....and I think Adrian for me was</p>

			<p>therapeutic.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that the P has <u>worked through</u> some of the <u>issues</u> from his childhood that made him tough, through being a father – “and I think Adrian for me was therapeutic. From the experiences I had growing up as a youngster, which had a huge impact on me.” ♣ It seems that Adrian has taught the P to treasure many <u>values</u> – “It keeps your sense of morality, and keeps your sense of humility, and that’s what I’ve got from him....” <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (fatherhood)</p>
R	Amazing what you can learn from a young guy like that....		
P	Ja it’s huge, It’s hugeso people, people....some people get that about me and some people don’t, and I couldn’t give a continental. And that’s, that’s the unfortunate thing that I get from my mom’s side of the family....it doesn’t matter what people think of youit doesn’t matter	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of difference is further extended in this event, contextualized regarding his relationship with his son. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i, 1b, 7j, 14, 7k, 15, 1d, 1e, 15a, 1f, 7m and 7n.</p>	<p>From this event it seems that the narrative of difference is continued. The P seems to highlight many areas of difference that his son has brought to his life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P agrees with the R regarding his <u>learning</u> from his son. The P seems to share the enormity of what he has learnt from his son – “Ja it’s huge, It’s huge” ♣ Secondly, his relationship with his son highlights the difference between how <u>he</u> views his relationship with his son and how <u>others</u> view his relationship with his son – “some

			<p>people get that about me and some people don't, and I couldn't give a continental.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that the P is extending on how he differs from other people in as far as he <u>does not care what they think</u>, which he sees as being attributed to something he has inherited from his mom – “And that’s, that’s the unfortunate thing that I get from my mom’s side of the family....it doesn’t matter what people think of youit doesn’t matter.” <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (relationship with son & differs from others)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Of Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	So the conversation so far, where has it left you?		
P	In what respectwhat do you mean, where has it left me?		
R	Well....what have you been left thinking about....?		
P	There’s a sense that, there’s a sense of huge ownership and responsibility....let me say ownership....over the difficulties Adrian may come upon. I’m not sure if he’ll know how to handle that, and be fully independent.....going into the future. My way of looking at it is....worst case scenario, he’s not and so plan for that, anything that is better than that, is better than that....(sigh).....And living in South Africa, well we are faced with that reality....and if I compare it to...well the only thing I can compare it	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is extended in this event, contextualized Adrian’s future. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 11, 12, 12a, 13a, 7d, 7f, 7g and 15a.</p>	<p>From this event it seems that the P is continuing the narrative of difficulty. The difficulty is contextualized regarding many aspects of Adrian’s future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that the P is overwhelmed by the responsibility he has in relation to the possible difficulties he may come across in his life in the future – “There’s a sense that, there’s a sense of huge ownership and responsibility....let me say

<p>to is the British system...where he would be in a classroom, with normal kids.....with an assistant. Sarah, Adrian's child minder....Sarah type personalitywould be there. We have certain benefits and advantages that we have in this country and it's....it's lekker that, you know what I mean, we accept that....that's what we have living here. Long term with Adrian? I don't think Adrian can continue staying in this country. I spoke to a financial advisor recently and said "Joel do me a favour, take what I need at my retirement age, say 65....and let's say I live up to 20 years, so that's....85, I'm going to live until 85....So that will make Adrian in his 50's, 60's.....and so what I want you to do Joel is I want you to add in inflation and all the medical costs, and everything Adrian would need".....and he saidI said "come on Joel", expecting that it would be a couple of million or so, "tell me what the figures are".....and he said "no, do you have another calculator, because this one does not have enough zeros". So in all reality, with today's money, I need 200 million rand. And so chances are that Adrian and I would have to move to the UK.</p>		<p>ownership....over the difficulties Adrian may come upon."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P seems to worry about his son's ability to tackle and cope with difficulties in the future – "I'm not sure if he'll know how to handle that, and be fully independent.....going into the future" ♣ It seems that these potential difficulties have propelled the P into making plans which will secure his future – "My way of looking at it is....worst case scenario, he's not and so plan for that, anything that is better than that, is better than that....(sigh)....." ♣ It seems that living in South Africa is difficult for a person with Adrian's needs. The P compares the advantages of living in Britain, where the school system has an inclusionary policy, with assistance for people with special needs– "And living in South Africa, well we are faced with that reality... and if I compare it to...well the only thing I can compare it to is the British system...where he would be in a classroom, with normal kids.....with an assistant. Sarah, Adrian's child minder....Sarah type personalitywould be there. ' it seems that the P is saying that life and schooling would not be as difficult for Adrian if he were in a supportive country such as Britain. ♣ It seems that the P has thought about the potential difficulties Adrian could face in the future and has sought financial advise in order to prepare to plan and cover for the financial costs to get the help and assistance Adrian needs – "Long term....etc" ♣ It seems that the P would
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			<p>come in to financial difficulty to look after his son's future needs and sees no other option other than to move back to the UK – “So in all reality, with today's money, I need 200 million rand. And so chances are that Adrian and I would have to move to the UK.</p> <p>It seems that South Africa is letting the P down in helping him provide for his son's needs.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (Adrian's needs)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	Looking at your experience, do you think that this is a perception that may be changing.....that single fatherhood is another option?		
P	Well I think it's it's important...maybe even in a small way...but I think Disney movies....Do your self a favour, go into a video store , look at the Disney movies of the last five yearsten years, and have a look at the Disney movies, and see how the father, the father figure plays the nurturing role. Have a look out for that...I promise you, you will be gob smacked because time and time and time again, that's what's happening (sigh)...whether that be on purpose or not...whether that be some kind of subliminal whatever....that's not the point. It is becoming more popular....	<p>Disney movies</p> <p>The narrative of difference is continued further in this event, contextualized role reversal. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i, 1b, 7j, 14, 7k, 15, 1d, 1e, 15a, 1f, 7m, 7n, 7o , 7q, 16, 16a and 7r.</p>	<p>The P seems to be continuing the narrative of difference in this event, referring to how single fatherhood is being depicted in the media. It seems that single fatherhood is being portrayed differently in the media and how this has developed over time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ They are more nurturing – “Do your self a favour, go into a video store, look at the Disney movies of the last five yearsten years, and have a look at the Disney movies, and see how the father, the father figure plays the nurturing role.” ♣ It seems that the Disney movies are demonstrating that single fathers can be what society would usually associate with the maternal role, i.e.

			<p>that of being nurturing, and that is demonstrated even in the media – “I promise you, you will be gob smacked because time and time and time again, that’s what’s happening (sigh)...whether that be on purpose or not...whether that be some kind of subliminal whatever....that’s not the point. It is becoming more popular....”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (fathers as nurturer)</p>
R	Can you give me examples of some of these movies?		
P	<p>It’s, It’s there.....it’s there.....It’s not covert...it’s overt ...Lion King.....Nemo...Bambi....I mean...I promise you, do your self a favour...go and see. It’s not mom, it’s not the mom...not the female figures, it’s the male figures. Is that some kind of brain washing?...I don’t know. I just find that very interesting....I don’t think it is any kind of coincidence.</p>	<p>Disney movies</p> <p>The narrative of difference is continued further in this event, contextualized role reversal. It links to events 4, 3a, 3b and 1a, 4a, 7, 7a, 8, 9b, 9d, 9e, 10, 10a, 10b, 7c, 13, 13a, 7d, 7i, 1b, 7j, 14, 7k, 15, 1d, 1e, 15a, 1f, 7m, 7n, 7o , 7q, 16, 16a, 7r and 17.</p>	<p>The P continues the narrative of difference in this event, regarding how Disney movies are promoting the father as playing a more central role in children’s lives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P gives examples of all the Disney movies that he can think of which demonstrate the man as the most salient figure in children’s lives – “It’s not mom, it’s not the mom...not the female figures, it’s the male figures. “ <p>It seems that the P sees this as meaningful – he questions whether it is trying to indoctrinate society or perhaps whether it is telling society about what is happening – the alternative role – “Is that some kind of brain washing?...I don’t know. I just find that very interesting....I don’t</p>

			think it is any kind of coincidence.” Summary: Narrative of difference (father as nurturer)
R	So art imitates life then?		
P	Or alternatively, life imitates art....(laughs)		

APPENDIX E: Excerpts of research analysis (Participant 3)

The tabled information below is excerpts of the interview material that pertains to the research question. In column one, **R** represents Researcher, and **P** represents participant.

1

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	*George...maybe you can tell me a little bit about yourself...a bit of background on who you are, to begin with...		
P	I'm a quiet person, I don't talk much, but if I do start talking, then I'll maybe talk a whole in your head...umm...I'm divorced, I've got a little boy, he's 13. I'm a fitter and turner by trade and I would like to move overseas...the UK.... new surroundings you know, a different way of life	Identity	<p>The P begins the discussion by introducing the narrative of identity. It would seem that the P introduces himself through highlighting many facets that make him unique:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Personality – “Quiet” by nature ♣ Divorced ♣ Father ♣ Career ♣ Future immigrant <p>The P seems to have begun the discussion by highlighting his <u>intrapersonal</u> quality of being quiet, which could perhaps be seen as an important aspect about him since he chose to mention this first. He then goes on to say that “I don't talk much, but if I do start talking, then I'll maybe talk a whole in your head...”</p> <p>[I wondered if he was setting the limits of the interview in the beginning – that it is difficult for him</p>

			<p>to talk, but once he gets started, he eases into the process]</p> <p>The P goes on to mention that he is a <u>divorced</u> man, with a <u>son</u>. It seemed to me, in the way he narrated this experience, that perhaps the divorce came part and parcel with his son – “I’m divorced, I’ve got a little boy, he’s 13.”</p> <p>Perhaps the divorce had a casualty – his son?</p> <p>The P then moves on to describe himself as a <u>fitter and turner</u> and says that he would like to move <u>overseas</u> – perhaps the P sees his trade as a fitter and turner as his ticket to moving.</p> <p>The P describes the move as providing him with a <u>different life</u>.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of identity</p>
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2

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	Ja...maybe to the beginning of your relationship - before your son came along		
P	<p>Before the beginning of our relationship I dated a few girls...probably two, three girls before Liana....so like I say, I’m not an outspoken type of person....I’m a listener....so aah....we went out for four years, plus minus....went to the army then, and then it got a little bit rocky you know...it wasn’t working for her...so when the army was finished...I persisted (laughs)...you know how men are. Got married after I left the army...married a year and a half, plus minus, before we had Chris. Aaah...it took a lot out of you ...at night, waking up for a baby....aah, nappy changes...your lifestyle is different because you not getting enough sleep you know....after going to work, you are faced with having to come home and cope with a baby that wakes up at 10 and two o’clock in the morning, and that puts a strain on the</p>	<p>Relationship with wife</p> <p>The narrative of identity is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the P’s personality in respect of interpersonal relationships. This links to event 1. The narrative of difficulty is introduced in this event, contextualized regarding his relationship with his wife and the various experiences that had an impact on their relationship.</p>	<p>From this event it seems that the P continues the narrative of identity, contextualized regarding his dating history. The P describes his <u>premarital dating history</u>, by stating that he dated only a few girls before meeting his wife to be. It would seem that the P puts this down to his <u>personality</u> characteristics, of him being a quiet person – “...I dated a few girls...probably two, three girls before Liana....so like I say, I’m not an outspoken type of person....I’m a</p>

<p>relationship, I would say...aah, but you work through that. The other thing is that I used to do the disciplining in a way....aah, maybe I do it wrong, maybe I get too agro, you know....I usually give him hidings...I never used to take a shoe, or a sham buck or anything like that, I always used my hand. The only reason why I use my hand is that if I know my hand is sore ...your backside must be sore...I mean that is the only way I looked is that way. I wouldn't pick up a slipper and hit you...then I don't know how hard I'm hitting you and I don't know how much to hit you in a way...he's quite a strong ouit doesn't scare him...mummy ex-wife wasn't the disciplinarian....I don't know if she was just scared that she would get too agro with him, or maybe strangle him....I don't know...she had her own reason why she didn't want to get worked up about it. So, maybe that put a little stress on me because it would upset you, but you wouldn't discipline him because you are worried what you would do as a parent...you didn't want to explode on him you know....so it was difficult on me ...because you haven't really upset me...you know what I'm saying...he's upset you, so you should be able to punish him...so that put a bit of strain on the relationship. The other thing that put strain on the relationship is maybe because we didn't really go out much...we had two maybe different ways of lifestyle....she was an outgoing person, you know...like she would maybe go out, go to parties, go visit her friends ...I wasn't that....I'm not that kind of person...like I say, I'm a very quiet person, I don't like going to braais you know...If I don't know the people, you know....even if I do know them....I'm not an outgoing person really you know so ...that as well...you have two different types f people living together you know...ummm....when we did get divorced , I didn't really understand what was going on coz she....we had arguments, like any person has an argument, you know, but at that point she just wanted to leave, so she left and that day....why, what and how I didn't know...she was just so upset and got up and left...and so I thought ok, and thought we would talk about it when she came back, still not knowing the route of the troubles. That route of the problem I only found out, I would say, three or four months later...what the real route is...we always put</p>		<p>listener..." It may be that his quietness was a barrier to him pursuing more relationships – that being a listener was his comfort zone and trying to get involved in new relationships may have propelled him out of that zone? The narrative of difficulty is introduced, regarding various aspects of the P's life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The <u>early stage</u> of his <u>courtship</u> with his future wife was made difficult by the P's obligation to the army. It seems that Liana had difficulty with the time they spent apart – "...went to the army then, and then it got a little bit rocky you know...it wasn't working for her...so when the army was finished...I persisted (laughs)..." ♣ The birth of their <u>son</u> seemed to have been difficult on the P – fatherhood seemed to change the P's routine and lifestyle – "Aaah...it took a lot out of you ...at night, waking up for a baby....aah, nappy changes...your lifestyle is different because you not getting enough sleep you know....after going to work, you are faced with having to come home and cope with a baby that wakes up at 10 and two o'clock in the morning..." ♣ The birth of their son seemed to have put a strain on their relationship initially, but it was something
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	<p>icing on the cake, saying that we don't go out...ja it is part of the problem, I wouldn't say it isn't, but the real route of everything I only found out afterwards. We didn't have a dirty divorce. I think it was a month or so later, that she spoke to me and asked if we could get a divorce and I went with her ...went to the sheriff, signed a normal document and spent a day there shunting around. We needed to wait for our divorce date at court...I didn't go with her to court because I agreed to everything that she wanted and she agreed with what I wanted to have, so I didn't have that...I didn't really want to go to the court case. Ok, so I didn't go to court and so she went to court and got the divorce...I don't think it was that I was upset that I didn't want to go...I just didn't understand what was the cause and only found out after the divorce what technically was going through her mind and why it went that way...What upset was why didn't you tell me what was going on in the moment...she could give me pieces of it afterwards, we not going out, we not getting on together lately ...I know that's part of it but the real route of what she's thinking about what was going on in her head upset me because I don't know how she expects me to understand how she thinks</p>		<p>they worked on – “...you are faced with having to come home and cope with a baby that wakes up at 10 and two o'clock in the morning, and that puts a strain on the relationship, I would say...aah, but you work through that.”</p> <p>♣ The P seems to find the <u>disciplining</u> of his son as difficult on many levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He was the <u>primary</u> disciplinarian, which seems to be a role that he struggled with– “The other thing is that I used to do the disciplining in a way....” - Secondly, it seems that the P struggled with his <u>method</u> of disciplining. It seems that he questions his way of disciplining and his personal frustration in the moment and what impact this has “aah, maybe I do it wrong, maybe I get too agro, you know....I usually give him hidings...” - It seems that disciplining is an important area of concern for him as a father since he elaborates on the way in which he <u>executes</u> his corrective measures in much detail. It seems that the P has boundaries or limits on how disciplining should occur and when giving a hiding it should only be done with the hand (which seems to be a
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			<p>way in which the P is able to self monitor the process), whereas when shoes and shambucks are used, he seems to not be able to assess the pain threshold of his son. It seems from this that the P tries to balance discipline with empathy. “I never used to take a shoe, or a sham buck or anything like that, I always used my hand. The only reason why I use my hand is that if I know my hand is sore ...your backside must be sore...I mean that is the only way I looked is that way.”</p> <p>- The P also found disciplining his son when he had done something wrong to or in front of his <u>wife</u> when he was not there, as problematic. “So, maybe that put a little stress on me because it would upset you, but you wouldn’t discipline him because you are worried what you would do as a parent...you didn’t want to explode on him you know...so it was difficult on me ...because you haven’t really upset me...you know what I’m saying...he’s upset you, so you should be able to punish him...so that put a bit of strain on the relationship.”</p> <p>♣ The relationship was negatively affected by many things:</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Disciplining</u> their son put a strain on the P's relationship with his wife – "...he's upset you, so you should be able to punish him...so that put a bit of strain on the relationship." - The P saw the relationship as including <u>two different people</u>, which caused strain on their relationship. His wife was outgoing, while he was quiet, which led to two different lifestyles living under one roof. – "The other thing that put strain on the relationship is maybe because we didn't really go out much...we had two maybe different ways of lifestyle....she was an outgoing person, you know...like she would maybe go out, go to parties, go visit her friends ...I wasn't that...I'm not that kind of person...like I say, I'm a very quiet person, I don't like going to braais you know...If I don't know the people, you know...even if I do know them...I'm not an outgoing person really you know so ...that as well...you have two different types f people living together you know..." <p>It seems again that the P uses his personality as a way of understanding his experience of difficulty when it came to relationships, as he did in the beginning of the event when he spoke about his limited</p>
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			<p>experience in intimate relationships prior to getting married.</p> <p>♣ <u>Divorce</u> was a difficult time, where the P was confused by his wife’s decision. The P acknowledges that they had arguments, but it seems that he did not view their disagreements as warranting a divorce. It would seem that the P went through a process of confusion, with many questions unanswered at the time, which left him feeling very confused – “when we did get divorced , I didn’t really understand what was going on coz she...we had arguments, like any person has an argument, you know, but at that point she just wanted to leave, so she left and that day...why, what and how I didn’t know...she was just so upset and got up and left...and so I thought ok, and thought we would talk about it when she came back, still not knowing the route of the troubles.”</p> <p>♣ It seems that the P had difficulty with not knowing the “cause” of the divorce. It seems at the time the P was not <u>satisfied</u> with some of the reasons they generated for the divorce (that those were not the real issue leading to the divorce) – “That route of the problem I only found out, I would say, three or four months later...what the real</p>
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		<p>route is...we always put icing on the cake, saying that we don't go out....ja it is part of the problem, I wouldn't say it isn't, but the real route of everything I only found out afterwards.”</p> <p>♣ It seems that the P compares the <u>logistics</u> of the divorce with the <u>emotional</u> divorce he had to make at the time. On the one hand it seems that the logistics of the divorce were unproblematic, with everything going smoothly - “We didn't have a dirty divorce. I think it was a month or so later, that she spoke to me and asked if we could get a divorce and I went with her ...went to the sheriff, signed a normal document and spent a day there shunting around. We needed to wait for our divorce date at court...I didn't go with her to court because I agreed to everything that she wanted and she agreed with what I wanted to have, so I didn't have that...I didn't really want to go to the court case. Ok, so I didn't go to court and so she went to court and got the divorce...I don't think it was that I was upset that I didn't want to go...I just didn't understand what was the cause and only found out after the divorce what technically was going through her mind and why it went that way...” It seems that</p>
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			<p>the P found the emotional aspect to the divorce especially difficult, since he was not sure of the real issue that was driving them to the divorce courts – “What upset was why didn’t you tell me what was going on in the moment...she could give me pieces of it afterwards, we not going out, we not getting on together lately ...I know that’s part of it but the real route of what she’s thinking about what was going on in her head upset me because I don’t know how she expects me to understand how she thinks”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of identity (quiet) Narrative of difficulty(early stage of relationship; birth of son; disciplining son; personality differences between P and wife; divorce)</p>
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3

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	How was that for you?		
P	He was upset because I gave him a hiding...and that’s fine, now he’s irritated me....and I would say that it’s fine, now you go sit in your bedroom....that was irritating because he used to scream and carry on and that irritated me...if I did the disciplining that was fine, if he irritated me...I’m not a leader you see...I can’t go to work and become a manager ...I’m not a management....I can’t tell people what to do and that’s what, in life, in general, at work they want me to be like a manger, but I can’t go to people and tell them what to do, I just don’t have that ...ability to	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued, contextualized regarding the P’s disciplining role. It links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c and 7d.</p>	<p>It seems the narrative of difficulty continues in this event, contextualized regarding the P’s irritation he experienced due to his disciplining role in the family.</p> <p>♣ It seems that the P became <u>irritated</u> by his son being upset after being disciplined by him, and this was difficult for him – “He was upset because I</p>

	<p>come across and say, please, it's your turn to do the dishes ...I can't...I don't have the leadership to do that job and I think that leadership as well, failed me in my lifestyle, you know. So it's difficult for me to discipline someone when they've done something wrong to someone else ...</p>	<p>gave him a hiding...and that's fine, now he's irritated me..."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P found further difficulty with his <u>son's reaction</u> to disciplining. His son would cry and scream which would make the P irritated further – “and I would say that it's fine, now you go sit in your bedroom....that was irritating because he used to scream and carry on and that irritated me..." ♣ It seems as though the <u>main</u> difficulty lay in the P being made <u>responsible</u> for the disciplining, when his son did not behave badly in front of the P – “if I did the disciplining that was fine, if he irritated me..." <p>The role of being a leader is a difficult one for the P since he goes on to demonstrate how he is not comfortable with this role in other facets of his life, and thus does not exercise this role (e.g. work and home responsibilities) – “I'm not a leader you see...I can't go to work and become a manager ...I'm not a management...I can't tell people what to do and that's what, in general, at work they want me to be like a manger, but I can't go to people and tell them what to do, I just don't have that ...ability to come across and say, please, it's your turn to do the dishes ...I can't...I don't have the leadership to do that job and I think that leadership as well, failed me in my lifestyle, you know” the P contrasts</p>
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			<p>his leadership abilities in the work place and home chores, to his ability as a disciplinarian. It seems that the P draws on his notion of his identity and sees the role of disciplinarian as one which is imposed and not consistent with his abilities. He seems to qualify this by contrasting the work and home situation with his disciplining by saying “So it’s difficult for me to discipline someone when they’ve done something wrong to someone else ...”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (disciplining)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	Are you saying that it came as a surprise?		
P	<p>In a way it wasn’t really a surprise ...for me it was a little bit but it was a shock when today was the day...it wasn’t gradually “I’m going to leave you if you don’t wake up” or whatever you want to call it, there was noit was rocky but the shock of her packing her stuff and going that was shocking because there was noshe could have said I’ll leave you if you carry on, but not in a way that you are left...it was a very big shock, when you just pack your stuff up and you leave, not knowing the true, like I say, actual problem you know. So otherwise, ja, it went smoothly through the divorce or whatever, yes I was confused. I think I was at work a month or two at that time and a started to slack on my work, you know....I handed my notice in and I left, without having another job aaah, I just said I’m going, handed in my notice and left. I think I sat at home for two months and then I realised well the money’s not coming in. You’ve got the place that you’re staying in, you must</p>	<p>Divorce</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty seems to be extended in this narrative, contextualized regarding the P’s divorce. It links to event 3.</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P is continuing to extend on the narrative of difficulty regarding his divorce. The difficulty seems to be three-fold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that the P was <u>shocked</u> when the day came that the divorce was granted. It seems that the P did not suspect that their problems were of such an extent that divorce was the solution. It seems that the P found difficulty in coming to understand the reasons for them getting divorced– “for me it was a little bit but it was a shock when today was the day...it wasn’t gradually “I’m going to leave you if you don’t

	<p>pay your bond, you must pay to feed you and the kid, and my sister came to visit me and she took Craig away and I think I stayed there for another week or something and then packed my stuff and sold the place so I could get back on to solid ground</p>		<p>wake up” or whatever you want to call it, there was no ...it was rocky but the shock of her packing her stuff and going that was shocking because there was noshe could have said I’ll leave you if you carry on, but not in a way that you are left...it was a very big shock, when you just pack your stuff up and you leave, not knowing the true, like I say, actual problem you know.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Again, as in event 3, it seems that the P compares the <u>logistics</u> of the divorce with the <u>emotions</u> he was going through at the time. It seems that the practicality of the divorce was a smooth process, but it was an emotionally difficult time, leaving him confused – “So otherwise, ja, it went smoothly through the divorce or whatever, yes I was confused. “ ♣ It seems that the <u>emotional toll</u> the divorce took on him, infiltrated other aspects of his life, like work. The P illustrates this through talking about resigning from his job shortly after the divorce – “I think I was at work a month or two at that time and a started to slack on my work, you know....I handed my notice in and I left, without having another job aaah, I just said I’m going, handed in my notice and left.” <p>The P continues to demonstrate the <u>emotional strain</u> the</p>
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			<p>divorce placed on him, by describing how he left his job, without having another one, and therefore not being able to pay the bills and provide for his child. It seems that the divorce could have impacted on his <u>motivation</u> and ability to <u>anticipate the consequences</u> of his decision to stop working –“... I left, without having another job aaah, I just said I’m going, handed in my notice and left. I think I sat at home for two months and then I realised well the money’s not coming in. You’ve got the place that you’re staying in, you must pay your bond, you must pay to feed you and the kid, and my sister came to visit me and she took Craig away and I think I stayed there for another week or something and then packed my stuff and sold the place so I could get back on to solid ground”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (divorce)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	So it threw you?		
P	Ja...you say to yourself you know....it’s got nothing to do with the divorce...maybe it’s the early stages or something...but you think to yourself ok...I’m so tired of doing the same job...maybe it’s just a state of mind...maybe it just adds to the strain, and you think I’m going to stay at home ...you know, it’s difficult to know what your mind is actually thinking...you thinking this way, you know, but your	<p>Divorce</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the divorce. It links to events 3 and 4.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is continuing to extend on the narrative of difficulty, related to his experience of the divorce. The difficulty seems to extend into two facets of his life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Firstly, the divorce seems to have impacted negatively on the P

	<p>mind is helping you to say, Ja, you right, and so in a way it tells you where you must go...so ja, it was nice to get a holiday for two months or whatever ...but the scary part is that you can't stay by yourself, with no income, no nothing....so she actually told me I must come back and live with my parents and get their support or whatever....but I didn't really want to come back...but I realised that maybe its my only choice....</p>		<p><u>emotionally</u> – “Ja...you say to yourself you know....it's got nothing to do with the divorce...maybe it's the early stages or something...”</p> <p>♣ Secondly, the divorce seems to have made the P question his <u>occupational dissatisfaction</u> – it seems he questioned whether it was because he no longer enjoyed what he was doing, or whether it was due to the divorce that he no longer found meaning in what he was doing. “I'm so tired of doing the same job...maybe it's just a state of mind...maybe it just adds to the strain, and you think I'm going to stay at home ...you know, it's difficult to know what your mind is actually thinking...you thinking this way, you know, but your mind is helping you to say, Ja, you right, and so in a way it tells you where you must go...so ja, it was nice to get a holiday for two months or whatever ...”</p> <p>♣ It seems that the <u>aftermath</u> of the divorce was a <u>confusing</u> time, making it difficult for the P to know what he <u>wanted</u> and to understand his <u>thoughts</u>– “it's difficult to know what your mind is actually thinking...you thinking this way, you know, but your mind is helping you to say, Ja, you right, and so in a way it tells you where you must go...” I get the sense that the P in a way was</p>
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			<p>describing the axiom of “being in two minds” – that he was confused at the time – he was thinking in a certain direction, and his mind would propel him to act on how he was thinking, it no longer acted as a voice of reason, forecasting the consequences of his actions – “so ja, it was nice to get a holiday for two months or whatever ...but the scary part is that you can’t stay by yourself, with no income, no nothing...”</p> <p>♣ The possibility of losing his <u>independence</u> (moving in with parents) due to the divorce was a difficult thing for the P to face – “so she actually told me I must come back and live with my parents and get their support or whatever...but I didn’t really want to come back...but I realised that maybe its my only choice....”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (divorce)</p>
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6

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
	<p>I never went to look for a job actuallyI think I asked at a garage or whatever, but I never physically picked up a newspaper and actually <i>looked</i> for a job. At that stage I was reading umm...ummm...mind power and things like that you know, to make yourself look positive in life , and that’s what I was reading...to look at life ...the positive things in life and that’s what I was doing...and then I don’t know if I went a little bit crazy or whatever, and thought to myself “the positive thing for me to do is to leave my job” you know,</p>	<p>Work</p> <p>The narrative of being positive is introduced in this event, contextualized regarding the P’s decision to leave his job post divorce and trying to find the positive in his life.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is introducing the narrative of being positive. It would seem that in the short time after the divorce, the P was looking for ways to bring something positive back into his life (an alternative to the way things were):</p> <p>♣ Firstly, the P <u>left his job</u> and never actively looked for another one, believing</p>

	<p>and I did that...thinking that I must be positive something will come round the corner so maybe that's what I was thinking maybe at that time, I think to my self "listen, if I leave my job someone will come knock on my door and give me a job" or I will survive, put it that way...I will survive, I'll win the lotto or something...I'll survive, you know what I mean. So in a way I came back here ...aaah...maybe I was depressed a little bit...like you know, I didn't have any...there was no goals...</p>		<p>that something new will come along – "I never went to look for a job actually ...I think I asked at a garage or whatever, but I never physically picked up a newspaper and actually <i>looked</i> for a job."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Secondly, the P began to look for ways to <u>enrich</u> his life positively, by seeking <u>literature</u> that could help him see the positive in life again – "At that stage I was reading umm...ummm...mind power and things like that you know, to make yourself look positive in life, and that's what I was reading...to look at life ...the positive things in life and that's what I was doing..." ♣ It seems that the <u>book</u> was a catalyst for his decision on leaving his job, which he viewed in some respects as a positive move, but I suspect he also had moments of doubt, since he says: "and then I don't know if I went a little bit crazy or whatever...." However, overall in the way the P narrates his experience, it seems that he viewed it as a positive move to get out of that environment and was positive about the outcome, that he would find a job – "the positive thing for me to do is to leave my job" you know, and I did that...thinking that I must be positive something will come round the corner so maybe that's what I was thinking maybe at that time, I think to my self "listen, if I leave my job someone will come knock on my door and give me a job"
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			<p>or I will survive, put it that way...I will survive, I'll win the lotto or something...I'll survive, you know what I mean.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P uses the word “<u>survive</u>” as did Participant 1 in interview, a number of times. It seems that this P was certain that he would physically survive, that he would get money from somewhere – “I think to my self “listen, if I leave my job someone will come knock on my door and give me a job” or I will survive, put it that way...I will survive, I'll win the lotto or something...I'll survive, you know what I mean.” ♣ Possibly part of his survival was coming up to Johannesburg, to look after both his <u>physical</u> and <u>emotional</u> survival – “So in a way I came back here ...aaah...maybe I was depressed a little bit...like you know, I didn't have any...there was no goals...” <p>I would think that leaving your job would be seen as quite a risky move by society, yet the P saw it as something that would be positive in his life.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of positivity (post divorce)</p>
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7

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	And I think that is probably the road less travelled for most people...umm, you read a book that inspired you and possibly not many people would have, kind of the <i>balls</i> , so to speak, to do that....		

P	Ja...believing in that from the start...ja, the only thing is that it didn't pan out ...I didn't win the lotto (laughs)	<p>Work</p> <p>The narrative of positivity is continued in this event, contextualized regarding leaving his job post-divorce. It links to events 5 and 5a.</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P acknowledges that leaving his job is not what most people would do. It seems that he made a decision to believe that his decision to leave his job would be for the better “Ja...believing in that from the start...”</p> <p>The P jokingly says the only disappointment was that he did not win the lottery (that it wasn't as easy as he thought – money did not just drop into his lap) – “ja, the only thing is that it didn't pan out ...I didn't win the lotto (laughs)”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of positivity (leaving work)</p>
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8

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	Unfortunately (laughing)		
P	<p>But maybe it gave me a learning experience...you can't read a thing and say “if you think positive then that's it, tomorrow you'll win the lotto”. It doesn't guarantee you. The book actually....maybe I took it out of proportion...just look at the positive things...the grass is green, the birds are singing, that type of thing ...maybe I stretched it a little further than thatI can get beyond this, I was higher than everybody else, because I'm thinking positively, you know....I probably didn't go the right road, I fell off the bus...</p>	<p>The book as teacher</p> <p>The narrative of learning is introduced in this event, contextualized regarding the lessons the P learnt from taking a message he took from a book, out of context.</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualized regarding post-divorce adaptation. It links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b and 6.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is introducing the narrative of learning. It seems that the P has done some reflecting about the message he took from the book he read after the divorce, and the extent to which he implemented that message in his life. It seems that he acknowledges that perhaps he took the message of being “positive in life” and “positive that things will work out somehow” too far – “[the whole extract applies here]”</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event. It seems that the P, through highlighting the message</p>

			<p>of positivity that he gained in the book he read, he seems to compare that with his struggle that he faced post-divorce. It seems that the divorce was something that required the P to work on and move past. The book also seemed to give him a sense of confidence (which was perhaps shattered by the divorce) and helped remedy his negative thinking – “maybe I stretched it a little further than that ...I can get beyond this, I was higher than everybody else, because I’m thinking positively, you know....”</p> <p>The P acknowledges that perhaps he made mistakes after the divorce. The P uses the metaphor of a <u>road</u> and <u>vehicle</u> – that none of the two worked out – he did not choose the right path, and fell off the vehicle he was using at the time. It seems that the P is saying that after the divorce the tool (book) he used to get him through the aftermath of the divorce was perhaps not the way he would have done it with hindsight – “...I probably didn’t go the right road, I fell off the bus...” It seems that the P is saying that he lost track of the course of his life after the divorce.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of learning (post-divorce reflection) Narrative of difficulty (post-divorce)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action	Landscape Of Meaning
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		(History)	(Culture)
R	Come back.... meaning?		
P	To your family...There I didn't have any family ...the only support you really got, if you really needed support, was your friends...but I didn't have much friends, they were mostly her friends, you know...that she hanged with, so she actually said I think you should go back and be with your family ...you've left your job, you've missed yourself....	<p>Divorce</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is introduced in this event, contextualized regarding the divorce.</p> <p>It links to events 3,4 and 4a.</p> <p>The narrative of aloneness is introduced, linking to the P's support systems post-divorce.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is extending on the narrative of difficulty he experienced post divorce. The difficulty was two-fold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Firstly, it seems the P found not having his family close to him after the divorce, as difficult, since it seems that he needed much emotional support. – “To your family...There I didn't have any family ...the only support you really got, if you really needed support, was your friends...” ♣ It seems that the P was faced with not having a wide support system during that time when it came to friends, which he may have needed for support. There is a feeling of aloneness that seems to come through– “the only support you really got, if you really needed support, was your friends...but I didn't have much friends, they were mostly her friends, you know...” So not only did he lose his wife, he lost friends too. <p>It seems that the P took the divorce very hard (having left his job)and needed to hear it from other people that he needed help – “so she actually said I think you should go back and be with your family ...you've left your job, you've missed yourself....”</p>

			<p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (divorce & emotional support) Narrative of aloneness (support systems)</p>
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10

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
P	<p>My family was in Jo'burg and I was the only one actually in Cape Town...family wise...I did have an Aunt and Uncle there butumm (long pause).....I can go visit them, but I can't communicate with them...my problem was that I couldn't go to them, well I could have probably I never went to them and said "listen I've got a problem"....I don't like...I don't like leaning on people....like I'm short this month, can you help me....you know, you've got to understand, I didn't know them...if people say is everything alright, I just say yes...I don't want people...mostly when it comes to uncles and aunts...I never really lived with them, you know what I'm saying...I was maybe brought up with them until I was ten or something and then I met them again when I was what, 30 something....so I knew them as family but I didn't know them as a support person...you know, I never really had any support, not that I needed support at that time because I'm strong enough...mentally I didn't need them...maybe physically I don't know...So I just came back here, back to jo'burg, I think I stayed with my parents for a month and I was still looking for a job...my dad helped me out, he got me work at....he used to work at clover...</p>	<p>Family</p> <p>The narrative of aloneness is extended in this event, contextualized regarding the P's support system Post-divorce. It links to event 4b.</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualized regarding asking for help from extended family. It links to events 3, 4, 4a and 4b.</p>	<p>The narrative of aloneness is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the P's family. It seems that the P felt alone in Cape Town – "My family was in Jo'burg and <u>I was the only one actually</u> in Cape Town...family wise..." It seems that the P considers his family to be his <u>family of origin</u> which excludes his uncle and aunt when it comes to needing support, financially or otherwise – "My family was in Jo'burg and I was the only one actually in Cape Town...family wise...I did have an Aunt and Uncle there butumm (long pause).....I can go visit them, but I can't communicate with them...my problem was that I couldn't go to them, well I could have probably I never went to them and said "listen I've got a problem"....I don't like...I don't like leaning on people....like I'm short this month, can you help me....you know, you've got to understand, I didn't know them..."</p> <p>It seems that after the divorce it was difficult for the P to ask for help from family he did not know well, and for others to know that he is struggling – "I don't like leaning on people....like I'm short this month, can you help me....you know, you've</p>

		<p>got to understand, I didn't know them...if people say is everything alright, I just say yes...I don't want people...mostly when it comes to uncles and aunts...I never really lived with them, you know what I'm saying..."</p> <p>It seems like the P needs to know people well before he can trust in letting them know that he is not doing alright or before he can ask for help – "...if people say is everything alright, I just say yes...I don't want people...mostly when it comes to uncles and aunts...I never really lived with them, you know what I'm saying...I was maybe brought up with them until I was ten or something and then I met them again when I was what, 30 something....so I knew them as family but I didn't know them as a support person...you know, I never really had any support, not that I needed support at that time because I'm strong enough...mentally I didn't need them...maybe physically I don't know..."</p> <p>It seems that after the divorce the P felt that he needed physical support (perhaps money and/or physical presence) as opposed to emotional support (which would be consistent with his personality characteristics that the P described in event 1 – that he is quiet).</p> <p>The P speaks of the difficulty he experienced post-divorce in events 4a and 4b, which seems to link with his decision to move back to Johannesburg to stay with his parents (e.g. left his job and needed physical support).</p> <p>The way in which the P narrates his decision to come back to Johannesburg, it</p>
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			<p>seems as though it was something that had to happen – it was inevitable due to the financial strain he was experiencing – “So I just came back here, back to jo’burg, I think I stayed with my parents for a month and I was still looking for a job...my dad helped me out, he got me work at....he used to work at clover...”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of aloneness (away from family) Narrative of difficulty (asking for support)</p>
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11

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	In terms of...well, you said that the divorce was quite smooth, how did you guys agree upon where Chris would go?		
P	<p>We came to an agreement....on what you get, I get...I had...we had two vehicles...one vehicle I was still paying off, so she wanted that vehicle...so I said ok, that’s fine, you can have the vehicle, and I’ll have the house and so....we agreed that it was 50/50. Then she wanted a t.v. and knives and folks and things like that...you know, little odds and ends in the house and I said ok no, that’s fine she can have them. And then she wanted custody of Chris (coughs)....and I would aaah...I would see him on the weekends...So I said ok well that’s fine, I don’t have a problem with that...When she left, I looked after him. So technically, she left without him and like I say, it was six weeks...maybe two months that we were separated. He would just go and see her, maybe on a Wednesday or whatever, but he wasn’t physically there...I was actually looking after him. Then she just decides to go to court and the judge asked “does he agree to it ?” And she said yes, he’s signed all the papers and he’s agreed to all the information. Then he said, “where is your son now?”, and she said no, he’s living with me at the moment and that’s what threw the spanner in the works because on</p>	<p>Divorce logistics</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualised regarding the custody of his son. This links to events events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e and 4f.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is continuing to extend on the narrative of difficulty during the divorce. The P seems to do this through contrasting the ease of dividing of material assets with the custody of his son:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P seems to have found the assigning of material goods as the easy part of the divorce – “We came to an agreement....on what you get, I get...I had...we had two vehicles...one vehicle I was still paying off, so she wanted that vehicle...so I said ok, that’s fine, you can have the vehicle, and I’ll have the house and so....we agreed that it was 50/50. Then she wanted a t.v. and knives and folks and things

	<p>the paper it said you have to get custody, but you haven't looked after him for the last two months. So he said no we've got to postpone the court case until I can come to court and we can agree on where the child...where he'll be staying. But they needed me, obviously to get my opinion and aah, she didn't want to go through that. She didn't want to go and add another month or whatever ...she wanted to get a divorce that specific day. He said "if you get divorced today, then you lose the rights to your son" and so she did it and she signed and that shocked me as well...but at that stage I didn't know why she needed a divorce that day ...she couldn't wait another month, or whatever...and like I say, I didn't know what the root of the problem was and why she had to go through with everything today...you know</p>		<p>like that...you know, little odds and ends in the house and I said ok no, that's fine she can have them. And then she wanted custody of Chris (coughs)..."</p> <p>♣ It seems from the P's cough after introducing the idea of custody ("And then she wanted custody of Chris (coughs)..."), that this was the difficulty they experienced in the divorce process. It seems that the custody of Chris was something they mutually agreed on, but that it did not turn out as expected for various reasons:</p> <p>The P agreed to visitation rights with his son every weekend, where his ex-wife wanted custody during the week. Yet, when she left, the P looked after the son on a full time basis, where the ex-wife saw him on Wednesdays – "When she left, I looked after him. So technically, she left without him and like I say, it was six weeks...maybe two months that we were separated. He would just go and see her, maybe on a Wednesday or whatever, but he wasn't physically there...I was actually looking after him."</p> <p>It seems from this narrative that the P found difficulty in his wife leaving their son behind, and yet requesting custody, which seemed to be the shared sentiments of the court – "Then he said, "where is your son?", and she said no, he's living with me at the moment and that's what threw the spanner in the works</p>
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		<p>because on the paper it said you have to get custody, but you haven't looked after him for the last two months.”</p> <p>It seems that the P felt that she had abandoned her son, and had not proved that she wanted him to stay with her on a fulltime basis, since she did not make the effort from the beginning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that the P found it difficult to come to terms with his ex-wife not wanting to extend the court date by another month to get custody of their son – “But they needed me, obviously to get my opinion and aah, she didn't want to go through that. She didn't want to go and add another month or whatever ...she wanted to get a divorce that specific day.” ♣ Secondly, it seems that the P found it difficult to understand why she would agree to getting a divorce that same day, knowing that she would lose rights to her child – “He said “if you get divorced today, then you lose the rights to your son” and so she did it and she signed and that shocked me as well...” ♣ During that period when they were getting the divorce, the P seemed to be questioning a lot, especially about the reason for their divorce, which seemed to have made understanding his wife's reason for agreeing to losing custody of their son,
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			<p>difficult as well – “but at that stage I didn’t know why she needed a divorce that day ...she couldn’t wait another month, or whatever....and like I say, I didn’t know what the root of the problem was and why she had to go through with everything today...you know”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (divorce & custody)</p>
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12

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	How did you feel about the change of plans....from two days a week....to, full time dad....?		
P	<p>Ja....you see...I didn’t get...I didn’t go there....I knew that that was going to be the plan, that I would only see him every second weekend, or whatever. Maybe it didn’t really hit melike I say, I was still sad about the divorce....and I didn’t really know what the problem is....If that happened, then I would have realised that I’ve just got divorced and I’ve got custody....you worry about other stuff other than actually worrying where he’s going and stuff like thatso it didn’t really bother me at that stage. So if it went there, I would have been able to tell you, like I say at that stage I lost my job, I didn’t really have a goal...but I can’t really give you my opinion....like I say, at that stage, I wasn’t really worried....</p>	<p>Divorce logistics</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the Psychological/emotional impact of the divorce. This links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f and 4g.</p>	<p>From this event it seems that the change in initial custody agreements was not the salient issue for the P after the divorce was finalized. It would seem that the narrative of difficulty is extended here, with the P illustrating what were prominent areas of difficulty that he had to deal with after the divorce, which made it difficult for him to really absorb what he was agreeing to in respect of seeing his son two days a week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The impact of the divorce seemed to have a <u>delayed effect</u>. It seems that what the divorce meant for the future was not the salient issue, but rather what it meant for the P in the “Here and Now” – “I knew

			<p>that that was going to be the plan, that I would only see him every second weekend, or whatever. Maybe it didn't really hit me”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P was <u>feeling low</u> after the divorce, perhaps mourning the loss of his relationship, which made it difficult for him to comprehend what he was agreeing to in respect of custody – “I knew that that was going to be the plan, that I would only see him every second weekend, or whatever. Maybe it didn't really hit melike I say, I was still sad about the divorce....” ♣ It seems that the P was also in a phase of attempting to understand what <u>led</u> to the divorce, which took the focus off what the custody negotiations meant for his relationship with his son – “Maybe it didn't really hit melike I say, I was still sad about the divorce....and I didn't really know what the problem is....” ♣ It seems that <u>not knowing</u> what the reason for the divorce was, inhibited the P from understanding the scope of responsibilities full custody brought, as opposed to a “two day a week dad” – “and I didn't really know what the problem is....If that happened, then I would have
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			<p>realised that I've just got divorced and I've got custody....you worry about other stuff other than actually worrying where he's going and stuff like thatso it didn't really bother me at that stage.”</p> <p>♣ The P demonstrates further the toll the divorce took on him, by including other <u>aspects</u> of his life that were affected by the divorce such as losing his <u>job</u> and not having <u>goals</u> – “So if it went there, I would have been able to tell you, like I say at that stage I lost my job, I didn't really have a goal...”</p> <p>Summary Narrative of difficulty (divorce: delayed effect; low; reasons for divorce; not knowing; losing job; losing goals)</p>
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13

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	So then, when it was signed and sealed and now you a dad full time....how was that experience?		
P	The experience....like I say....I left my job....then after a while, I have money in my account which we could live off that for a while....then I realised it's not only you that's going to suffer at the end of the dayif you carry on the way you are carrying on it's not only my salary at the end of the day and me going hungry....it's not that we were hungrybut you can see the bank account getting thinner, and you can see in the next month, you going to be suffering....then I thought it's ok for me to suffer, but I'm taking Chris with me....and he hasn't really done anything to deserve living on the streets. So my sister...lucky my sister came to visit me	<p>Full time fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is further expanded on, contextualized regarding full time fatherhood post divorce. This links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g and 4h.</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of difficulty, contextualized regarding his custody of his son after the divorce.</p> <p>♣ It seems that the divorce was difficult on the P, since he frames his experience in the context of three things that were affected by the divorce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Left his job - Enough money for his

<p>for a week and she said that things don't look very good here let me take him off your hands for a while, till you can get on your feet and then he can come back. So once he left then I didn't have the getting ready for school....does he have something to eat for school....what's for supper....it's all about you. In a sense it was better....I didn't have to worry about him....dad where's this, dad where's that....dad I need to go and bath, get in the bath....you are more listening to him, than thinking about your own stuff...and then that's when it actually hit me that "you are going down the tubes" because you are sitting in the house by yourself, you knowja you have people coming to visit you, that disturb you a little bit, and keep you off the track of thinking about your own problems...you listen to them and how their weekend was and whatever, and it's nice when everyone has gone home, you realise there's something you need to doit's not only you that's here, there's someone you need to look after. But, I think if I stayed by myself, then I don't know, not that I say I would commit suicide or go there but I'm just saying that you feel lonely....if I die, I die....if I starve....I starve.....your only worry is yourself....but now I had to worry about another person, you know....</p>		<p>survival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Realised he had another person to worry about – “The experience....like I say....I left my job....then after a while, I have money in my account which we could live off that for a while....then I realised it's not only you that's going to suffer at the end of the dayif you carry on the way you are carrying on it's not only my salary at the end of the day and me going hungry....” ♣ It seems that full time custody made the P aware of the <u>responsibilities</u> that fatherhood brought, during a difficult period in his life (i.e. being without work) – “....then I realised it's not only you that's going to suffer at the end of the dayif you carry on the way you are carrying on it's not only my salary at the end of the day and me going hungry....it's not that we were hungrybut you can see the bank account getting thinner, and you can see in the next month, you going to be suffering....then I thought it's ok for me to suffer, but I'm taking Chris with me....and he hasn't really done anything to deserve living on the streets.” ♣ The P demonstrates his concern for his <u>son's well being</u>, and wanting to <u>provide</u> for his son's needs (e.g. money, food, housing), which was difficult post divorce.
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			<p>[refer to above quote]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that the P further demonstrates the financial difficulty post-divorce and how this impacted on his ability to provide, by describing how <u>bad</u> the situation was, that his sister needed to look after Chris until things got better financially for the P – “So my sister...lucky my sister came to visit me for a week and she said that things don’t look very good here let me take him off your hands for a while, till you can get on your feet and then he can come back.” It seems that the <u>providing</u> aspect of his parenting role was difficult for the P due to the emotional toll the divorce took on him and the financial stress he was experiencing due to leaving his job. ♣ It seems it was difficult for the P to have another person to physically look after – it seems that he found it difficult enough to look after himself, and the extra responsibility proved tough – “So once he left then I didn’t have the getting ready for school....does he have something to eat for school....what’s for supper....it’s all about you. In a sense it was better....I didn’t have to worry about him...dad where’s this, dad where’s that....dad I need to go and bath, get in the bath....you are more listening to him, than thinking about your own stuff...” It seems
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			<p>like it was a physical strain on him to have another person to look after post divorce, since it seemed to be himself that he needed to attend to first before he could attend to the basic needs of his son.</p> <p>♣ It seems that during the P's son was with his sister, gave the P time to think about what had transpired after the divorce and helped him identify what he needed to do – “and then that’s when it actually hit me that “you are going down the tubes” because you are sitting in the house by yourself, you know ...ja you have people coming to visit you, that disturb you a little bit, and keep you off the track of thinking about your own problems...you listen to them and how their weekend was and whatever, and it’s nice when everyone has gone home, you realise there’s something you need to do ...it’s not only you that’s here, there’s someone you need to look after.” It seems that the aloneness taught him what was important – himself and his son.</p> <p>♣ Fatherhood seemed to have saved the P. It gave him a purpose- he had someone other than himself to be concerned with -</p> <p>“But, I think if I stayed by myself, then I don’t know, not that I say I would commit suicide or go there but I’m just saying that you feel lonely....if I die, I die....if I starve....I</p>
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			<p>starve....your only worry is yourself....but now I had to worry about another person, you know....”</p> <p>I get the sense that full time fatherhood, on top of the emotional stress of being divorced, was like a shock to the system at first – but one in which saved him after he knew what he needed to do – to provide for his son.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (fatherhood after divorce)</p>
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14

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	So in a sense it saved you?		
P	<p>Ja...ja...not, like I say, that I wanted to commit suicide or anything umm...it’s just that, I only worry about my own pocket then I could go and weed gardens or something, for example, to get a loaf of bread, but that loaf’s not going to help feed Chris...but , not that I had to pay school fees, or whatever, but I mean I still had to feed him, and you find out that if you not doing that, then you’re not a fit parent. But it did help to come down here and kind of kicked my ass to go and get a job....and there I was lucky, I still never looked for a job....because I came here and my dad helped me and worked there for two weeks....I went to Germiston and my ex-boss bumps into me and said I must come see him...I went to see him and didn’t like the money he was offering me...I left and two days he phoned me and offered me more moneyso I actually didn’t go and look for a job..... upsetting my mother now as well, because I was still not looking for a job and this was upsetting because we were staying there and everything....but then I got a job and things got going I said to myself Ja no...I can do something.....</p>	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of rescue is introduced in this event, contextualized regarding the emotional benefits the P gained from his relationship with his son. The narrative of difficulty is further extended, contextualized regarding the P’s parental responsibility to look after his son. This links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h and 7.</p> <p>The narrative of helping is introduced, contextualized regarding the P’s parents helping him, his ex-boss giving the P a job, and the job giving him meaning in life.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P introduces the narrative of rescue, contextualized regarding the symbiotic relationship he had with his son. It seems that his son <u>taught</u> him how to be a better parent - be less focused on himself and more concerned with what was beneficial for himself – “Ja...ja...not, like I say, that I wanted to commit suicide or anything umm...it’s just that, I only worry about my own pocket then I could go and weed gardens or something, for example, to get a loaf of bread, but that loaf’s not going to help feed Chris...but , not that I had to pay school fees, or whatever, but I mean I still had to feed him, and you find out that if you not doing that, then you’re not a fit parent.”</p> <p>It seems from this narrative that the P is extending on the narrative</p>

		<p>of difficulty, in his awareness that although he did not have to financially provide for all his sons needs (e.g. food, and schooling), the P needed to provide for his sons basic need for survival – that of food, and he could not do that with no income. It seems that P understands a <u>fit parent</u> as one that can provide for their <u>children’s basic needs</u> – “but I mean I still had to feed him, and you find out that if you not doing that, then you’re not a fit parent.”</p> <p>It seems that the P is introducing the narrative of helping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Going back home to his parents was helpful – it seemed to get the P back on track in respect of getting motivated to find work – “But it did help to come down here and kind of kicked my ass to go and get a job....” ♣ It seems as though the P extends on this narrative of helping through explaining how his <u>dad</u> helped him find work for two weeks and then coming across his former <u>boss</u>, who offered him a job. It seems that the job found the P as opposed to the other way around – “and there I was lucky, I still never looked for a job....because I came here and my dad helped me and worked there for two weeks....I went to Germiston and my ex-boss bumps into me and said I must come see him...I went to see him and didn’t like the money he was offering me...I left and two days
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			<p>he phoned me and offered me more money ...so I actually didn't go and look for a job.....”</p> <p>♣ It seems that the effects of the divorce on the P in terms of his shifting his work related prioritise and emotional distress affected his <u>mother</u> as well. It could be that it was difficult for the mother to see her son with little motivation to actively look for a divorce or, that she had an added financial strain with her son and grandson staying with her – “so I actually didn't go and look for a job..... upsetting my mother now as well, because I was still not looking for a job and this was upsetting because we were staying there and everything....”</p> <p>It seems getting a job was a catalyst for change, and helped the P find motivation and purpose – “but then I got a job and things got going I said to myself Ja no...I can do something.....”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of rescue (son rescued P) Narrative of difficulty Narrative of helping (parents and job)</p>
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15

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	What was it like when you were staying with your folks after the divorce?		
P	It's like being a kid again, you know....it's likewake up, and there's breakfast for you....wake up, you know...late in the afternoon, and there's	Parents The narrative of helping is extended in this event,	It would seem from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of helping introduced in event

	<p>lunchso it was like being a kid again, but not going to school....so it was cool, I mean I got smokes from my sister, so ja it was like going back to school where you where you had nothing to worry about even though it took a little bit of time to get back on my feet again and if I had to start from scratch again, that's fine....and actually I wasn't really thinking about that you know, I thought well I'm here and I'll do my own thing you know...ok maybe it wasn't, maybe if it went a little longer, two months, three months , then I would have said no, this is not working for me</p>	<p>contextualized regarding the help the P received from his parents post-divorce. This links to event 7a.</p>	<p>7a.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that his parents took care of all his needs when he stayed with them. The P uses the metaphor of “being a kid again” – which could imply nurturing, being care free, everything taken care of. The P explicitly states that the thing that made his experience of staying with his parents different then from being a child, was that he did not have to attend school– “It’s like being a kid again, you know....it’s likewake up, and there’s breakfast for you....wake up, you know...late in the afternoon, and there’s lunchso it was like being a kid again, but not going to school....” ♣ It seems that the P had all his immediate needs met during the time he stayed with his parents, which seems to have reminded the P of his childhood. ♣ The P was faced with having to try to <u>move on with his life</u>, and the possibility of having to start over again, while being faced with moving back to his parents (which he had developmentally outgrown) The P seemed to have lived in the here and now in the short time he did not have a job while staying with his folks – “....and actually I wasn't really thinking about that you know, I thought well I'm here and I'll do my own thing you know...ok maybe it
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			<p>wasn't, maybe if it went a little longer, two months, three months, then I would have said no, this is not working for me" It seems as though the <u>duration</u> of the stay would have made a difference to how the P would have evaluated the situation, if he did not find work in two or three months, it seems as if the extent of the time he would have stayed with his parents would have made a difference on starting his life again.</p> <p>The P's narrative seems to show how the extended system can be affected by divorce and the resources they can provide in their helping post-divorce.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of helping (parents)</p>
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16

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	And so your being a parent now umm....is their a parent in particular that has informed your sense of being a parent or....how would you make sense of it?		
P	Well he doesn't actually stay with me....my mother is actually the one who is disciplining him....I would like him to stay with or whatever.....but I give him a choice as wellI say listen here, the school is closed now, so I can drop you offand now we already planned this last...maybe last year October, November, maybe a bit sooner, and he said no problem. When it came to December and we said are you ready to move in he said no he wants to stay living with his granny. What his decision is, I thought ok, that's your choice ...you know, in a way you don't really want to force him. The moment we said that we want to leavehe said he wants to come with....so far	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of freedom of choice is introduced in this event, contextualized regarding the P's sons' choices.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is introducing the narrative of freedom of choice. It seems that the P understands the way one parents a child in relation to whether the child stays with you on a full time basis, and the discipline you instil.</p> <p>R: "And so your being a parent now umm....is their a parent in particular that has informed your sense of being a parent or....how would you make sense of it?" P "Well he doesn't actually stay with me....my</p>

			<p>mother is actually the one who is disciplining him...”</p> <p>It seems that the P may feel that his mother is doing more of the parenting than he is at this stage.</p> <p>Further, the P introduces the narrative of freedom of choice when it comes to his parenting style. It seems that he allows his son’s voice to be heard when it comes to where his son wants to reside. It seems important for the P to guide his son and not force him into decisions that wont make him happy – “I would like him to stay with or whatever.....but I give him a choice as well...” ; “What his decision is, I thought ok, that’s your choice ...you know, in a way you don’t really want to force him”</p> <p>Reflecting on our conversation regarding the P’s experience of his father growing up, and how he mentioned that talking was not part of their relationship in his formative years, it seems that the P is doing it differently with his own son, asking his opinion on important decisions.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of freedom of choice (son’s decision making)</p>
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17

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	And so your being a parent now umm....is their a parent in particular that has informed your sense of being a parent or...how would you make sense of it?		
P	Well he doesn’t actually stay with me....my mother is actually the one who is disciplining him....I would like him to stay with or whatever.....but I give him a	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of freedom of choice is introduced in</p>	It would seem from this event that the P is introducing the narrative of freedom of choice . It

	<p>choice as well ...I say listen here, the school is closed now, so I can drop you off ...and now we already planned this last...maybe last year October, November, maybe a bit sooner, and he said no problem. When it came to December and we said are you ready to move in he said no he wants to stay living with his granny. What his decision is, I thought ok, that's your choice ...you know, in a way you don't really want to force him. The moment we said that we want to leavehe said he wants to come with....so far</p>	<p>this event, contextualized regarding the P's sons' choices.</p>	<p>seems that the P understands the way one parents a child in relation to whether the child stays with you on a full time basis, and the discipline you instil.</p> <p>R: "And so your being a parent now umm...is their a parent in particular that has informed your sense of being a parent or...how would you make sense of it?" P "Well he doesn't actually stay with me....my mother is actually the one who is disciplining him..."</p> <p>It seems that the P may feel that his mother is doing more of the parenting than he is at this stage.</p> <p>Further, the P introduces the narrative of freedom of choice when it comes to his parenting style. It seems that he allows his son's voice to be heard when it comes to where his son wants to reside. It seems important for the P to guide his son and not force him into decisions that wont make him happy – "I would like him to stay with or whatever.....but I give him a choice as well..." ; "What his decision is, I thought ok, that's your choice ...you know, in a way you don't really want to force him"</p> <p>Reflecting on our conversation regarding the P's experience of his father growing up, and how he mentioned that talking was not part of their relationship in his formative years, it seems that the P is doing it differently with his own son, asking his opinion on important decisions.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of freedom of</p>
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			choice (son's decision making)
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18

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	So you moved up to Jo'burg after the divorce and since then, when you got on your feet thereafter, Chris decided to stay with granny....		
P	Ja		
R	Ok		
P	Ja he's been staying there because I couldn't really, in a way, support him, I was doing my own thing at that moment. I knew there he would be supported and get the discipline from my mother, ok....it doesn't work any way (laughs)....he's very challenging. And that's the way he became settled in a way....he's going in to high school now...maybe he can sort it out. He doesn't want to...not saying that next month he won't change his mind, I don't know, that's up to him. But again, I give him the choice "what does he want?" He knows I don't discipline him much, but granny disciplines him more, but he would rather stay there, you know....	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualized regarding his post divorce experience of parenting his son. This links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e 7f, 7g, 7h, 7i, 7j, 7l, 7m and 8a and 8b.</p> <p>The narrative of freedom of choice is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the P's sons' choices. This links to events 7o and 7p.</p>	<p>The P seems to be continuing the narrative of difficulty in this event. The difficulty extends into many facets of the P's experience of parenting his son, post-divorce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P was unable to support his son after the divorce (I assume financially and emotionally) and attempted to do the best for his son despite the difficulty – allow his mother to look after him – “Ja he's been staying there because I couldn't really, in a way, support him, I was doing my own thing at that moment. I knew there he would be supported and get the discipline from my mother, ok...” ♣ Secondly, the P touches on the difficulty of disciplining his son, which he has made his mothers role while Chris resides with his mother, and how the disciplining is not always successful – “the discipline from my mother, ok....it doesn't work any way (laughs)....he's very challenging.” ♣ It seems that the supportive environment Chris has with his gran was important for the P

			<p>after the divorce – that it aided in helping Chris adapt to after the divorce – “And that’s the way he became settled in a way....”</p> <p>The P seems to continue the narrative of freedom of choice in relation to the difficulty of disciplining his son.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ It seems that he is still confused as to whether his son will decide on staying with him, or whether he will decide to stay with his gran who is the disciplinarian. – “He doesn’t want to...not saying that next month he won’t change his mind, I don’t know, that’s up to him. But again, I give him the choice “what does he want?” He knows I don’t discipline him much, but granny disciplines him more, but he would rather stay there, you know....” <p>Summary: The narrative of difficulty (Support son post-divorce; discipline son) Narrative of freedom of choice (discipline VS Staying with dad)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	How often do you see him then?		
P	I see him every weekend...he comes every weekend. Before we used to go and get him on a Saturday night and he would stay through to Sunday and then go home on Sunday night. Now he’s staying there, I pick him up Friday afternoon after school and he goes home on Sunday night. School holidays, he comes to stay with mewell not with me because I’m at work, but with	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of visitation is introduced in this event, contextualized regarding the P seeing his son.</p>	<p>The P discusses the extent of time he spends with his son. The P emphasises that he sees his son every weekend. He then goes on to compare how it has changed over time: the P used to see his son</p>

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	us		<p>from Saturday night to Sunday night and now, he picks him up on a Friday and takes him back to gran on Sunday evening.</p> <p>The P discusses how his son spends his school holidays with him and his partner, but not with him in particular (it seems that his work takes time away from him with his son).</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>Narrative of visitation (post-divorce)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	How would you make sense of your experiences with your father.....		
P	<p>The thing is that my father never hit me ...my father lifted his belt to me, once in my life....that's what was special about him. That day, I think he used a belt or a slipper, he gave me six...and afterwards I went to my room and started laughing, you know, because there was no slapping then....so I laughed and then my mother saw me laughing. So <u>technically</u> my dad has never lifted his hand to me, and has never given me a hidinggave the one, I think I was 15, I laughed ...not in his face, because that's not respectful, but ok, I went to my room and laughed. So <u>technically</u> in my life, I have never been disciplined by a male ...you see....so maybe that's why it's so hard for me, coz my mother did the disciplining ...she gave you the hidings, she said no t.v. She was the disciplining figure. Maybe that's what ...I was looking for when I was going out with...that was her duty....my mother did the disciplining that was her duty. Maybe that has something to do with it, I don't know, but my dad never disciplined me</p>	<p>Parents & Discipline</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the P's experience of discipline growing up. This links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e 7f, 7g, 7h, 7i, 7j, 7l and 7m.</p>	<p>The P seems to be continuing the narrative of difficulty regarding his experience of discipline growing up, in relation to administering discipline to his son:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ The P draws on the experience of growing up with a dad that did not discipline him. He uses the word "technically" twice in the narrative when describing how his dad did not do the disciplining when he was growing up. It seems as though the "technical" role of disciplinarian was not held by his father, albeit that he did receive a hiding from him at age 15. Technical could mean the act of disciplining in a demonstrative and proactive manner,

		<p>which seemed to be the role reserved for his mom. So in a sense I get the feeling that his dad was on the sidelines of the disciplining.</p> <p>♣ It seems that the P's difficulty with disciplining his son can be understood in the context of him not experiencing the disciplinarian role as a male one. It was a role reserved for his mother. Thus the P's <u>gender</u> makes it problematic for him to discipline his son, since it goes against the way he was socialized growing up. "So <u>technically</u> in my life, I have never been disciplined by a male ...you see....so maybe that's why it's so hard for me, coz my mother did the disciplining ...she gave you the hidings, she said no t.v. She was the disciplining figure. Maybe that's what ...I was looking for when I was going out with...that was her duty....my mother did the disciplining that was her duty. Maybe that has something to do with it, I don't know, but my dad never disciplined me.</p> <p>It seems that the P feels that it is a female's duty to discipline, making the role difficulty for him.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (discipline)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action	Landscape Of Meaning
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		(History)	(Culture)
R	So it was a lot of trial and error		
P	<p>Yes...to this day...(laughs)...but you know, it's when you get to a point when you don't know what to do any more to discipline him...you could take his t.v. away, it's fine you know...ok, it's not fine in the beginning but after a while they get so used to it, they don't care ...you give them hidings, where their backsides get sore, and then their backsides get hard or something....you know you could take it to the next step and take a belt and then that's going to be harder for him...but I don't feel that's right. I used to be flacked with a belt, you know....I think should I have to go to extremes because that's not hurting you, should I go to extremes and take a belt...if that's not hurting you and go to the extremes to a shambok and then climb up the ladder I don't want to go that way....I just know it doesn't work for you by slapping....so I don't want to....why carry on and get ...more forceful...you can see it's not helping him...so you try something else...it works for a while and then it fades away, you know....</p>	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is extended further in this event, contextualized regarding disciplining. This links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e 7f and 7g.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of difficulty regarding disciplining his son. It seems that the P's difficulty lies in the disciplining losing efficacy:</p> <p>“but you know, it's when you get to a point when you don't know what to do any more to discipline him...you could take his t.v. away, it's fine you know...ok, it's not fine in the beginning but after a while they get so used to it, they don't care ...you give them hidings, where their backsides get sore, and then their backsides get hard or something....”</p> <p>Secondly, the P describes his reluctance to get more aggressive with his disciplining methods, against the backdrop of his experience of being disciplined as a child. It seems that his experience has taught him a sense of empathy concerning discipline and that discipline has limits – “you know you could take it to the next step and take a belt and then that's going to be harder for him...but I don't feel that's right. I used to be flacked with a belt, you know....I think should I have to go to extremes because that's not hurting you, should I go to extremes and take a belt...if that's not hurting you and go to the extremes to a shambok and then climb up the ladder I don't want to go</p>

			<p>that way....I just know it doesn't work for you by slapping....so I don't want to....why carry on and get ...more forceful...you can see it's not helping him...so you try something else...it works for a while and then it fades away, you know...."</p> <p>It seems that the duration of the discipline's efficacy is difficult for the P in his parenting.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (discipline)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	What did your dad do.....How was he a dad?		
P	<p>He was a fine dad. He was ...ok, we didn't talk too much or whatever. Yes I did help him when fixing his cars and that used to be boring because I would just stand there and hand him a spanner. But otherwise, we spoke a little bit, but not too much.....we weren't.....I was his child, and he was my father...that's it, you know. He went to work, came home at night, he was tired....I would ask him how was his day, fine. Only when, only when I left school and did my own thingtoday we talk a lot, you know what I mean. Today he asks how I am, what's going on here, how's the house going....so today we talk a lot. There was no...never discipline from his side ...never hit me, never shouted at us, you know...enough's enough....go to your room....he never did that. He wasn't the dad that....ja maybe that's why it's difficult for me to discipline someone because mentally, at the back of your mind, you are not a disciplinarian...the mother is...so maybe, I don't know....</p>	<p>Parents (dad)</p> <p>The narrative of absence is introduced in this event, concerning the P's relationship with his father in respect of talking and discipline. The narrative of difficulty is continued, contextualized regarding the difficulty the P experiences in his disciplining role. This links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e 7f, 7g, 7h, 7i, 7j, 7l, 7m and 8a.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P talks of the things that were absent in his relationship with his dad – talking and discipline. It seems like the P places a lot of importance on talking, when describing his relationship with his father. He describes how his father never spoke much while he was a child. He spent time with his father, but the talking was absent earlier in their relationship. The P then goes on to describe how their was a <u>hierarchical relationship</u> (a one up, one down; father and son) and his father was <u>tired</u>, which also contributed to limited communication between them. (This is interesting since in event 1 the P describes himself as not a talkative person, which seems to be similar to his</p>

		<p>dad. Further, the P describes his difficulty with disciplining his son because this was not done by his father growing up) It seems that the turning point in their talking was when the P left school and became independent – “Only when, only when I left school and did my own thingtoday we talk a lot, you know what I mean. Today he asks how I am, what’s going on here, how’s the house going....so today we talk a lot.” It seems that the P feels his dad has a sense of who the P is now that he is older and they have redefined their relationship. Discipline is another area in which his father was absent, and the P attributes this as being an important reason for his difficulty in disciplining his own son. – “There was no...never discipline from his side ...never hit me, never shouted at us, you know...enough’s enough....go to your room....he never did that. He wasn’t the dad that....ja maybe that’s why it’s difficult for me to discipline someone because mentally, at the back of your mind, you are not a disciplinarian...the mother is...so maybe, I don’t know....”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of absence(talking & discipline from dad) Narrative of difficulty (relationship with dad & discipline)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	If we jump back in to a time machine for a bit now, and we look back at you having been a father during the time that you were married and now being a father afterwards, how would you say it differs, if at all...maybe it doesn't, I'm not sure?		
P	It differs in a big way because aah...on the weekends he goes to bed at nine or whatever, when he's sleepy he goes to bed...aah, the big difference between not being by you for seven days ...even though he was with us for those seven days, it was fine, we had one or two ups and downs, where he's not really paying attention...umm, but it wasn't so bad. So I don't know if it has anything to do with the time you spend with somebody or you know, my opinion is that maybe if he stayed in my house for the next six months then he'll really get the discipline if things got difficult...ummm....	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The P extends on the narrative of difference, contextualized by comparing his post-divorce experience of parenting, with his prior full time experience of fatherhood. This links to events 2 and 2a.</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is extended in this event, contextualized regarding disciplining his son. This links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e 7f, 7g, 7h, 7i, 7j, 7l, 7m, 8a, 8b and 7q.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of difference, contextualized here regarding his pre and post divorce experiences of fatherhood:</p> <p>It seems that some of the difficulties the P experienced as a new full time father (i.e. losing sleep over son not sleeping enough) has changed now, where his son goes to bed when tired.</p> <p>Secondly, the P emphasizes that his son not being with him seven days a week is a "big difference".</p> <p>The P goes on to further illustrate the <u>difference</u> he experiences in fatherhood post divorce by giving the example of when his son did stay with him for seven days. It seemed somewhat challenging for the P over that week when he says "even though he was with us for those seven days, it was fine, we had one or two ups and downs, where he's not really paying attention...umm, but it wasn't so bad."</p> <p>It seems from this narrative that the P is concerned about the disciplining aspect of parenting, and how to deal with the challenges that children bring. It sounds as though the P finds this part of fatherhood particularly difficult – "So I don't know if it has anything to do with the time you spend with somebody or you know, my</p>

			<p>opinion is that maybe if he stayed in my house for the next six months then he'll really get the discipline if things got difficult...ummm...."</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difference (Pre and Post fatherhood) Narrative of difficulty (discipline)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	At the beginning of the interview you described yourself as a listener and then, during the course of the interview, I was also wondering where your voice was in your relationship and with the divorce....ummm....I've just wondered where your voice was in you being a father, so to speak, in those moments when he is amazing you with his stubbornness?		
P	Mmm?		
R	Do you know what I'm trying to say there?		
P	No I'm lost		
R	ummmm.....is it difficult for you to be able to say "I think you are being stubborn now"?		
P	It's difficult for me....because.....it's not likeyou know what I mean....it's difficult for me because he's a difficult person and he's a difficult person to get through to make him think like you do. And that maybe sometimes upsets me because your stubbornness in the later stages of your life can get you into trouble. I'm trying to, in a way, change that kind of thing and that's why sometimes it gets me cross because I can't get the stubbornness out of him. And now I just kind of look at it....if he's stubborn with me it's fine, but the thing is when he goes to...to a job or something ...because I worry as well that he's stubborn at school ...because you know, if you are stubborn at home, then, the chances are you'll be stubborn at school.	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualised regarding the P's sons' stubbornness. It links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e 7f, 7g, 7h, 7i, 7j, 7l, 7m, 8a, 8b, 7q, 7s, 7t, 7u, 7v, 7w and 7x and 7y.</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of difficulty concerning his son's stubbornness.</p> <p>It seems that there are different elements of difficulty the P experiences concerning the stubbornness:</p> <p>Firstly, the P seems to find difficulty in expressing his experience of stubbornness – "It's difficult for me....because.....it's not likeyou know what I mean...."</p> <p>Secondly the P experiences his son as difficult, and this is difficult for him – "it's difficult for me because he's a</p>

	<p>So I ask the teachers and they say no, he's fine. So if you are fine at school why are you so stubborn at home, you know...you know what I'm saying. He might be stubborn with his friends....why isn't he stubborn with his friends. So, maybe he'll be alright at workmaybe his boss will tell him to jump and he'll jump and he'll probably do all that stuff. He just knows which people to be stubborn with, I don't know...but it scares me to know, what is his future, if he can't sort out his stubbornness. But like I say, he's been to a private school, I've been there to talk to his teacher, two weeks ago, three weeks ago, and she said no he's fine....she doesn't have a problem with him...</p>		<p>difficult person..."</p> <p>Thirdly, the P finds it difficult to convince his son of his opinion – “he’s a difficult person to get through to make him think like you do...”</p> <p>Thirdly, it seems that the P gets frustrated since he seems to be attempting to correct his behaviour now so as to avoid him coming into conflict in future over his stubbornness – “And that maybe sometimes upsets me because your stubbornness in the later stages of your life can get you into trouble. I’m trying to, in a way, change that kind of thing and that’s why sometimes it gets me cross because I can’t get the stubbornness out of him.”</p> <p>It’s like his stubbornness is a stubborn dirt that he can’t get rid of no matter what he does. The P is concerned over what the stubbornness would do to his future, e.g. work and school. He has attempted to gauge the extent of his stubbornness by going to the school to talk to the teachers, which has seemed to have left the P more confused since they do not experience the stubbornness. It seems that the P wonders about the possible impact the stubbornness could have on his future relationships (friends) and employment.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (stubbornness)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	How do you approach the stubbornness in the moment?		
P	It depends what he's stubborn about you see...the smaller things I laugh it off ...but then...then when he says I didn't do	Fatherhood The narrative of	The P continues the narrative of difficulty in this event, regarding how

	<p>that...I wasn't the last one in the bathroom, or why should I switch off the light, that type of thing...that stubbornness...but then I say, but you were, he would like to argue a point and I think why you know....I get a bit cross, saying "why do you have to argue about it?" you know...just go switch off the light ...do something, you know. So sometimes it upsets me...some are the smallest things and some I wish he would just...learn.....like ok, I'll go switch off the light you know, I don't want to argue you know and I'll go switch it off ...I just don't know how to get around the stubbornness. And that's what irritates me...I just worry about the his future, you know</p>	<p>difficulty is continued in this event, contextualised regarding the P' son's stubbornness. It links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e 7f, 7g, 7h, 7i, 7j, 7l, 7m, 8a, 8b, 7q, 7s, 7t, 7u, 7v, 7w, 7x, 7y and 7z.</p>	<p>he handles the stubbornness. It seems that it depends on the situation, as to how he handles it: If it is minor, he uses humour to deflect it – "It depends what he's stubborn about you see...the smaller things I laugh it off..." However, it is a moral issue, where he lies about the situation, that angers the P – "then when he says I didn't do that...I wasn't the last one in the bathroom, or why should I switch off the light, that type of thing...that stubbornness...but then I say, but you were, he would like to argue a point and I think why you know....I get a bit cross, saying "why do you have to argue about it?" you know..." The P seems to want to understand his son's reason for arguing over something he has lied about, since he emphasises "why" twice. It seems that the stubbornness is a hurdle in his parenting and teaching his son – "some are the smallest things and some I wish he would just...learn.....like ok, I'll go switch off the light you know, I don't want to argue you know and I'll go switch it off ...I just don't know how to get around the stubbornness" The P is concerned about the influence the stubbornness will have on his sons future – "And that's what irritates me...I just worry about the his future, you know"</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (stubbornness)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	And reflecting back now.... so let's say you are sitting on your rocking chair....you're old and grey...how would you say you have done as a father up until this point?		
P	<p>Sometimes I feel I didn't do enoughsometimes I think no, I'm doing alright you know....Anything in life you ...you sometimes sit down and think, maybe I've made a mess of it, I've made a mess of the whole thing, you know and then sometimes you think "you're fine you know", he's healthy and he's doing fine. But then in the moment you know, you worry and you're serious and you think you shouldn't really worry you know ...your parents worried about you know, and maybe with your stuff, maybe they over exaggerated when they worried about you. I don't know if I worry too much...being a mother or a father you ask if you worry too much. I would say it doesn't really bother me but once or twice I thought hopefully I'll make it. But definitely, when you see how he's doing at school... the marks he's bringing home then you feel a little bit more confident that he's putting in the effort at school, even though he's maybe not putting the effort in at home, you know what I mean. Education to me is important you know....you get educated...and you study, that's really important to me....ummm...I'm pretty glad he's got his mothers brains ...(laughs)</p>	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of doubt is established in this event, contextualized regarding parenting.</p> <p>The narrative of worry is also established in this event, contextualized regarding parenting.</p> <p>The narrative of hope is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the P's sons' development. This links to event 7bb.</p>	<p>It would seem that the P introduces the narrative of doubt in this event concerning his success in parenting his son. It seems as if in parenting, the doubt ebbs and flows where sometimes he has concerns regarding how he has <u>performed</u> as a father and how he has <u>handled</u> situations in the past. Other times he turns to the positives he sees in his son, his good healthy and his functioning, and acknowledges his role in that. – "Sometimes I feel I didn't do enoughsometimes I think no, I'm doing alright you know....Anything in life you ...you sometimes sit down and think, maybe I've made a mess of it, I've made a mess of the whole thing, you know and then sometimes you think "you're fine you know", he's healthy and he's doing fine"</p> <p>The P introduces the narrative of worry, contextualised regarding his concern over his sons' well-being.</p> <p>It seems that the worry centres on two things: Worrying about his son and Worrying about whether his worrying is appropriate. He tries to compare his experience of worry with how his parents worried about him and questions if their concerns about him</p>

		<p>were valid. “But then in the moment you know, you worry and you’re serious and you think you shouldn’t really worry you know ...your parents worried about you know, and maybe with your stuff, maybe they over exaggerated when they worried about you. I don’t know if I worry too much...being a mother or a father you ask if you worry too much.”</p> <p>It seems that the worry has scared him a couple of times in is life, where he has wondered whether he will overcome it – “I would say it doesn’t really.”</p> <p>What follows is a change of direction in the narrative, with the P continuing the narrative of hope regarding his sons’ development. This seems to be the alternative to the doubt and worry he experiences regarding his performance as a father and how his son has turned out. He uses school as a way to measure his sons’ achievements.</p> <p>The P emphasises school and its importance to him. It seems that the P may never have ceased the opportunities an education can provide or may feel less educated than some since he compares his sons scholastic abilities to his wife’s intellect – “Education to me is important you know...you get educated...and you study, that’s really important to me...ummm...I’m pretty glad he’s got his mothers brains ...(laughs)”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of doubt (parenting) Narrative of worry (parenting)</p>
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			Narrative of hope (son & future)
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	Sounds like worrying has had a big place in fathering....?		
P	<p>Ja....I don't know if it's....it's your kid, so you're going to worry. I don't know if that's just the nature in you, you know what I mean...so ja, I worry. But like I say, when I see his report then I say ok, I know he's doing well at his studies. Sometimes I think he just carries on because I'm his parent and I think that sometimes that teachers just say that because they are just being nice....but then I realise that they can't just be nice, if there's something wrong with him, they'll tell you that. To say that you know, he's not doing this and this....you know they used to tell you that, and say listen this oe is picking his nose in class....he's not listening and say hey listen, Chris is not listening in class. So they have told me before that he's got flaws, but obviously it's got better from there...and so it shows that he is doing his bit. But if he is sitting with this child and talking too much, they do tell you that and say you knowbut they tell you nicely because you're his parent. So ja, at the end of the day, they've solved the problem and he moves on you know what I mean...he enjoys studying...I didn't, he did....still does, you know...he loves school.</p>	<p>Fatherhood</p> <p>The narrative of worry is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the P's parenting his son. This links to event 7cc. The narrative of hope is continued in this event, contextualised regarding the P's sons' success at his studies. This links to events 7bb and 7cc.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of worry, contextualised regarding parenting his son.</p> <p>♣ It seems that the P constructs worrying about his son as a biological/natural phenomena that comes part-and-parcel of fatherhood – “Ja....I don't know if it's....it's your kid, so you're going to worry. I don't know if that's just the nature in you, you know what I mean...so ja, I worry.”</p> <p>The P then moves on to the narrative of hope, concerning his sons' school successes: - “. But like I say, when I see his report then I say ok, I know he's doing well at his studies...”</p> <p>It seems as though his son “makes up” for his dad worrying tremendously about him, by performing at school (almost as if that is an area the P does not have to be concerned with)</p> <p>The P brings in the narrative of worry again, contrasting his sons' behaviour at home, with his behaviour at school.</p> <p>♣ It seems that the P may be trying to make sense of the divergent behaviours and what this means. The P gives a detailed account of making sure that his sons' behaviour at</p>

			<p>school is an attentive one. The P seems unsure at times of whether the teachers are honest with him concerning Chris's behaviour, and later in the narrative seems to have reached a point where he is somewhat certain that the teachers would tell the truth, since they have done so in the past.</p> <p>♣ The P seems to be concerned with his sons' listening at school, and brings this up in the events where he speaks extensively about discipline. Listening seems to be important for the P.</p> <p>The P compares himself to his son in this narrative concerning enjoying school (which he introduced in event 7cc) – the P sandwiches his son's enjoyment, with his dislike for school.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of worry (parenting) Narrative of hope Narrative of worry</p>
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28

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	So in the end, looking back at our discussion now...is there anything that we haven't discussed that you think we could have?		
P(long pause) ok, let's go back to school, that's why I talk a lot about school. When he was in primary school he wouldn't listen all the time at school, you get a time where you have to sleepI can't remember the time, it's maybe one o'clock ...he wouldn't do that. So I was happy because he wouldn't sleep at home so he would sleep in the afternoon. What we've noticed is that if he sleeps five minutes in the car he could sleep the whole day, so their rules are	School The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the P's sons' adherence to rules in the education system. This links to	The P takes us back to the importance of the school system concerning his sons' development plotting his progress using the school system as a timeline. It seems that the P threads two main narratives in

<p>that they will sleep. So at crèche we got a lot of ...not a lot, but most of the time, he wasn't pulling his weight and listening to people. So that scared me from the time he was small that even when it's the teacher asking you to do something and you not doing it, and it scared me. And then when he went to....to....to preschool, he didn't want to listen either. That's your first time at school and you're not getting on with the teachers...and it scared me to know, what is it going to be like when you get to school...not that he was a rebel or anything, but you get those people and I thought, I don't want anybody phoning me. Aah, I don't know....after that I don't know what happened but he sorted out his problems and now he's fine. When it comes to teachers he listens to what they have to say...with education he knows it's only bettering him and that's why I think it makes me proud is that from where you were....go to sleep now, a basic little thing...sit still if you don't want to sleep, then rather just lay there, but he wouldn't lay there. From there what was scary to where he is today is ...how he got there by himself ...what he changed, you know. That's why I was impressed with what he is doing in school today, from where he started</p>	<p>events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e 7f, 7g, 7h, 7i, 7j, 7l, 7m, 8a, 8b, 7q, 7s, 7t, 7u, 7v, 7w, 7x, 7y,7z, 7aa, 9, 9a and 7ee. The narrative of worry is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the P's sons' oppositional behaviour. This links to events 7cc, 7dd and 9b. The narrative of pride is extended in this event, linking to the P's sons' development in the education system. This links to events 9b and 1a.</p>	<p>this event, the first being the narrative of difficulty the P experienced with Chris's formative years in the schooling system. The second narrative of pride concerning the changes Chris has made over time in the schooling system. The P begins with the narrative of difficulty concerning Chris' not <u>listening</u> at crèche and not trying his best to <u>cooperate</u>. It seems that the P going as far back as Crèche may be his way of trying to show the extent of his resistance and/or that he saw it was a part of Chris (personality) that one could see it from so early on. The P moves on to the narrative of worry concerning his son's resistance to listen. It seems that the P was especially concerned since he was not listening to authority figures. Perhaps the P is saying that his resistance had moved from not listening to his parents, to an authority figure and this was worrying as to the extent of his resistance. "So that scared me from the time he was small that even when it's the teacher asking you to do something and you not doing it, and it scared me." The P moves on to describe his son's history of resistance</p>
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		<p>to authority by discussing his son's preschool years. The P couples this experience with worry regarding his future in school and regarding his being told about his son's rebelliousness.</p> <p>It seems that <u>school</u> was a pivotal moment for the P in that his son came from a legacy of not listening to things, to having the ability to change when he attended school. It seems that the P was able to gauge his development through this schooling timeline – the P describes it as something his son was able to change – “Aah, I don't know....after that I don't know what happened but he sorted out his problems and now he's fine.”</p> <p>It seems that the P introduces the narrative of pride when describing his sons' success in changing over the years, moving away from the narrative of worry – “From there what was scary to where he is today ishow he got there by himselfwhat he changed, you know.”</p> <p>It seems that Chris's development at school is significant to the P given his history of not listening and cooperating in the</p>
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			<p>past, to someone who has developed himself, and enjoys and excel's at school.</p> <p><u>Summary:</u> Narrative of difficulty (schooling) Narrative of worry (sons' listening and cooperation) Narrative of pride (self development and scholastic achievement)</p>
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29

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	How have you grown as a man through being a father?		
P	<p>.....(long pause). That's a good question because, I wouldn't know.....(long pause). Ja, that's a good question because I don't....I don't think about that, you know what I'm saying. I don't think well if I didn't have a child, where would I be today? You know, I don't actually ponder over it like that....I don't know, I can't give you an answer on thatbecause I've never sat down and thought like you have just said it right nowwhat has it changed you? I've never actually thought about that...so I can't even give you an idea of that.....it's just not something I have thought about by myself.....</p>	<p>Manhood</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is extended in this event, contextualised regarding the P's identity. This links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e 7f, 7g, 7h, 7i, 7j, 7l, 7m, 8a, 8b, 7q, 7s, 7t, 7u, 7v, 7w, 7x and 7y,7z and 7aa.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is constructing a narrative of difficulty:</p> <p>It would seem that the P has trouble conceiving of himself as someone who is not a father. It would seem that his identity is so entrenched in his fatherhood, that the mere thought of him considering himself as someone who is not a father was problematic and inconceivable – “[whole quote]”</p> <p><u>Summary:</u> Narrative of difficulty (identity as someone other than a father)</p>

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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	Maybe it's just something to leave you with then....to chew on		
P	<p>Ja look because I actually haven't looked at it that waywhat ...what would happen....what would be different in my life, I suppose, if I wasn't a parent...or I didn't go through divorce, whatever, you know what I mean. I think aaah...like I say, I think I had seen it coming in a way, but the shock was what stood out....so that, today's the day, was the biggest shock and realising you know, aag, that divorce is something....someday, it's fine, you know, not realising what's going to happen when the day actually happens, you know...where you going, you know. So I have never really thought of it</p>	<p>Manhood</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the P's identity outside of fatherhood. It links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e 7f, 7g, 7h, 7i, 7j, 7l, 7m, 8a, 8b, 7q, 7s, 7t, 7u, 7v, 7w, 7x, 7y,7z, 7aa and 9.</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P is constructing a narrative of difficulty concerning two areas of his life that have impacted on his sense of identity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Firstly, it seems that the P understands himself, and knows himself as a <u>parent</u>, and for him to try to conceive of himself as someone who does not have that experience is very difficult – “Ja look because I actually haven't looked at it that waywhat ...what would happen....what would be different in my life, I suppose, if I wasn't a parent....” ♣ Secondly, it seems the <u>divorce</u> had a huge impact on his identity, since he lost an aspect of how he defined himself, not only as a father, but as a husband. So when the time came for the divorce, it seems to have come as quite a shock and had a profound impact on his identity – “[rest of quote]” <p>Summary:</p> <p>Narrative of difficulty (identity, parenthood and divorce)</p>

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	Where has this conversation left you?		
P(long pause) Well you've made me now think about where I would have been or what has fatherhood changed in my life...I don't know. You've left me with that, so I need some time to think about that, because actually, I don't know. I don't know why I don't think about that stuffbut I mean, I have never ever thought of that	<p>Manhood</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the P's identity outside of fatherhood. This links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e 7f, 7g, 7h, 7i, 7j, 7l, 7m, 8a, 8b, 7q, 7s, 7t, 7u, 7v, 7w, 7x, 7y,7z, 7aa, 9, 9a, 7ee and 10.</p>	<p>It would seem from this event that the P is continuing to extend on the narrative of difficulty concerning his identity outside fatherhood. It seems that he is so deeply immersed in his role as father, that it is inconceivable for him to imagine what he would be like to be man, separate from father – “[whole text applies]” [“never ever”]</p> <p>His difficulty is also evident in the thin description the P gives.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (identity & parenthood)</p>

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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
P	So you wanted to know where I would have been if I didn't have him, for example.....or not really? You just want to know what I think has changed in my life because of him?		
R	If that is what you take from the question, then yes.		
P	I'm notlike some people say if I was single I would be clubbing tonight, or if I was single, I wouldn't be an alcoholic. I don't have those times where I think you knowwhy? Why did I go this road? Why...I don't....once or twice I actually think why did I take this road because there's an accident here I should have turned left here, I should have gone this way....that's one or two things, but I don't ponder on “what if”. What if I married that girl, or what if I didn't do this....I don't have that thought pattern, you know...	<p>Manhood</p> <p>The narrative of difficulty is continued in this event, contextualized regarding the P's identity outside of fatherhood. This links to events 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 6, 7, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e 7f, 7g, 7h, 7i, 7j, 7l, 7m, 8a, 8b, 7q, 7s, 7t, 7u, 7v, 7w, 7x, 7y,7z, 7aa, 9, 9a, 7ee, 10, 9b and 9c.</p>	<p>The P begins the narrative with difficulty. It seems that he compare himself to others who are able to imagine another life beyond the ones they are living, which he seems to battle to do – “I'm notlike some people say if I was single I would be clubbing tonight, or if I was single, I wouldn't be an alcoholic. I don't have</p>

			<p>those times where I think you know ...why? “ The P uses the metaphor of travelling down a particular road to illustrate his experience of not being a person who wonders about alternatives. He uses this metaphor in two ways: Firstly, he uses it literally, which he can identify as part of his realm of experience (being in a car and wishing he had turned down a certain road – “Why did I go this road. Why...I don’t...once or twice I actually think why did I take this road because there’s an accident here I should have turned left here, I should have gone this way....that’s one or two things...” Secondly, he illustrates through the metaphor how he is not that way inclined when it comes to perceptions of himself or the possibilities of having had an alternative/ different life from the one he already has. He confirms this as being part of his natural make up – “but I don’t ponder on “what if”. What if I married that girl, or what if I didn’t do this...I don’t have that thought pattern, you know...”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of difficulty (identity & Parenthood)</p>
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33

R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
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R	<p>So maybe you have answered the question....perhaps then the answer is that(long pause). Maybe you are the man you are through being a father too?</p>		
P	<p>I take everything...where I am today is a learning curve for...everybody else is travelling different pathsperhaps very few of us are going on the same path but I'm looking at what's happening today and what's happening tomorrow and obviously we need to look at our pasts or whatever, but I mean I've never really pondered about it....Like, what if I never bought this car, what if I didn't go to school therewhy....why did I take this job, I don't ponder on stuff like that. I'm there nowoffer me a job, and look I didn't look for a job, he gave me one. I said to myself "why am I working here?", Yes!, and now I think I want out you knowbut I'm not thinking what made me come to where I am today...I don't look at that...I don't ponder on it ...what am I doing here. I just ponder on what's happening here and where am I going from here onwards....What's around the bend to put a curve on the whole situation on who you are today.....But I've never pondered and said actually you knowthere are some books that say you are asked to be born in a way you know.....You must believe that you are here for a reason ...you asked to be born...you picked your parents ...and often I have thought, did I pick my parents...and they did help me with where I am today. I have often thought "where am I going, what's round the corner" and I do try think positive about what's round the corner, you know what I mean...there's always that little twist and that little "why did that twist come into my life?"...what happened, why did the wheels fall off the wagon now? That's all I really look at, I don't really look at "how did I get there? How did I get to this point?"</p>	<p>Life is learning</p> <p>The narrative of learning is extended in this event, contextualised regarding every day experience as an opportunity for learning. This links to event 7.</p> <p>The narrative of influences is introduced here, concerning the Past, Present and Future.</p>	<p>In this event it seems that the P is continuing the narrative of learning, regarding life experiences. The P seems to find everything he encounters in life as a learning experience – "I take everything...where I am today is a learning curve..."</p> <p>Secondly, the P uses the metaphor of travelling paths (similar to event 9d with root). It seems that the P views everyone's travels as being mapped out differently. His map seems more focused on the present and future direction of his life. It is interesting that the P uses the metaphor of travelling on a path. In a sense travelling involves movement, so it would seem that the P is alluding to progress in his life, or years he has travelled. Secondly, a path points to something that has been created, on which you travel. It seems, however, his travels are different from others in that he looks at what is happening now, and the possibilities of the future, not giving much attention to the past.</p> <p>The P introduces the narrative of influence by situating these life experiences in past, present and future, but seems to find the here and now and the future</p>

		<p>of more importance than on dwelling on the past – “where I am today is a learning curve for...everybody else is travelling different pathsperhaps very few of us are going on the same path but I’m looking at what’s happening today and what’s happening tomorrow and obviously we need to look at our pasts or whatever, but I mean I’ve never really pondered about it....”</p> <p>The future seems important to the P, since it seems to provide the potential to change who you are in the present “I just ponder on what’s happening here and where am I going from here onwards....What’s around the bend to put a curve on the whole situation on who you are today.....”</p> <p>The P seems to wonder about purpose and meaning in life and the influence of parents in helping people actualise “You must believe that you are here for a reason ...you asked to be born...you picked your parents ...and often I have thought, did I pick my parents...and they did help me with where I am today.”</p> <p>It seems that the future holds an element of surprise for the P – that it has the potential to change things, and sometimes for the worse. The P uses the metaphor of a wagon and the wheels falling off the wagon due to a twist, or something unexpected. The analogy of a wagon I feel is an interesting</p>
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			<p>one, connecting to the path in which he finds he is travelling. It seems that the path is one that holds the opportunity for possibilities that were unexpected and that have the potential to immobilise him (wheels falling off), where he may find himself in a situation not knowing how he will progress – “. I have often thought “where am I going, what’s round the corner” and I do try think positive about what’s round the corner, you know what I mean...there’s always that little twist and that little “why did that twist come into my life?”...what happened, why did the wheels fall off the wagon now? That’s all I really look at, I don’t really look at “how did I get there? How did I get to this point?”</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of learning (life experiences) Narrative of influence (Past, present, future)</p>
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R/P	Narrative	Landscape Of Action (History)	Landscape Of Meaning (Culture)
R	What drives the wagon now?		
P	Like I say, what drives the wagon now is what’s happening tomorrow...where we going? I like to solve my problems now. I don’t for example....I don’t have food in the house “how am I going to solve that?” Ok, I don’t have food in the house so I go to the shop...My cars tyres are off, how am I going to deal with that now? I look at those things ...like I say....I worry about the future. Is my car going to last me	<p>Life is learning</p> <p>The narrative of influence is continued in this event, contextualised regarding the P’s development. It links to event 11.</p>	<p>It seems from this event that the P is continuing the narrative of influence in this event, regarding what influences the P’s development.</p> <p>The P sees the future as a propelling force, giving him the opportunity for growth – “Like I say, what</p>

<p>another week because only then can I afford another car, you know, that's what bothers me you know. I don't really look at the back of me and think what made me....what made me buy that junk car, you know what I mean. I don't think about stuff like that. I'm the kind of go with the flow....like I say we weren't going to come here today and Judd phoned and said there's a braai...we did want to come it's not that we didn't...I thought ok, let's go with the flow. There's a reason why I must be here today, there's a reason why you know...I have to just try work that out. A lot of the time you are in a place going home you see an accident and you know there was a reason....you know what I'm saying. Sometimes you see why you've been curved around a corner. Not that I'm saying I don't want to be here, but I'm the go with the flow guy...if I don't want to go I won't go...but half the time I like I say, I don't really know and look at the past. I do a little bit, but I don't think about it in "how did I get here today?".....</p>		<p>drives the wagon now is what's happening tomorrow...where we going? " The P looks to the future for direction, not the past. "I don't really look at the back of me and think what made me....what made me buy that junk car, you know what I mean. I don't think about stuff like that. "</p> <p>The P describes himself as the go with the flow person, which could indicate that he relaxed and takes things as they come.</p> <p>The P seems to place more importance on the future than on the past regarding his life and the direction it can take.</p> <p>Summary: Narrative of influence (past, present and future)</p>
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