

Near-Death Experiences: Life After "Death" and Credibility, a Mixed Method Design

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Definitions

- Near-death experiences (NDEs) – characteristically include a strong positive effect, dissociation from the physical body, and contain transcendental or mystical elements.
- Credibility – capacity for belief

Abstract

The term near-death experience (NDE) encompasses a broad spectrum of experiences that typically occur when the physical body is under extreme duress or close to death. The goal of this study is to examine narratives of near-death experiences and distinguish their common themes and to examine perceived credibility of self-reported near-death experiences.

Conclusion

In the phenomenological study, near-death experiences were found to positively affect the quality of the subject's life after having the near-death experience. In the survey investigating perceived credibility, religion was the most influential demographic in the credibility of self-reported near-death experiences.

Research Questions

- How do near-death experiences affect the quality of life of the individuals who experience them?
- How do demographics influence perceived credibility of self-reported near-death experiences?

Results

Case Study	Perceived Credibility			Most Influential Factor %	Least Influential Factor %
	Yes %	No %	Unsure %		
1. Woody	57.14%	19.05%	23.81%	Religion 68.57%	Race 0%
2. Panagore	0.4211	0.2368	0.3421	Religion 85.71%	Race 0%
3. Thomas	68.57%	17.14%	14.29%	Credentials 60.87%	Race 0%
4. Arnold	0.5294	0.1765	0.2941	Religion 47.83% and Credentials 47.83%	Race 0%

Methodology

Three narratives of near-death experiences were examined in a qualitative meta-analysis to determine common themes.

Recipients of the survey were provided with four case studies that included narratives of near-death experiences, and the demographics of the individuals who experienced the near-death experience. Participants were then asked if they thought the narrative was credible and if the demographics influenced their response.

Implications for Future Research

- Include a question on the survey about demographics of the participants to observe how those demographics influence the resulting data related perceived credibility .
- Clarify information in case studies to reduce participant confusion.
- Shorten survey to increase completion rate.

Citations

- Greyson, B. (1983). The Near-Death Experience Scale: Construction, Reliability, and Validity. *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*. 171(6), 369-375.
- DuBois, J. M. (2020). Reanimated: Navigating Life After a Near-Death Experience. *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics*, 10(1), 1–4. <https://doi.org/10.1353/nib.2020.0024>
- Creswell, J., (2013). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches*. (3rd ed.) SAGE Publications.

Q7 Do you believe her experience?

