

1.0. Abstract

This thesis is an exploration of the perceived value to adoptive parents of an awareness of the concept of introjection.

This research involved the employment of semi-structured interviews with two sets of parents who had each adopted two children. These interviews were audiotaped and were then transcribed. A grounded theory approach to analysing the data was undertaken using colour codes to elicit themes and meanings.

The data showed that there were consistent themes in relation to the introjects of all the parents. The awareness of these introjects was paramount in informing the parents about their expectations of adoption and their relationship to the adopted child.