Example of Field Notes 2

This example was generated using notes recorded on a phone and emailed across after the observation was complete. This can be effective as you can do this surreptitiously, without drawing attention to yourself, adding to these once you exit the field site.

This example is better than Example of Field Notes 1, in the way that it provides more depth in the data recorded. Though the details are brief, a clearer picture develops of the space and how people are utilising it. However, it does remain vague in some areas and so extension of points and attention to detail would help to improve the quality and ensure that the analysis process is smooth.

Bus from Fulbank road to the city centre.
7/3/2019 Time of the bus?

Space/actors:
I am sat at the half-way point of the bus and remain on my own for most of the journey. The bus is quiet and calm. Nobody talks to each other (unless they appear to know each other). A man sits next to me at one point, but does not really acknowledge me, instead he pays attention to his phone. He does not really look up.
Most people travel alone.
People look as though they are travelling to work, due to their dress. Can you say what makes you think this?

Acts:
The same routine happens in a loop. People get on, pay, keep themselves private and busy with phones or looking out the window, use the bell, and then exit. Everyone knows the routine and does this fairly seamlessly. I think this is interesting sociologically as it shows that there might be norms.
The routine is not interrupted. Only people paying slowly or incorrectly interrupts the process briefly.
If we stop in traffic some people try to look out the window or through the front of the bus to get a view of what is happening. Can you say more about these instances where the norms were interrupted? Be more specific if possible.

There is a loud conversation on the phone by a woman. She is talking about a date she has been on. I think people are listening to this. How do you know people are listening? Be clearer and add some more details.

Events:
The status quo remains the same. Nobody interrupts the routine. It is funny that there are unspoken norms about this. People know what they are doing and all abide by the same invisible rules.

Objects:
People have bags and almost all people check their phones once on the journey. Most people (all young people) use their phones throughout the journey and lots of these are listening to music. Can you add more about how people interact or the ways that people utilise these objects during the journey?

­