ACTORS’ PERSPECTIVES ON THE GOLD MINING–DEVELOPMENT NEXUS: A CASE STUDY OF THE NEWMONT GHANA GOLD LIMITED AHAFO MINE

Purpose of the study

The study aims at transforming the existing neoliberal gold mining governance framework, deconstructing it and transforming it into a democratic governance framework that is inclusive and beneficial to all actors.

Research question; how do the different actors in the gold mining governance process in Ghana perceive differentially and construct the gold mining development nexus?

The sub-research questions are;

1. What are the notions of gold mining-development nexus held by the different actors and what gives those notions?
2. How are the discourses on gold mining-development nexus being framed and how do the processes of framing reflect the different notions held by the actors?
3. What are the actors’ perceptions of the sort of practices which are involved in the implementation of gold mining-development policy?
4. Which discourses on the gold mining-development nexus have gained prominence over time or become marginalised and how has a particular discourse become dominant? How has the marginalised discourse sustained themselves in the gold mining governance discourse?
5. Which actors are perceived as the most relevant in gold mining governance process and what gave them that status as the most relevant?
6. How do the actors expect the engagement process to be and how do they express their expectation and how are these expectations enforced?

Background of the study

Harnessing natural resource wealth is a golden transformative opportunity for many developing countries but the existence of poverty particularly in communities in which gold mining take place raises concerns about the relationship between gold mining and development. Most countries in Africa are endowed with natural resources; renewal and non-renewable resources such as gold, diamond, uranium, coal and fossil fuel. For example, the African Development Report (2015) indicates that 45 out of the 54 African countries have proven or probable oil and gas reserves. But since the beginning of the 21st century gold mining governance frameworks of mineral rich countries in Africa such as Ghana, Mali and Guinea have been called into question, and on the basis of their inability to ensure that gold extraction meet the development challenges of these countries and particularly the development needs of the host communities (Campbell, 2004; Sustainable Development Solutions Network, [SDSN], 2013; CHRAJ, 2008; Manteaw, 2007 & Akabzaa et al, 2007). To this end, various international initiatives
have been implemented to ensure that gold mining fosters sustainable development in the host country. For instance, the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) Mining Partnerships for Development and the Resource Endowment Initiative; the Natural Resource Charter; the Norwegian ‘Oil for Development’ programme; and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) are aimed to ensure that gold mining fosters development in the host nation. But the experiences of the implementation of these initiatives, for example, questions regarding their legitimacy have informed the call for a formulation of a homegrown initiative on mining. Consequently, the African Union (AU) and Heads of States of mineral-rich nations such as Ghana had jointly formulated the African Mining Vision (AMV). The vision defines an aspiration for mining to catalyse broad, transparent, equitable, sustainable growth and socio-economic development in mineral rich nations of Africa. The major challenge of the AMV vision is how to translate its aspirations into practical, reflective and sustainable country-specific mining vision.

In addition, studies have revealed that mining companies in Africa often hold a contrary worldview on extraction compared to the community stakeholders (Muthuri et al. 2009, p.432, Wheeler, et al. 2002, Mellahi & Wood, 2003 cited in Walton and Rivers, 2011). For instance, in the 1990s, Shell perceived the environmental problems of the Niger Delta from a scientific development perspectives, thus attempted to solve them as scientific problems (Wheeler et al., 2002 cited in Walton and Rivers, 2011). On the other hand, the community actors perceived the problems arising out of Shell operation as a development intervention externally imposed on them and also as a problem of inequity in the distribution of the cost and benefits arising out of Shell’s operation (Wheeler et al., 2002 cited in Walton and Rivers, 2011).

Furthermore, as the second largest producer of gold in the African continent, Ghana is currently (at least from the 1980s till date) experiencing challenges in ensuring that gold extraction leads to improvement in the welfare of the citizenry particularly those who live close to the mine project site (Ayee et al. 2011). This situation has been widely recognised and its effects openly manifested in the public discontent often expressed through means such as petitions and street protests. However, Ghana has embarked on a number of gold mining governance reforms aimed at ensuring that gold mining delivers sustainable development to the nation and host communities. Specifically, the government set up the Mineral Development Fund (MDF) and ceded 20 percent of gold royalties to the MDF for disbursement to subnational entities such as the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies.
(MMDAs), the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL) and the Traditional Councils (TCs). Additionally, the Minerals and Mining Act, Act 703 (2006) and the Minerals Policy, (2014), institutionalised the Community Development Units (CDUs) within the companies’ organisational structure. And also, the law and policy require that mining firms establish alternative sustainable livelihoods programmes for local populations displaced by gold mining. However, except in the processes of writing an environmental impact assessment report, there is no clear-cut regulatory framework which requires that mining firms seek the perspectives the local population through democratic engagement. Although the Minerals and Mining Policy enjoined mining companies to consider the values and aspiration of their host communities throughout the life cycle of a mining project, such policy statement is not binding on the companies. Consequently, Ghana’s gold mining reforms have produced an interesting scenario whereby the increase in private capital investment in the gold mining subsector did not result in a mining boom, in the sense of achieving broader development objectives. For instance, from 1983-2006, gold accounted for more than 30% of the country’s gross foreign change and more than 90 % of the country’s total mineral exports. Further, from 1983-2006, Ghana’s gold mining sector contributed 27% of government domestic tax revenue. Also, the sector employed over 29,000 people in the large-scale mining industry whilst an estimated 1,000,000 people are engaged in the small-scale gold, diamonds, sand winning and quarry industries (Minerals Policy, 2014).

Regardless of these figure on gold mining contribution to the economy, the phenomenon of poverty and deprivation which characterised gold mining communities remain unchanged (Akabzaa, 2009; Ferguson, 1999; Bush 2009). As a result, various discourses on the gold mining-development nexus have evolved around the increment in neoliberal capital investment in the gold mining sector and the persistence of poverty particularly among the local population who lived at the periphery of the mines. For instance, there are those (often from the civil society as the Third World Network and WACAM) who argued that the neoliberal gold mining governance reforms of the 1980s have only benefitted multinational companies and a few Ghanaian elites to the detriment of promoting sustainable development. Besides, there are some discourse which centre on the lack of incentive for the state institutions directly or peripherally involved in gold mining governance to be given the space to express their voice and to demand accountability and transparency from the key actors such as the Office of the President and the ministry in charge of mines (Ayee, et al., 2011). Regardless of this scenario, the scholarly literature (such as Kaaba, 2009; Ayelazuno, 2014; EIR, 2003; and Campbell, 2004) which examined the gold mining development nexus often framed their analysis in the neoliberal language of progress and development, production, and incomes,
taxation and distribution without exploring the perspectives of the local population. In the end, not only does poverty continue to characterised the local population who live close to the gold mine, have inalienable rights to the gold resources and ought to benefit from the gold mining but also the tensions between the companies and the local population continues.

**Problem statement**

Globally, gold mining activities have left both negative and positive indelible marks on the environment and societies in which they take place (ECA, 2012; Hayford, et al., 2008). But from the periods of nationalization and indigenisation of Ghana gold mining, none has ever generated tensions and debate other than the liberalisation of the sector (Ayelazuno, 2014). However, the emergence of neoliberal gold mining governance in Ghana can be traced to the mixed development policy of the country, political instability of the period 1966-1972, and the economic decline in the early 1980s. Specifically, the economic decline in the 1980s, compelled the government to subscribe to the Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) of the World Bank and the IMF in 1983. Under the ERP, the government liberalised the gold mining sector through the enactment of PNDCL 153. This legislation formed the basis for the change in the socio-economic development norms surrounding gold mining governance. Even though the liberalisation of the sector was meant to lead to agrarian transformation and capitalist development, the result is that the experiment had failed (Ayelazuno, 2014). And ever since the liberalisation of the sector, the activities of gold mining companies have produced tensions between the mining companies and the local population. Specific cases include the standoff between AngloGold Ashanti Mines and galamsey operators at Obuasi, Mehami community resistance to Newmont Ghana Gold Ltd Ahafo Mines; the Kantinka community resistance to Newmont Ahafo Mines dumping of mine waste; and the confrontation between Ntotroso community and the Newmont Ghana Gold Ltd Ahafo Mines over effects of Newmont activities on the community. The tensions between multinational mining firms and the local population can be explained as the failure of the company’s community relations unit to reach out to a wider stakeholder. For example, Walton and Rivers (2011) have noted that excluded actors usually find their way into the governance process through agitation. While this is valid, the struggle between multinational mining and firms and local communities go beyond a failure to ensure a wider identification of actors to include issues of meaning (Langdon, 2010). Therefore, company-local populations’ tensions can be seen as a manifestation of Fairclough (2010) dialectical relations. They are a struggle between a dominant neoliberal economic worldview and a harmonious human-nature relationship or regenerative relations.
Although Fairclough (2010) recognised a distinction between the natural and the social world, in the Akan worldview/ideas about the world and their role in it, the world is divided into two interrelated parts; the spiritual and the physical (Gyekye, 1995; Awuah-Nyamekye, 2014), and the human world mediates the natural world for peaceful co-existence with nature. As the struggle between company-local population rages, there is a debate about how gold mining can mitigate the negative consequences it inflicts on the local population and lead to improvement in the wellbeing of the local population.

However, after nearly 25 years of implementation of initiatives aimed at ensuring that gold mining governance frameworks lead to the benefits of the local population, views on the gold mining-development nexus remain mixed (Akabzaa, 2009). For instance, there are some (particularly the Ghana Chamber of Mines) who argued that gold extraction is the star performer of the Ghanaian economy. They rationalised the sectors performance using Western neoliberal materialistic measurement indicators such as increased foreign direct investments (FDIs), rising annual output, the value of minerals export and increased exploration (Aryee, et al., 2011; World Bank 1999 cited in Akabzaa, 2009). Even though there are generally perceived inadequacies of neoliberal indices at indicators of welfare, it has also been noted that governance process aimed to improve the welfare of local population should be informed by both technical terms, experiential knowledge and notions of the actors (Foucault cited in Muray, Li, 2007). Specifically, it is noted that natural resource management can be sustainable if governed by share beliefs and practices (Veit et al. 1995). On the contrary, there are others who are of the view that gold mining has not benefitted the local populations who live at the periphery of the mines (Akabzaa and Darimani, 2001). And these actors mostly from non-governmental organisations premise their case on the poverty that defines the local population. Furthermore, there are some who blame the inability of gold extraction to result in improvement of the welfare of the local population on the externally determined nature of gold extraction governance frameworks (Campbell, 2009). For instance, Campbell (2009) in an examination of the neoliberal gold mining regulatory reforms across Ghana, Mali and Guinea, observed that the regulatory reforms of the 1980s radically redefined the norms which hitherto governed the relationship between gold mining and socio-economic development. To put it differently, the reforms resulted in the Ghanaian state being an enabler of capital rather an enabler of the local population welfare.

Despite the fact that critical theories such as the dependency theories emerged in the 1970s, response to the failures of neoliberal theories and model bringing about socio-economic development in the global south, they
equally disregarded local worldviews or knowledge systems of the third world. For instance, although Wallerstein, in rejecting the fallacies of the dependency theories acknowledges political and cultural elements in several of his writings, much of his work centred on the primacy of economic factors. Therefore, the search for a new vision and approach to the development of the global south tilted on people’s values, aspiration and inclusion (Mefalopulos, 2003). Besides, the positive influence of participation in natural resource management was confirmed by the World Bank through (Narayan, 1994). Consequently, international conventions such as the Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the ILO Convention 169 recognised the right of the local population to consultation and participation; recognises their right to self-determination. But the question is; who participates and how? Despite this, studies have shown that companies in the process of engaging communities have perceived community stakeholders as objects which depend on managerial diagnosis and action rather than subjects who own the resources and should decide what purpose natural resource extraction should serve (Walton and Rivers, 2011). Thus, Bowen et al (2010) have argued that company-community engagement has become transactional rather than transformative. In their view, transformative engagement is a process of a two-way communication underpin by mutual trust and with positive effects on the community. However, Bowen et al (2010) transformational engagement is still company-centred since it failed to transfer power and agency to the local population. It also has been observed that in Africa, natural resources offer the local population socio-cultural utility such as religious fulfilment, social prestige and other forms of intangible benefits (Veit et al, 1995:19). Besides, the local population worldview of development provide them with the lenses for understanding and dealing with the world including how they act in response to inequality of power and dominance (Gyekye, 1995; Fergusson,1999, Meyer et al.1997). Yet the existing consultation process in gold mining governance does not create space for the values of the local population. In Ghana, the manner in which the neoliberal governmentality enables the dispossession of the local population from the mines cannot be underestimated. Drawing inspiration from Foucault’s (1980) notion of subjugated knowledge’s as the way in which disciplining systems such as transnational governmentality are resisted, it can be argued that the debate and contest among the actors in the gold mining governance, over the gold mining-development nexus is a meaning or perspective-based contestation but not solely a debate or contest over material gain. The problem of the study is that; the alternative perspective to ensure that gold mining governance in Ghana will not result in wealth for Western capital and local elites and produces poverty for the local population who live at the periphery of the mines have been excluded from the gold
mining governance frameworks. The study examines how the actors in Ghana’s gold mining governance process, perceive differentially and construct the gold mining-development nexus.

Position of the researcher in the study
According to Scullion and Scollon (2004), the starting point for nexus analysis is the values of the researcher himself/herself. The concern of this study which is in understanding and making a case for the inclusion of the perspectives of the local population into gold mining governance framework arose from the researcher value that the extraction of gold resources should lead to improvement in the wellbeing of the local population who own the gold resources and yet suffer the negative effects of gold extraction. Also, the researcher is a Member of the Upper West Coalition against Gold Mining and thus come into the study with background knowledge of the aspirations, desires and interest of the local population and the political manoeuvring of the multinational firms.

Theoretical perspectives
There is a clear link between the dominant neoliberal economic worldview of capital, market and development approaches in the Third World (Molenaar, 2006). By and large, this conventional, materialistic and Western science-based reductionist approach to gold extraction and development are being questioned by local, political and spiritual leaders, innovative individuals, citizen groups and post development scholars. And increasingly, new ideas are proffered on how to ensure that gold mining benefit both the nation and local populations who live at the periphery of the mines. But these new ideas are still situated within the dominant position and language of the Western neoliberal economics This corroborates Escobar (1984) observation that when the third world began to raise counter-discourse on its development, it used similar weapons to pursue its own agenda. Therefore, this study is the view that the analysis of the gold mining-development nexus should shift from a focus on compartmentalised analysis on employment, health, education, ICT and incomes to an interpretive examination of the diverse values, cultures, beliefs and histories of the actors through dialogue.

As a result of the failures of the participatory approaches, the dialogic turn has evolved and there is a call for citizen engagement where the citizenry participates together with state agencies in sites for dialogue (Abele et al/ 9 cited in Whiteman and Mamen, 2002, pp51). Citizen engagement is different from participation and consultation because it focuses on a two-way interaction or dialogue which emphasises the sharing of power and information. To this end, adherents of participatory governance advocate for elites to share their privilege position of top-down decision making with other stakeholders. This requires the creation of a space for citizen voices reflecting diverse perspectives, which are recognised as legitimate forms of knowing and genuinely harnessed for the achievement of the stakeholder goals (Philips et al., 2012). Thus, this will be guided by the citizen engagement theory to examine
how the actors in the gold mining governance perceive differentially and construct the gold mining development nexus.

Analytical approach
This study is based on a subjective ontology on the basis that the gold mining development nexus can be explained through multiple notions because each actor based on his/her historical body and location within the cycle of discourse perceive differentially and construct the gold mining development nexus. In simple terms, the study asserts that the gold mining development nexus is constructed and revised by the actors through social interaction within a place and across time.

Epistemologically, this study seeks to understand the multiple realities of actors' perspectives on the gold mining development nexus. The study envisions a constructivist epistemology, which does not imply a single, objectively verifiable world, but rather a multiplicity of equally valid realities, socially, culturally, politically and economically constructed. Therefore, reality/truth denounces its positivist absolute value and create space for engagement/dialogue as both a methodological and epistemological instrument to change the world. Specifically, this study will focus on interpreting the reality of actors' perspectives on gold mining development nexus from the researcher’s and researched experiences rather than measuring the gold mining development nexus on the basis of quantities (Patton, 1990; Klein & Myers, 1999). The choice of a constructivist epistemology concurs with Fairclough and Wodak (1997) view that critical discourse analysis (CDA) is interpretative and explanatory, a position which nexus analyst share (Scollon, 2001) Though the study describes and co-constructs the actor’s perspectives on the gold mining-development nexus, it is also normative as it addresses the wrongs (Fairclough, 2010; Scollon and Scollon, 2004, 2007) in gold mining governance in Ghana and seeks to lead to a strategy to change the existing governance framework.

Constructivists’ paradigm posits that research participants’ construction of their individual and shared reality of a phenomenon is influenced by factors such as their history, experience, values practices. Therefore, the constructivist research seeks to understand how the research participants construct their individual and share reality on a particular issue of concern (Charmaz, 2006 cited in Paterson and Krupa, 2012, p.7). Also, constructivists assert that a researcher’s interpretation of a phenomenon equally constitute construction of a reality (Charmaz, 2006 cited in Paterson and Krupa, 2012, p.7). This view is similar to that of Scollon and Scollon (2004, 2007) assertion that a nexus analyst interpretation of an event in itself constitutes social action and that the nexus
analyst must identify with the phenomenon she/he intends to change. This presupposes that in terms of empirical and analytical approaches this study should be conducted in a reflexive and transparent manner. Reflexivity at the empirical level demands that the researcher does a critical reflection on what is it that she/he is studying and why, appraise and interrogate her/his own assumptions, recognise how her/his own perspectives, decisions and actions will influence the study (Mason, 2002). For example, in the process of conducting in-depth interviews and participant observations, the researcher will seek to examine the issues rather than assume the position of a neutral interviewer or observer. Analytically, the study will adhere to the constructivist paradigm by adopting a reflexive reading of the data by clearly describing the role and perspective of the researcher in the process of data generation and interpretation.

The central focus of critical discourse analysis (CDA) is on socio-political domination including issues of social change, power inequality, ideological imposition and social injustice by analysing language as social action (Bhatia et al, 2008). Therefore, CDA regards discourse in both its discursive and non-discursive form as the constitution of society and culture. As a result, it sees discourse as a source of social action and by this CDA aims is to challenge the ills of society such inequality and undemocratic tendencies (Bhatia et al, 2008). Similarly, Fairclough and Wodak (1997) have proposed an eight-point criteria on what CDA is; CDA addresses social problems; power relations are discursive; discourse constitutes society and culture; discourse does ideological work; discourse is historical; the link between text and society is mediated; discourse analysis is interpretative; and discourse is a form of social action. While nexus analysis shares the goals of CDA particularly the assumption that interpretation and explanation are essential in discourse analysis, nexus analysis focuses on social action rather than discourse (Scollon, 2001). This is because nexus analysts believe that power relations in society are not only discursive or just discursive but are grounded instead in practice/action. As a result nexus analysis does not regard the discursive practice (language and text) as the foundational or constitutive form of social practice out of which the rest of society and the resulting power relations arise (Scollon, 2001). On the contrary, nexus analysis believes that society and culture are constituted by the material products of that society and it's non-discursive.

The study seeks to use nexus analysis to describe and interpret the actors’ perspectives on the gold mining development nexus as a means to propose a gold mining governance framework which reflects the perspective of all actors particularly the perspectives of the local population. By this, the study will use nexus analysis to focus on the actors’ account of the actions and practices which have led to the current situation of the exclusion of the actors’ perspectives in constructing the gold mining–development nexus in Ghana and to deconstruct it. Nexus analysis does not only involve an empirical interpretation of the issue of study but also entail a historical analysis of the trajectories or discourse cycles of the study issue which intersect at particular moments (Scollon and Scollon, 2004, 2007). Though this study narrows its focus on the integration of the perspectives of local actors, particularly local population in the gold mining governance, there is the need for the study to engage in a historical analysis of
the trajectories or discourse cycles which resulted in a particular discourse moment such as the tensions between capital and local population and the opportunities open to them by that moment to begin to revise the current community consultation processes (Scollon, R. 2008). This requires that the researcher goes beyond the analysis of academic and professional views as represented in documents and reports into the social world (Fairclough, 2001) to enable particularly the local population who lacked the voice to explain how they perceive the gold mining development nexus and account for the actions and practices which have positioned them where they are in the governance process. The aim is to see to what extent the past is brought into the present and how the present is informed by the past.

Research design

The study will use a single case study design by selecting the Newmont Ghana Gold Ltd Ahafo Mine as a case for investigation. The Newmont Ghana Gold Limited is chosen for the study because of its core value of serving as a catalyst for local economic development through transparent and respectful stakeholder engagement and as responsible stewards of the environment. Despite the Newmont Ghana Gold Ltd self-acclaimed commitment to this value, there are complaints in the media about its negative environmental effects on the host communities as well as compliments for its sustainable development interventions. These accusations and praises on the activities of the Newmont Ghana Gold Ltd Ahafo Mines by the residents of the communities constitute a good case to explore the actors’ perspectives which underpin their construction of the gold mining-development nexus.

According to Creswell et al (2007), a case study is a qualitative approach which explores a case or cases over time by using in-depth data collection methods and by employing multiple sources of data. In addition, qualitative case study describes both the case and the themes of the case under investigation. Further, a qualitative study may be distinguished by the size of the delineated case or the intent of the case study. For example, based on the intent, case studies can be classified under; the single instrumental case study, the collective or multiple-case study, and the intrinsic case study (Creswell, et al., 2007). In this study, the single instrumental case study approach will be used by focusing on the need to dismantle the existing neoliberal gold mining governance framework in Ghana and to replace it with a governance framework which reflects the shared perspectives of the actors. In order to do this, the study selected a bounded case (the Newmont Ghana Gold Ltd Ahafo Gold Mine) to explore how the actors perceive differentially and construct the gold mining development nexus. A case study design is suitable for a study when the investigation is required to cover both a particular phenomenon and the context within which the phenomenon occurs or when the context contain important explanatory information about the phenomenon (Yin, 1993). Also, Stake (1995, 2005) sees the case study researcher as seeking to construct a clearer view of the phenomenon under study through explanation, a reflexive description of the phenomenon and context rather than attempting to discover an external reality. In simple terms, the case study researcher is an interpreter of a contextual reality. Since the actor’s perceptions occur within a socio-cultural and historical context, constitute the context and are influenced by the context, the study of context is deemed relevant and the
researcher’s role is to reflexively construct the reality, therefore, Stake (1995, 2005) and Yin (1993) case study design is regarded suitable for this study. The question which arises is; how can this study combine a case study design and nexus analytical approach to achieve methodological congruence? According to Paterson and Krupa, (2012) in order to ascertain methodological harmony requires an examination of their specific paradigms. Stake (1995, 2005) case study design focuses clearly on obtaining the perspectives of the actors in a case as a way of obtaining a collective view of the actors in a particular case; this implies that reality is local and particularly constructed. On the other hand, nexus analysis begins with where a particular social action is enacted in the experience of real social actors and outward into the histories or settings across time and place (Scollon and Scollon, 2007, pp 619). Although, nexus analysis conceives that external factors influence particular social actors, it focus on analysing actions perceived by the actors to be either wrong or unjust (Scollon and Scollon, 2004, 2007) and thereby suggests a constructed reality. Also, the two are compatible since Stake (1995, 2005) case study design and Scollon and Scollon (2004) nexus analytical approach all place the researcher within the study.

Methods and sources of data
In order to obtain Scollon and Scollon (2004) four-type data necessary for nexus analysis, this study will employ a qualitative approach to data collection and analysis. The use of qualitative approach in data collection and analysis will give all stakeholders the opportunity to express their views along the various thematic areas of the study rather than being rigid with the issues relating to the study of quantitative methods will do. This study will employ multiple sources of qualitative data and data collection techniques such primary and documentary sources and primary and documentary data generation techniques to ensure that valid and reliable data is collected. Also, the use of multiple data sources and techniques will ensure that multiple perspectives on the issue are examined and a holistic understanding of the issue from the actors’ perspectives is developed. In order to ensure that the study truly obtains and interprets the perspectives of the actors, the study will employ data collection tools such as video recording, transcribing and taking down field notes of interviews and discussions. Through the use of qualitative methods this study seeks to generate data based on the actors own perspectives on what they claim are the connections between gold mining and development and finally based on the researchers analysis of the issues of contrast among the first three set of data (Ruesch and Bateson, 1968 [1951]; but also see S. Scollon, 1998; R. Scollon, 1998, 2001; Scollon and Scollon 2001 cited in Scollon and Scollon, 2004).

Techniques of data collection
The study will use a combination of primary and documents and reports collection techniques. The exploratory nature of the study requires that the data collection procedure cover the present and the past in order thereby to make recommendations into the future. Also, the citizen engagement theory which guides this study demands the participation of both lay and experts in the study; in this case, primary techniques of data collection are suitable for eliciting lay perspectives whereas expert opinion will be sought and analysed from documents and reports. Documents and reports collection technique will be used to collect data on perspectives of the actors in the gold mining development nexus as they appear in the text and are linked to real actions of the actors surrounding the
issue of gold mining-development nexus. This will be used to contrast the perspectives of the actors as they will reveal through participant observation and in-depth interviews.

Participant observation will be used to enable the researcher to get to familiarise himself with an otherwise complex socio-economic, cultural and political issue of actors’ perspectives on gold mining–development nexus (van Teijlingen, 2012). This technique of data collection will begin with a preliminary visit to the state regulatory agencies (the Minerals Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Ahafo Ano North District Assembly), the Company Office at Kenyasi and the four host communities (two host communities each within and outside the of the Mine’s fence line. This preliminary visit though intended to inform, discuss the purpose of the study and solicit their support for the research, it will also be used to observe and understand the demeanour of the actors and thus inform the proposed design of the study. By this technique, the researcher will attend several gatherings such as community/civil society workshops, roundtable discussions, protest meeting, press briefings by the mining firms, cultural festivals and durbar of chiefs as they pertain to issues of gold mining-development nexus. It is often the case that, with participant observation, such as in attending meetings, the researcher will watch and listen but talk less (Polsky cited in van Teijlingen, 2012: 46). However, in this study, the researcher will identify with the actors in the gold mining governance process. This will not only enable the researcher to identify with the issue of the study and, thus answer the question; what do you wish that should be done to change the issue, but also for the observation that nexus of practice is amenable to change when the research is also a participant in the study (Scollon and Scollon, 2004).

In-depth interviews will be adopted to collect data from the various actors in the gold mining development discourse such as District Coordinating Directors, District Directors of the Minerals Commission, representative of the Ghana Chamber of Mines, paramount chiefs, secretaries of traditional councils, Administrator of the OASL, civil society organisations or coalitions and concerned community members. Additionally, in each of the study communities’ in-depth interviews techniques will be used to elicit the views of the following elderly males, elderly females and young men, women age between 18-30 years and ex-employees of the Ahafo Mines. This is intended to overcome the issue of compatibility of different community level actors by offering them the opportunity to engage in free-flowing discussion (Heywood and Smith, 2006 cited in Walton and Rivers, 2011, pp. 161).
Aside the collection of primary data, the study will collect data from documents and reports. Data will be generated from documents and reports through examination of documents such as constitutional-legal documents, environmental assessment reports, annual reports, gold mining policy statements, research publications, local authorities/district assemblies plans, mining companies communiqué, civil society reports and community reports and petitions.

**Sampling**

Purposive sampling technique will be used for the study. In qualitative research, the study objectives, and the characteristics of the study population such as diversity, determine how many people to recruit for the study. A purposive sampling is sampling conducted to identify study participants who are knowledgeable on the subject of study and thus give a response which can clarify the research question rather than achieve statistical saturation. Purposive sampling methods will be used to recruit respondents for the semi in-depth interviews. Therefore, the study will not set a limit for the number of respondents and interviews to be collected since an interview with an actor may bring forth discourses or concepts which will require further clarification.

**Units of analysis**

This study accepts Walton and Rivers (2011) view that in the meaning-based analysis it is inappropriate to identify the actors by their individual membership or title but by how they are positioned in the discourse of a particular subject. This involves the researcher reading and re-reading the discourse as in text, transcripts and field notes to determine positions and once positions are determined the researcher ask the questions; how are the various perspectives on the gold mining-development able to be constructed?; what enabled the various actors able to be placed where they are in the existing governance framework? (Walton and Rivers, 2011).

**Data analysis**

Data analysis in this study will begin with the generation of text (Walton and Rivers, 2011) from documentary and primary sources. Therefore, there will no neat lines of separation between the different stages of data collection and analysis (Stake, 1995; Janesick 1994 cited in Boblin et al. 2013). Rather, the study will adopt an iterative and reflexive process whereby continuous analysis of data will help the researcher to find out which data was needed to clarify the research question and from which source (Boblin et al., 2013). The study will be guided by the categorical aggregation, establishing patterns and linkages in all stages of data analysis (Stake, 1995, 2005). Throughout the processes of interviewing or transcribing, the researcher will take field notes of ideas about the meaning of the text and how it might relate to other text or practical actions. By this, the study will engage in progressive focusing whereby the researcher interacts with the data and refine the focus where necessary; for
example when it appears that some other perspectives have to be explored or the actors’ points of view have to be considered. This study will use intertextuality approach to examine how the text generated from interviews and field notes are dialectically linked to other text in the form of laws, regulations, statutory reports, a media report and company reports as well as how these texts are linked to past actions and material objects (Scollon, 2008) in the gold mining-development discourse. The essence here is to map out how discourse affects action and how the action affects discourse. This will be particularly useful in examining the historical bodies of the actors in the gold mining governance process. Also, in examining the historical bodies of the actors through intertextual analysis, this study will look for and evaluate anticipatory and retrospective discourse (Scollon, 2008). The first step in the intertextual analysis will be to read and re-read the text generated from documents, reports, in-depth interviews transcript and field notes to identify the frequent perspectives which sought to create a particular gold mining-development nexus discourse; examine the key perspectives to find out how the actors came by those perspectives in relation to the context; what enabled the actors to come by those discourses and with what effect? Further, the intertextual analysis will include an examination of the key perspectives which have been identified to see how similar discourse are espoused by the other stakeholders to gain a wider picture of the gold mining-development nexus; this involves looking for ‘counter arguments’ constructed by other stakeholders (or the company) around the gold mining development nexus. The re-reading of text will lead to the identification of the construction of identities in the discourse and the historical body of the actors.

References


