The aim of our paper is to consider what narrative approach means within our two separate studies. We both are working on our doctoral dissertations on family research. Marianne’s topic is ‘Power and violence in family relations’ and Eija studies ‘Ambivalences of motherhood: experiences and stories at the beginning of motherhood.’ The first data is women’s writings about violence and abuse in their family relations and the other one is first-time mothers’ interviews at the beginnings of their motherhood.

First, we consider in which ways interviews and a writing request produce different kinds of stories. We assume that written stories are probably more attached to the conventions of writing and that interviews may produce mainly socially accepted stories. On the other hand, both ways of collecting data may empower the informants. Second, we examine what kinds of stories there are and what can be told at this moment. More specifically, the impact of cultural, ideological and mythical narratives on personal stories is considered.

Furthermore, we focus on how female subjectivity is construed in women’s stories. A significant part of our project is to analyse gendered, relational, embodied and situated subjectivities. Based on our data we suggest that female subjectivity cannot be characterised simply through the ideology of the ‘strong Finnish woman’ or rational (male) agency.

Finally, our aim is to explore ways of writing a shared article of two feminist family researchers. Hopefully, the two researchers with two data could combine multiple and diverse view on women’s experiences in nowadays families instead of one-sided and narrow story.