Selecting theory as lens Summary

TOPIC: The Nature of Theory
SOURCE: Gregor (2006) - The Nature of Theory in Information Systems

KEY CONCEPTS:
Gregor classifies theory into five types based on their primary goal:

1. Theory for Analyzing
   Describes what is. A taxonomy or classification. (e.g., frameworks).

2. Theory for Explaining
   Explains how and why things happen, but does not necessarily predict future outcomes with precision. (Common in case studies).

3. Theory for Predicting
   Predicts what will happen, without necessarily explaining the deep causal mechanism. (Black box models).

4. Theory for Explaining and Predicting (EP)
   The "Grand Theory" ideal. Explains mechanism and predicts outcome.

5. Theory for Design and Action
   Prescriptive theory on how to do something.

APPLICATION:
For my research, I need to be explicit about which type of theory I am building. Am I simply classifying a phenomenon, or am I explaining the causal mechanism?