

Einladung zum wissenschaftlichen Kolloquium des IDMI

Lieven Verschaffel
(KU, Leuven)

Investigating and stimulating learners' sense-making when solving word problems – Reflections on a long-term line of research

In this seminar, which I will present also on behalf of Wim Van Dooren, I will describe a line of research that has been running for over three decades at our center. It started from the observation that most upper primary school pupils give unrealistic answers to word problems in which the link between the real-world situation described in the problem and the required arithmetical operations is problematic, for which we invented the term P-items. An example of a P-item is: "Two poles are standing 12 metres apart. I have pieces of rope of 1.5m long. How many pieces do I need to tie together to stretch a rope between the poles?" After presenting a brief overview of the main studies that have done (a) to document this phenomenon of suspension of sense-making in pupils' word problem solving, (b) to enhance the number of realistic responses among pupils by means of various kinds of experimental manipulations and interventions, and (c) to better understand the deep-rooted and resistant nature of this phenomenon, I will make some personal reflections on the emergence and further development of this line of research from a broader research strategic perspective.

Bio

Lieven Verschaffel (1957) is an emeritus professor of educational sciences of the University of Leuven, Belgium. His main research interest is the (psychology of) mathematics education, with a focus on mathematics learning and teaching at the early and elementary levels. Lieven Verschaffel has served as principal investigator or co-investigator on numerous national and international research projects in this field. He is associate editor or member of the editorial board (advisory) of many international journals. He has (co-)authored more than 300 articles in SSCI-indexed journals as well as numerous other publications. He was elected a member of the Royal Academy of Sciences and Arts of Belgium (2009) and a member of the Academia Europaea (2010). He has (co-)supervised 30 doctoral theses and acted as member of 70 international PhD evaluation committees in his research domain.

Dienstag, den 3. Februar, um 17 Uhr c.t.
Henriette-Son-Str. 19, 48149 Münster

Vorgespräch bei Kaffee und Tee um 16:30 Uhr im Raum 14,
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