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Monday Seminar, Monday 23. January 2012, UiA, Gimlemoen Campus, J2-009

15.15-16.00

“Algebraic errors: emphasizing the ones related to tackling and expansion of brackets.”

Abstract: During being a pupil, studying math and practicing as student-teacher, I have noticed some of difficulties and misconceptions of pupils related to brackets.

On the one hand brackets and the usage of brackets are faced everywhere in Albanian mathematics schoolbooks, but in the other hand there is a lot of mistakes about them from the pupil's side. Also, there are not many previous studies related to them.

In my study, I would like to analyze pupils' mistakes related to the use of bracket such as: bracket expansion, factorization etc.

More generally, I would like to achieve a description about the algebraic mistakes Albanian pupils in 10th grade do, and to relate these to results from previous research.

I want to find a way to classify the errors of the pupils and to identify possible causes of those errors.

For my study, I have collected data in an upper secondary school in Albania. This is a private school in northwest city of Albania and students are in their first grade of Upper Secondary school. Thirty students took part in the study which consisted of a pre-test, a serie of lessons taught by myself and a post-test. In addition 4 students took part in the task-based interviews. In the end of my study, I would like to answer three questions:

1. What kind of mistakes pupils in grade 10 (in the Albanian school) do?
2. How to improve pupil's performance with parentheses?
3. What kind of improvement was caused by methods explained to pupils?

In this seminar, I am going to present briefly the theoretical part of my study, my methodological approach and some results from analysis of data collection.

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