Students’ group work strategies in source-based writing assignments

Yhdessä tekeminen ja työn jakaminen lukiolaisten ryhmäoppimistehtävissä

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Outline

• The problem
• Theoretical frameworks
• Data and methods
• Findings
• Discussion
• Conclusions
The problem

- Group assignments used commonly in information literacy instruction in schools
- Collaboration in groups is expected to enhance learning of appropriate information behavior/practices
- Do students really collaborate or do they only cooperate? What group work strategies do they apply?
Knowledge-building pedagogy
(Scardamalia&Bereiter 2000, Stahl 2000)
Learning assignment as a task

- **Search tasks**
  - Search process
  - Perceived need
  - Task Construction

- **Learning task**
  - Use
  - Task Performance

- **Assignment**
  - Learning goals
  - Documentation process
  - Learning process

- **Output**
  - Learning outcomes
Data and methods

• Data
  – 17 groups; 58 students; History and Literature course
  – Task: each group wrote a Wikipedia/wiki article
  – Group interviews during and after the assignment

• Methods
  – Thematic analysis (Atlas)
    • activities; group work strategies; justifications
  – Hierarchical Cluster Analysis – HCA (SPSS)
    • Group behavior patterns
Findings 1

Activities
- Planning
- Searching
- Assessing sources
- Reading
- Writing
- Editing

Group work strategies
- Cooperation
  - Delegation
  - Division
- Collaboration
  - Pair collaboration
  - Group collaboration
## Findings 2

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<th>Searching (n=16)</th>
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Patterns in group work strategies
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Justifications

Delegation/Division
- Efficiency
- Fair share of work
- Social inconvenience
- Teacher’s instructions

Pair/group collaboration
- Quality
- Shared responsibility
- Fair share of work
Discussion

• Comparison to the model of collaborative knowledge-building
• Justification differences
• Differences between tasks
  – history vs. literature classes
• Towards professional communities of practice
Further information

• Know-Id: https://www12.uta.fi/blogs/know-id/

Thank you!
Comments?
Questions?