

Academic Text Competencies of First-Year and Advanced Teacher Trainees



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Background

Due to reforms in higher education, the acquisition of occupational competencies is now – more than ever – already an integral part of academic teacher training. Suitable training concepts require systematic research, which takes into account the transition between university and school (as the field of work). In our sub-project, we focus on *academic text competencies in a broader sense*, which refer to the ability and willingness to assess pupil's texts.

Academic Text Competencies in a Broader Sense

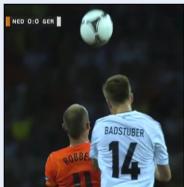
Research Questions

What kinds of competencies do teacher trainees need in order to assess pupil's texts?

How can these competencies be measured?

What kinds of levels and facets of competence can be identified among teacher trainees?

Writing Task and Pupil's Text



Writing task (extract): "Imagine, you have seen the football match in the stadium. You are very impressed by the crash of Robben and Badstuber, so you want to report it in the school magazine."

Gestern am 13.6.12 war ich auf dem Spielfeld im Stadion von Ukraine. Dort traf wiederum gegen Polenland gerecht, in der 70. Minute auf dem Feld tatsächlich passiert ein Zusammenstoß für Niederlande und Spanien. Beide waren zwar noch in die Mitte des Fußballfeldes, doch ist Robben hoch aufgeworfen von hinten kam Badstuber und sprang hoch wie ein Löwe um am unteren Badstuber nach unten und Robben blieb liegen. Ein Spanisch war kein großer Distanz und nach diesem zwei Minuten, dass sie sich gegenseitig doch einige Zoll durch einen weiteren

Fig. 1: Pupil's text (Anastasia): Report about the European Football Championship 2012

Competence Model¹

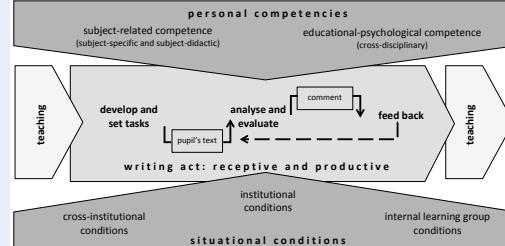


Fig. 2: Academic Text Competencies in a Broader Sense
¹ Based on research of literature, analysis of curricula and interviews with members of the professional community.

Modeling

Measuring

Selected Results

Test

Competence dimension	Topics for the operationalisation	Topics for the operationalisation (examples)
Subject-specific		Text type knowledge (e.g. comment), grammar, syntax, morphology, orthography, punctuation
Subject-didactic		Text type knowledge (e.g. report), writing development
Educational-psychological		Reference standards, curriculum knowledge, recipient design

A test offers an insight about subject-related and educational-psychological competencies; competencies that teacher trainees need to analyse and evaluate pupil's texts. It does not allow conclusions about the competencies of students to give feed-back. Most of the items give the impression that there is a crucial lack of these competencies; this is even true for items we expected to be very easy – like recognizing the tense the pupil (Anastasia) used in her text (s. Fig. 5).

Named tenses	Number of namings (n=134)
Correct answers	77
Präteritum, Perfekt	71
Imperfekt, Perfekt	6
Incorrect answers	40
Präteritum	8
Plusquamperfekt, Präteritum	5
Vergangenheit	4
Vergangenheit, Perfekt	3
Plusquamperfekt, Präteritum, Perfekt // Präteritum, Perfekt, Präsens // Plusquamperfekt, Perfekt // Präteritum, Präsens // Vergangenheit, Gegenwart// Präteritum, Imperfekt // Perfekt	ea. 2
Präteritum, Präsens // Präteritum, Past Perfect // Vergangenheit, Präteritum // Plusquamperfekt, Präsens // Vergangenheit, Präsens // Präsens	ea. 1
No answer	17

Fig. 5: What kinds of tenses does Anastasia use in her text?

Analyse & Evaluate

Collaborative Writing



Fig. 6: Students (S1 and S2) writing a comment

Writing task (extract): "Please work together. Write a comment on Anastasia's text (s. Fig. 1). Let her know the results of your analysis and evaluation."

Collaborative writing makes it possible to see in detail how analysing, evaluating and giving feed-back works. It can also show how these are associated in a given situation. Opposite to a test or a higher number of texts it can only be used by a very small sample as the data process is extremely time consuming. In our data (4 groups), students (n=9) show that they are not only aware of their important role, they are also keen dealing with the task professionally (s. Fig. 7).

1 S1: ich finde das ist total gut verständlich I also im grunde wurde i think it is absolutely comprehensible I basically unskompliziert jektivlich das beinhalten also natürlich I er our comment was included in my opinion I consider glaubt sich erst einmal in dem in den ersten dingten die sie at first it emphasizes the positive things she macht I dass man die aufgreift I und im anschluss fügt man hinzu was macht I dass man die aufgreift I and afterwards we should add things viell I was ihr eben noch nicht so gut gelingt! oder das müssen wir who did not manage well yet I what we have to üben! ich würde es vielleicht positiver formulieren, ne? practice! I would express it rather positive, wouldn't i? 7 S2: genau! das würde ich so I genau! mh genau exactly I I was that do that I exactly I mh exactly

Fig. 7: Students showing their text type knowledge

Feed Back

Data and Methods

The assessment of pupil's texts includes several actions, which are embedded in teaching activities (s. Fig. 2). In our measurement, we concentrate on competencies teacher trainees need in order to analyse and evaluate a pupil's text and subsequently give written feed-back (via comment).

Data category	Analyse and evaluate		Feed back	
	Test (n=134)	Collaborative writing (n=4)	Full text: Comment (n=13)	Text analysis
METHODS OF ANALYSIS	Analysis of variance	Correlation analysis	Content analysis	
FOCUSSES OF ANALYSIS	Differences between various student groups	Correlations between various indicators of the comment quality	Discussed criteria, norm- and self-concepts	Holistic evaluation of text quality
EXAMPLES FOR ANALYSIS CATEGORIES	School types: Are there any differences between them? (primary and secondary school teachers?)	Subject-related competence: Is there a correlation between indicators of subject-specific and subject-didactic competence?	Norm-concepts: What kinds of concepts are verified concerning the writing of comments?	Corpus linguistics and qualitative analysis of selected aspects
			Structure: Is the comment structured sensibly?	Positive assessment: What kinds of patterns are used to phrase positive assessment?

Fig. 3: Overview of data and methods

Full Text: Comment

Corpuslinguistics and rating describe linguistic patterns of feed-back and the ability of students to use them. These methods do not allow direct conclusions about students' capability of analysing and evaluating the pupil's text – as students might not realize certain aspects or decide consciously to leave them out in their comment. Although there is no difference within the student groups (item x Semester: p = .85, s. Fig. 8), the challenges in giving feed-back are executed differently (item: p < .001). Nearly all of the students are able to focus criteria that are assessed positively (s. Fig. 9). Moreover, they also have various patterns to phrase the assessment like variations of "gelungen", s. Fig. 8).

Fig. 8: Variations of the term gelungen (well-made)

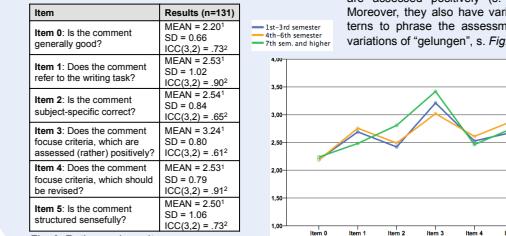


Fig. 9: Rating and results

^a Increasing four-level-scale; ^b absolute agreement.

Fig. 10: Results: Item x semester (cross-section)

^a Increasing four-level-scale; ^b absolute agreement.