

Kasvatus 2014 Vol. 45 No 5 The Finnish Journal of Education Suomen kasvatustieteellinen aikakauskirja

Sintonen, Sara – Kynäslahti, Heikki – Kairavuori, Seija. 2014. Spontaneous photo messaging in everyday life of young people. The Finnish Journal of Education 45 (5), 418–428.

In this article, we discuss how a Finnish fifteen year old girl used the photo messaging application SnapChat. Her use of SnapChat was very intensive. The data of this case study consists of three interviews. We look at this phenomenon as a part of a wider and novel mobile phone culture. We are interested in what kind of meanings the practice of communicating through one's mobile phone snapshots brings to a young person's everyday life. Here, photo messaging is regarded as both communicative and social activity. Using SnapChat enables a person to spontaneously let other people take a peek on one's own life.

Descriptors: mobile phone, photo messaging, sharing photos, SnapChat application, media culture

Hietajärvi, Lauri – Nuorteva, Maija – Tuominen-Soini, Heta – Hakkarainen, Kai – Salmela-Aro, Katariina – Lonka, Kirsti 2014. Sixth-graders' socio-digital participation, interests, and wellbeing at school. The Finnish Journal of Education 45 (5), 429–443.

The aim of this study was to examine how sixth-graders participate in socio-digital activities and whether there are any differences in this respect between genders or students with different interests. We also investigated the relationships between the students' socio-digital participation, ICT skills and attitudes, academic achievement, and wellbeing at school. This study is part of the Mind the Gap project, and the data were collected by questionnaires in Helsinki. The students' socio-digital participation involved mainly social interaction in terms of "hanging around", as only few of them participated in creative activities. No large differences in socio-digital participation were found between the interest groups. For example, students interested in sports were quite as likely to use ICT as their peers did. Notably, there seemed to be a connection between socio-digital participation and lower ratings for school achievement, school motivation, and appreciation of school, and correspondingly higher rates of school burnout. These results might indicate a gap between the practices of the youth and the practices of school, having a negative impact on some students' school motivation and wellbeing.

Descriptors: socio-digital participation, information and communication technologies, knowledge practices, media practices, interests, academic achievement, engagement, school burnout

Ylönen, Anni – Vehkakoski, Tanja – Björn, Piia Maria. 2014. Did you get it? Talk on understanding in lower secondary school mathematics lessons. The Finnish Journal of Education 45 (5), 444–458.

This article examines understanding-related talk among teachers and students during mathematics lessons as well as the functions of such talk. The data consists of 30 video recorded math lessons collected for an ongoing research project called "MUST" (The Sociocultural background

of mathematics learning). The data analyses relied on the traditional CA (Conversation Analysis) approach. The results showed that the teachers and students used three different ways for explicit talk about understanding during the lessons. Firstly, the teachers quite frequently asked whether the students understood the subject matter just addressed. Secondly, the teachers attempted to engage the students into talking about how much they understood about what was taught. Thirdly, the students themselves referred spontaneously to understanding only with respect to related difficulties; when they did not quite get the essence of what was just taught. These results suggest that lower secondary school math lessons might benefit from relatively small, but important improvements in pedagogic discourse so as to ensure better understanding and learning.

Descriptors: lower Secondary school, mathematics lessons, understanding, conversation analysis

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