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Jana KRATOCHVILOVÁ
Charles University
Faculty of Education

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Pupils' Thinking Processes of Structuring Triads

The paper is part of some research which has been done recently into the thinking processes which pupils aged 10-11 use when solving mathematical tasks. We were interested in the pupil's processes of structuring a mathematical form called a 'triad' from a given procedure. A triad comprises three elements, the first two being any natural numbers (excluding zero) and the third number the sum of the first two. We considered pupil's reactions to two different activities:

1. The main activity being the creation of triads according to given instructions.
2. The subsidiary but parallel activity is the creation of a structured set of triads.

The theories mentioned above were carried out with pupils in both the United Kingdom and The Czech Republic.

The paper hopes to show several systematic records how the pupils create triads according to given instructions. These records will be presented with analyses of pupils' thinking processes.

[1] Repas, V. – Cernek, P. – Pytlova, Z. – Vojtela, I. (1997). Matematika pre 5. rocnik zakladnych skol.[Mathematics for grade 5.] Prirodzene cisla. [Natural Numbers.] Orbis Pictus Istropolitana ISBN Bratislava, p. 4.