

THE VAN HIELE LEVELS OF GEOMETRICAL THOUGHT IN AN IN-SERVICE TRAINING SETTING IN SOUTH AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

This short presentation reports on an in-service training programme of Primary School teachers in a mining town in Mpumalanga, one of the nine provinces in South Africa. At this particular session, teachers were placed in a simulated classroom situation where they were exposed to the van Hiele levels of Geometrical thought. This session mainly concentrated on van Hiele level zero (visualisation). Various two dimensional shapes were provided to teachers in groups. The following procedures were followed:

- One teacher would choose a shape, and the rest of the group would then describe the shape
- The groups were asked to classify the shapes according to given properties

The videotape which will be shown, reveals most interesting thinking processes of teachers, which can be used fruitfully in any teaching environment.

In another video clip, an example of intervention that was not conducive for mathematical thinking will be shown, which can be used as a sample for discussion.