

Summary

Promoting creativity in the textbooks of lower elementary education

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This study examines the promotion of creativity in the textbooks of lower elementary education. It has included textbooks for the Croatian language, mathematics and science which are used today and have been approved by the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. They were compared with textbooks that were used in the 1980s. In order to determine whether creativity is promoted in these textbooks and to evaluate whether it is given an important role in the textbooks of lower elementary education, we have explored the textbook tasks that stimulate and/or do not stimulate creativity. We have also analyzed the differences between the 1980s textbooks and those used today. The last part of the study explores whether there is a difference in the number of creative issues with respect to the subject.

The study has focused on 13 out of 55 textbooks that have been approved by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, on 12 textbooks that were used in the 1980s and on 12,163 tasks contained in the textbooks. Out of the total number of examined tasks, 10,730 of the tasks (or 88.22%) are those that do not promote creativity, while the number of those that promote creativity is 1,433 (or 11.78%). The results suggest that there is a difference in the quantity of tasks that promote creativity with regard to the subject and that creativity is equally promoted in the textbooks of the Croatian language (16.96%) and science (16.93%), while the percentage of tasks that promote creativity in mathematics is the lowest (1.69%).

The study has also noted that there were fewer tasks that promote creativity in the textbooks used in the 1980s (480 of them, or 8.15%), than there are such tasks in the textbooks used today (953 tasks, or 15.17%). It has further noted that creativity is not sufficiently promoted in the textbooks of lower elementary education and that they need to be thoroughly re-modelled during the methodical-didactical design process.

Keywords: creativity, lower elementary school textbooks, curriculum, creativity-promoting tasks, tasks that do not promote creativity.