

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across the surface. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

CHARACTER WRITING ACTION RESEARCH

JOLANTA VANATE

PROBLEMS PUPILS FACED WITH CHARACTER WRITING

- REMEMBERING HOW TO WRITE MORE COMPLICATED CHARACTERS/PHRASES
- PUTTING NEW CHARACTERS INTO CONTEXT
- USING NEW SENTENCE STRUCTURES TO WRITE LONG SENTENCES

INTERVENTION

- RESEARCH FOCUSED ON IMPROVING STUDENTS' WRITING BY TEACHING CHARACTERS IN CHUNKS
- NEW CHARACTERS WERE INTRODUCED IN CHUNKS RATHER THAN SINGLE CHARACTERS
- PUPILS PRACTICED CHARACTERS BY WRITING THEM OUT IN PHRASES AND CHUNKS
- ACTIVITIES USED IN CLASS - DICTATIONS WITH PHRASES/SENTENCES, DESCRIBE THE PICTURE TASKS, TRANSCRIBING PINYIN PHRASES INTO CHINESE CHARACTERS
- HOMEWORK – STUDENTS FOLLOWED ON FROM THIS BY MAKING UP OWN SENTENCES WITH GIVEN COMPONENTS/PHRASES AND PRACTICING WRITING OUT LONGER PHRASES

INTERVENTION

- OVER A 4 WEEK PERIOD
- STUDENT PROFILE –
 - ❖ 16 PUPILS – MIXED ABILITY; 6 BOYS AND 10 GIRLS
 - ❖ 11-12 YEARS OLD
 - ❖ LEARNING MANDARIN SINCE SEPTEMBER 2018
- ALL FINDINGS COME FROM TESTS TAKEN BEFORE AND AFTER THE INTERVENTION

FINDINGS - DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS

- BOYS SCORED SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THE GIRLS IN THE CLASS IN THE PRE-TEST
- THE BOYS STRUGGLED THE MOST WITH WRITING SINGLE CHARACTERS TO DESCRIBE A PICTURE MUCH MORE THAN THE GIRLS
- THE BOYS' LEARNING STYLES SUGGESTED THAT THEY CAN BE MORE CREATIVE WHEN THEY WRITE LONGER SENTENCES
- ADAPTED WELL TO CHUNKING ACTIVITIES – MORE FREEDOM TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES
- PAIR AND GROUP ACTIVITIES WORKED WELL – WORKING TOGETHER TO WRITE AS LONG A SENTENCE AS POSSIBLE USING A GIVEN PHRASE (E.G. 'I LIKE..' 'HE LIKES...')

FINDINGS - DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS

- THE GIRLS WERE MORE CONFIDENT AND EAGER TO COMPLETE DICTATION TASKS WITH LONGER SENTENCES
- THE BOYS IMPROVED THEIR PERFORMANCE IN THE POST-TEST WITH A BIG INCREASE, IN PARTICULAR IN PICTURE DESCRIPTION TASK
- ALTHOUGH THE GIRLS ALSO MADE A BIG IMPROVEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO TESTS, THE DIFFERENCE IN THE TWO TESTS WAS MORE SIGNIFICANT FOR THE BOYS

FINDINGS – SENTENCE DICTATIONS

- THE STUDENTS ON A WHOLE ADAPTED REALLY WELL TO SENTENCE DICTATIONS
- HARDER IN THE BEGINNING BUT BECAME EASIER OVER TIME – THEY SOON FOUND IT MORE REWARDING AND EFFECTIVE TO WRITE LONGER PHRASES AS OPPOSED TO SINGLE CHARACTERS
- THIS ENABLED THEM TO ADAPT EXAMPLE SENTENCE STRUCTURES INTO THEIR OWN WRITING
- STUDENTS PRACTICED THEIR OWN WRITING SKILLS BY COPYING OUT LONGER PHRASES RATHER THAN SINGLE CHARACTERS – THIS HELPED THEM TO LEARN CHARACTERS QUICKER AND UNDERSTAND HOW SENTENCE STRUCTURES WORK AND HOW THEY CAN BE ADAPTED

FINDINGS – PICTURE DESCRIPTION TASK

- SENTENCE DICTATIONS HELPED THE STUDENTS TO USE THE NEW SENTENCE STRUCTURES FOR PICTURE DESCRIPTION TASKS
- CREATIVE PICTURE WRITING – STUDENTS WERE EAGER TO USE THE PRACTICED SENTENCES AND ADAPT THEM INTO THEIR OWN CREATIVE WRITING
- USEFUL METHOD FOR LESS CONFIDENT STUDENTS – WORKING TOGETHER IN GROUPS TO CREATE A COMBINATION OF SENTENCES TO DESCRIBE A PICTURE THAT WAS IN FRONT OF THEM
- IN THE POST-TEST, WHERE STUDENTS WERE ASKED TO DESCRIBE A PICTURE IN SINGLE WORDS, THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS CHOSE TO WRITE MORE PHRASES OR SENTENCES RATHER THAN SINGLE CHARACTERS
- CAN BE SEEN AS AN IMPROVEMENT ON CHARACTER WRITING IN CHUNKS - THE STUDENTS WERE FEELING MORE INCLINED TO WRITE LONGER PHRASES AND SENTENCES AS OPPOSED TO SINGLE WORDS

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FINDINGS - DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS

- THE PRE-TEST
- WRITING SINGLE CHARACTERS
- CREATIVITY
- CHUNKING ACTIVITIES
- PAIR AND GROUP ACTIVITIES

FINDINGS - DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS

- CONFIDENCE/LONGER SENTENCES
- THE POST-TEST
- PROGRESS BETWEEN PRE-TEST AND POST-TEST

FINDINGS – SENTENCE DICTATIONS

- SENTENCE DICTATIONS
- LONGER PHRASES VS. SINGLE CHARACTERS
- ADAPTING SENTENCE STRUCTURES
- COPYING LONGER PHRASES

FINDINGS – PICTURE DESCRIPTION TASK

- SENTENCE DICTATIONS
- CREATIVE PICTURE WRITING
- CONFIDENCE IN GROUPS
- STUDENTS CHOSE TO WRITE LONGER PHRASES IN THE POST-TEST
- THE SUCCESS OF 'CHUNKS'