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Díez Palomar, Javier; García Wehrle, Paloma; Giménez Rodríguez, Joaquin

Math literacy of adults: an example about proportions.

Maasz, Juergen (ed.) et al., Learning mathematics to live and work in our world. Proceedings of the 10th international conference on adults learning mathematics, ALM 10, Strobl, Austria, June 29 – July 2, 2003. Linz: Universitätsverlag Rudolf Trauner (ISBN 3-85487-558-4). 210-216 (2003).

The paper explains the approach of a research on didactics of maths. It is based on the study of proportions in adult education. The research is within critical theories. We use qualitative methods to collect data in order to analyse four spheres: objective, emotive, normativ and instrumental. The results suggest that there is a gap between academic mathematics and daily life mathematics. This gap is negative for adults' learning process and they have moved beyond it in order to transform their negative attitudes into positive attitudes. This is very important for adults to be able to succeed in their mathematical studies. (Authors' abstract)

Classification: F88