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Authority, explanation, contention and register: language data and the surface search for essence.

ZDM, Int. J. Math. Educ. 46, No. 6, 967-976 (2014).

Summary: This paper takes the other papers in this issue as ‘data’ – in other words, as a source of observation and comment – and then proceeds to further discussion, analysis and surmise. By focusing in substantial measure on the notions of authority, explanation, contention and register, ideas which occur both explicitly and tacitly in different articles here, and in conjunction with the different natures and uses to which language data are put, I attempt to explore aspects of contemporary work on language and communication and how to some varying degree a search for essence sits at its heart.

Classification: C50 D20

Keywords: authority; centrifugal forces in language; centripetal forces in language; contention; explanation; language data; lexical bundle; multilingual; register; semiotic bundle
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