The Use of Interactive White Boards for the Evaluation of Reading Activities in the School

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Abstract

The objective of this study is to evaluate the use of TBlis (Interactive White Boards) for the reading activity which is one among the most commons practiced on the TBlis. This activity includes reading of texts, multimedia documents, and digital boards. This reading is the most frequently collective and taking place in the school context.

Our objective is to analyze the efficiency of this collective reading with regards to classical individual situations of reading on computers. The efficiency of reading on electronic supports (Baccino, 2005) is classically esteemed on several dimensions, mainly, visibility, legibility and understanding. It will be a question then of studding on these three dimensions the advantages or the inconveniences of the TBlis on the individual/collective reading activity, compared to other supports as, for instance, personal computers.

Our sample include pupils of CP (6 years old, 1st year of primary school) and of 6th (11 years, 1st year of secondary school)

• The dimension of visibility will be estimated by means of a psychophysical test consisting to detect a point of light shown randomly on the screen. By using a procedure of adjustment (Staircase), the luminosity will vary according to the detection of stimuli so as to succeed at a value of visibility.

• The dimension of legibility will be estimated by a search for targets letters (O/N) inserted into a sequence of random letters sharing (or not sharing) common lines (features) with the target (Gibson, 1969). By analyzing the detection of the signal, it will be allowed to determine an indication of discriminability.

• The dimension of understanding will be estimated by using texts of descriptive and narrative nature in conditions with and without Figures. The objective is to determine a rate of understanding from a set of questions, which will concern various levels of textual representation (surface, contained and inferential).

All these tests will have to give rise to a global indication on the efficiency of reading on digital supports.