"From Map to Navigational System" New Trends for Developing Spatial Cognition Skills

Ati Merç, Sultan Baysan

atimerc@hotmail.com, sbaysan@adu.edu.tr

Celal Bayar University Education Faculty, Adnan Menderes University Education Faculty (Turkey)

Abstract

Most of us know people who "cannot read a map" and others who seem to navigate intuitively. Such discrepancy in ability is puzzling, given that most people navigate between locations many times every day. Spatial abilities have been considered as a unique aspect of human intelligence since the 1930s. Spatial cognition refers to knowledge of the space either as a continuous and homogeneous entity or as discrete spatial categories (such as location, direction, distance and depth of objects). Professionals used to use "maps" to develop spatial cognition skills with the rapid developments in technology, navigation systems which have become popular materials for education of Geographical issues. These systems provide an opportunity for 3D learning and support the acquirement of spatial cognition with association to real life problems. In this research it is aimed at highlighting the importance of navigation systems in developing spatial cognition skills.