
Oral Presentation

NEW MATH - A COMPLETE FAILURE?

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As in many European countries “New Math” has been implemented in German primary schools and has been abolished only few years after. Nowadays New Math is said to have been a mostly complete failure. In order to work out why this is the case one needs to describe the events, developments and difficulties that prove as crucial influences on the process of the reform. Among the most relevant sources are schoolbooks, which can be viewed – within the bounds of possibility – as a source for what happened in the classrooms. Therefore it is the aim of the workshop to try out textbooks and additional materials in order to analyse their didactical ideas, possible chances as well as possible difficulties for young pupils handling them. The textbooks that are to be worked on are *Wir lernen Mathematik* by Walter Neunzig & Peter Sorger (eds. 1968 and 1971, additional material: Logic Blocks) and *alef* by Heinrich Bauersfeld et. al. (eds. 1969 and 1975, additional material: *matema Begriffsspiel*), for both titles the focus is on material for 1st grade (6-7 years old). The books are in German but as one idea of the protagonists of the reform was to enable learning mathematics independently from children’s language abilities knowledge of German is not required to work with the materials.