

The sociocultural background of university students' text comprehension ability

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An important question of the national research policy is the efficiency of the educational system. The expansion of the national public and higher education has started numerous competence-based investigations. The researches at UP measuring youngsters in public education started in the 90's. Later, with the Dutch CITO research team, tests, measuring tools and a database were developed for the competence-based measuring of students in higher education. The pedagogical research team of the Faculty of Adult Education and HRD, UP, led by Mihály Kocsis, inquired 2865 undergraduates and 2000 freshmen in 2005/2006 and 2006/2007. The international literature had pointed out the impact of reading and text comprehension ability on other learning abilities regarding children in public education. However, little is known about how the existence of the basic competences influences the chance of getting to university in adult age groups and during the transition period between public and higher education.

The peculiarities of the background of learning performance, and the learning performance of consecutive age groups, as well as younger and older generations will be presented.