Abstract

The aim of the study was the comparison of the two different concepts of selectivity in thinking: the capacity-oriented and the content specific approaches, using chess as a task environment. In order to identify the optimal development possibilities of medium skilled chess players, we assigned a small sample (n=20) into two capacity oriented, one content specific, and one control group. The participants were recruited from among the KSE chess club’s B, D, C and category A players, and one Expert, meeting the criteria of performing at a consistent level for at least 6 months prior to conducting the study (all of whom were men). In both measurement points we assigned players’ chess specific tasks focusing on attention, memory and apperception; in addition we calculated the performance ratings of the players’ in two competitions prior and after the development program, using them as a criterion variable. The participants in the four randomized groups were attending two 45 minutes differentiated development interventions weekly for 5 weeks, based on the results and theories of de Groot (1965), Saarilouma (1984, 1985, 1995) and Chase et al. (1973). We hypothesized that the participants in the apperception group would perform significantly better in all chess specific tasks at the second measurement point, while the participants of the control group would perform significantly worse than the participants of the pilot groups. In addition, we assumed that the participants of the pilot groups would perform significantly better at the second measurement point, than at the first measurement point, and also that we would find the greatest development in the performance ratings at the second measurement point in the apperception group. Data were processed with the statistical software, SPSS 16.0. We used variance analyses (One Way ANOVA, Tukey HSD), paired samples t-tests, and correlations to analyze our hypothesis. Our first hypothesis has been refuted, the second has been partially, and the last one fully supported. We can report, that we could find very few statistically significant connections.

Keywords

selectivity, capacity, content, attention, memory, apperception, medium skilled chess players.

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