Through the eyes of the teacher - Multimodal exploration of expertise differences in the perception of classroom disruptions

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Introduction

Managing classroom disruptions is a crucial aspect of effective classroom management (Evertson, Weinstein, et al. (2006); Kounin (2006)).

Accordingly, teachers must be able to quickly notice and appropriately react to significant events in the classroom. This ability is referred to as classroom professional vision (Goodwin (2015); Sherin (2007)).

The process of professional vision can be divided into two main aspects: focusing on relevant situations for learning and teaching ("noticing") and applying knowledge to draw appropriate conclusions in these situations ("knowledge-based reasoning"; Seidel and Stürmer (2014)).

Therefore, the early visual perception of classroom disruptions is a key component to effectively maximize students' learning time and minimize classroom interruptions. According to Kounin (2006), these important classroom management strategies are called "withitness" and "overlapping" and can be summarized under the concept of monitoring (Gold and Holodynski (2017)).

Learning to develop such classroom management skills is a demanding and complex task for student teachers (Wolff, Jarodzka, Bogert, and Boshuizen (2016)). Research on teacher expertise showed that expert and novice teachers differ in their ability to perceive classroom events, "[. . .] whereas only a few studies have focused on the basal process of noticing, i.e. the recognition of possible disturbing situations" (Grub, Biermann, and Brünken (2020), p.75). Mobile eye-tracking data can fill this research gap by providing new insights in how expertise differences in teacher´s professional vision manifest in teacher-student interactions (Lachner, Jarodzka, and Nückles (2016); @Wolff et al. (2016)).

Theoretical background

Professional competence

Classroom Management

- Disruptions defintiion

Professional Vision

Expertise

Parameter/Indicators of professional vision

Research Questions

This study examined how the degree of teaching experience influences (a) the number of fixations on relevant areas (e.g., the student performing the disruption), (b) the fixation duration in relevant areas and (c) the time to first fixation on relevant areas, using mobile eye-tracking data in a controlled, micro-teaching setting. Based on the existing literature, we expect expert teachers to outperform novices by (H1) showing more fixations on relevant areas with (H2) shorter fixation durations and (H3) perceiving classroom disruptions faster (cf. Van den Bogert, Bruggen, Kostons, and Jochems (2014)).

Methods

We report how we determined our sample size, all data exclusions (if any), all manipulations, and all measures in the study.

Participants

The sample consists of $N = 28$ participants with $n = 7$ expert teachers and $n = 21$ novice teachers.

The inclusion criterion for experts was that they have successfully completed teacher training and are actively employed in the teaching profession. According to Palmer, Stough, Burdenski, and Gonzales (2005), we selected teachers as experts who had at least three years of professional experience and ideally had worked in another teaching position, such as subject advisor or trainer for trainee teachers, in addition to their teaching profession in school. Novices were student teachers who had successfully completed their first internship in a school and gained one to four hours of teaching experience.

The expert teachers (5 women; 71.40%) had a mean age of 45.10 years ($SD = 12$; range: 27-59) and an average teaching experience of 18.10 years ($SD = 14.10$; range: 3-37). 71% of the experienced teachers were also engaged in an secondary teaching activity, such as lecturers at the university, main training supervisors for trainee teachers and subject advisers.

The novice teachers (13 women; 61.90%) had a mean age of 23.30 years ($SD = 1.70$; range: 20-27) with an average teaching experience of 0 years. On average, the student teachers were in their 7.40 semester ($SD = 2.50$; range: 3-11). Furthermore, they had an average teaching experience of 12 teaching units à 45min ($SD = 8.60$; range: 0-36) through the internships during their studies. 90.50% of the student teachers were also engaged in an extracurricular teaching activity, such as tutoring or homework supervision.

The subjects were primarily recruited through personal contacts, social media (Facebook), e-mail distribution lists and advertising in lectures at the University Leipzig. All study procedures were carried out in accordance with the ethical standards of the University's Institutional Review Board. The authors received a positive vote on the study procedures from the Ethics Committee Board of Leipzig University. All participants were

informed in detail about the aim and intention of the study prior to testing. Participation in the study was voluntary and only took place after written consent has been given.

Material

Experimental stimuli are freely available in the following online repository: https://github.com/... .

Eye-Tracking data. During the lesson, teachers wore a binocular Tobii Pro Glasses 2 eye-tracker (https://www.tobiipro.com/product-listing/tobii-pro-glasses-2/). The system consisted of a wearable head unit and a recording unit. As shown in Figure 1, the head unit was a measuring device with different sensors. A high-definition scene camera captured a full HD video of the teacher's field of vision. An integrated microphone recorded the surrounding sounds. Infrared light illuminators supported the eye tracking sensors which recorded the eye orientation to capture the teacher's gaze point as shown in Figure 2. The videos were recorded with a sampling rate of 50 Hz in a video resolution with 1920 x 1080 at 25 frames per second. The scene camera had a field of view of 90 deg. in 16:9 format (82 deg. horizontal and 52 deg. vertical) and a frame dimension of 179 x 159 x 57 mm (width x depth x height).

Behavioral data. The speech, sounds and voices of the participants were recorded with Zoom H3-VR Ambient Recorder (https://zoomcorp.com/en/gb/handheld-recorders/handheld-recorders/h3-vr-360-audio-recorder/) installed in the middle of the lab setting. The Zoom H3-VR recorded with four built-in mics arranged in an Ambisonic array with a bitrate of 4608 kBits/s.

Movements, facial expressions and gestures of the subjects were recorded by four Go Pro Hero 7 black cameras (https://gopro.com/content/dam/help/hero7-black/manuals/HERO7Black_UM_ENG_REVC.pdf) from different angles. The videos were recorded with a sampling rate of 50 Hz in a video resolution with 1920 x 1080 at 50

frames per second in 16:9 format with a linear field of view.

Questionnaire data. After each micro-teaching-unit, the three actors answered items on teaching quality using a validated questionnaire (Helmke et al., 2014) and self developed scales on the teacher's presence behavior derived from the research literature. In addition, subjects were asked to give a self-assessment on classroom management by completing the same questionnaire after each micro-teaching-unit. The questionnaire was a 4-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; 4 = Strongly Agree).

Verbal data. In addition to the eye-tracking, questionnaire and behavioral data, verbal data was also collected in the form of a Stimulated Recall Interview.

3

Procedure

The project was conducted as a laboratory study in a cross-sectional study design to investigate whether and how teachers' experience has an influence on the perception of and reaction to classroom disruptions.

In June 2021, the study was piloted with student teachers volunteers to refine the study procedure. Data collection was conducted between July 2021 and ... 2022.

Before the data collection, each subject received a personal digital meeting with the experimenter to go over the study procedure and to arrange a date for the data collection. During the digital meeting, the subjects were asked to prepare a 15-minute lesson in a subject and grade of their choice for the data collection.

On the day of a data collection, the first step was to set up the study room at the University of Leipzig. For this, all the appropriate technical equipment was charged and installed in the room (see set up plan [REFERENZ EINFÜGEN]). Next, all four cameras and the audio recorder were synced via Timecode System.

After the subject arrived, a smart watch was put on to measure the heart rate during the session and to get a pretest time at least 15min before the session started. In addition to the experimenter and the subject, three student assistants from the working group always took part in the data collection, as they represented the class.

After the welcome, the subject was again briefed about the study. It was explicitly pointed out that the student assistants would act as the class and simulate typical class events during the lesson. The subject was asked in advance to behave as naturally as possible during the entire time. Next, the subjects' written informed consent was obtained and contact details were collected in order to inform all persons participating in the study if a covid infection should occur.

After the introduction, the eye-tracking glasses were adjusted for the subject by inserting contact lenses if necessary and changing the nose pad. To start the eye tracking glasses, the Tobii Glasses must be fitted onto the subject's head via an one-point-calibration. In the calibration process the subject was asked to look at a Calibration Card held in-front of the subject for a few seconds. The experimenter started the recording from Tobii Glasses Controller Software running on a computer.

After starting the eye tracking recording, all other technical devices were also switched on: The four cameras and the audio recorder were controlled via iPad using the BLINK Hup app and could be started simultaneously by synchronization. The ZED camera was started manually on another laptop.

Before the 15-minute lesson, there was a short 10-minute warm-up phase. The phase was divided into two parts and served on the one hand to get the subjects used to the eye-tracking glasses and on the other hand to get used to their class. In the first phase of the warm-up, the game "name juggling" was played using two balls. In the game, the subject and the three actors threw two balls at each other and, depending on the color of the ball, called either their own name or that of the target person. After the name

juggling, the subjects were supposed to start a conversation. For this, the subject thought of a question for each student and was also asked a question of each student. The content could be anything that interested the participants.

After the warm up phase, the experimenter ensured a manual synchronization of the technique by an acoustic signal in which she clapped her hands loudly twice standing in the middle of the room. After this, another nine-point calibration followed outside the study room in a neighboring room. Before the subject left the room for calibration, the time on the smartwatch was noted, as well as the steps recorded until that point. The subject had to stand at a marked point and look at a board three meters away with nine april tags. The subject was asked to read the nine points aloud in order at a normal speaking speed. This procedure was important to validate the one-point calibration on the one hand and on the other hand to give the subject the feeling of a lesson start, because after this calibration the subject came into the study room to start the 15-minute lesson.

For the micro-teaching lesson, student teachers and experienced teachers were asked to prepare an introduction of 15 minutes which they taught in front of the fictitious class consisting of three student assistants. The actors simulated the nine classroom events during the lesson, derived by research literature. The order of the disruptions as well as the students performing them were fully balanced using Latin Square.

The experimenter used time cards to indicate the time remaining (yellow = one minute remaining; red = time expired).

A mobile eye-tracker recorded the subject's gaze behavior and audio data of the lesson. All other sounds and voices were recorded by an audio recorder. To record facial expressions, gestures and movements, four mobile cameras were installed to record the classroom from all perspectives (!!!see figures). After the micro-teaching-unit, the teacher conducted a letter search in the room. For this, four letters had to be found in order and read aloud. This served as a control condition for the speed of the subjects' perceptual

ability.

of the test persons. After the end of the teaching sequence, the class and the teacher After the end of the teaching sequence, the class and the teacher filled out a questionnaire focusing on evidence-based methods of teaching diagnostics (EMU) in order to collect data on self-assessment and assessment by others.

In the second part of the study, the experimenter conducted a Stimulated-Recall Interview (SRI) with the subject. In this interview, the recorded video of the lesson was watched and commented on by the subject while thinking aloud.

Finally, the test persons answered a Situational Judgement Test (SJT, (Gold & Holodynski, 2015)) in the form of a questionnaire. Here they had to assess teaching scenarios and evaluate their behavior in response to them. The SJT was used to assess strategic knowledge about classroom management.

This study is subject to a quasi-experimental study design, as there was no random assignment of the test persons to the experimental conditions. Due to the use of MET technology, the study has a high external validity (Gegenfurtner et al., 2018). The SRI carried out afterwards explicitly investigates the subjects' sense of disturbance and feeling of safety, which speaks for a high content validity of the study. Internal validity can be ensured to the extent that the teaching events that occurred were exactly the same for all subjects, as the learners received precise behavioural instructions. These disturbances followed a script and coding guide in which the actions of the class were precisely described. The sequence of events varied from survey to survey so that disruptions were always random. The scripted behavioural instructions during the teaching sequence characterise this study with a high degree of standardization, especially when compared to events taking place in a real classroom. The study is based on an experimental manual, script and coding guide, which explicitly describes the implementation, evaluation as well as interpretation of the data, thus making it objectively recordable and measurable. As

this study takes place within the framework of the dissertation ProVisioNET, the original survey will continue beyond the submission of this scientific work. continues.

Data analysis

We investigated whether experts and novice teachers differed

All reported data analyses were conducted with the R (Version 4.1.3; R Core Team, 2021) and the R-packages *ARTofR* (Version 0.4.1; Zhang, 2021), *cowplot* (Version 1.1.1; Wilke, 2020), *dplyr* (Version 1.0.8; Wickham, François, Henry, & Müller, 2022), *forcats* (Version 0.5.1; Wickham, 2021), *ggplot2* (Version 3.3.5; Wickham, 2016), *gridExtra* (Version 2.3; Auguie, 2017), *kableExtra* (Version 1.3.4; Zhu, 2021), *knitr* (Version 1.38; Xie, 2015), *ltm* (Version 1.2.0; Rizopoulos, 2006), *lubridate* (Version 1.8.0; Grolemund & Wickham, 2011), *MASS* (Version 7.3.55; Venables & Ripley, 2002), *moments* (Version 0.14; Komsta & Novomestky, 2015), *msm* (Version 1.6.9; Jackson, 2011), *needs* (Version 0.0.3; Katz, 2016), *papaja* (Version 0.1.0.9999; Aust & Barth, 2020), *polycor* (Version 0.8.1; Fox, 2022), *purrr* (Version 0.3.4; Henry & Wickham, 2020), *readr* (Version 2.1.2; Wickham, Hester, & Bryan, 2021), *readxl* (Version 1.4.0; Wickham & Bryan, 2019), *rlang* (Version 1.0.2; Henry & Wickham, 2022), *sjPlot* (Version 2.8.10; Lüdecke, 2021), *stringr* (Version 1.4.0; Wickham, 2019), *tibble* (Version 3.1.6; Müller & Wickham, 2021), *tidyr* (Version 1.2.0; Wickham & Girlich, 2022), *tidyverse* (Version 1.3.1; Wickham et al., 2019), *tinylabels* (Version 0.2.3; Barth, 2022), *viridis* (Version 0.6.2; Garnier et al., 2021a, 2021b), *viridisLite* (Version 0.4.0; Garnier et al., 2021b), and *xtable* (Version 1.8.4; Dahl, Scott, Roosen, Magnusson, & Swinton, 2019) and IBM SPSS 28.

Results

Discussion

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Table 1

Demographic Information

Group	N	Gender female in percent	M Age in years	SD Age in years	Min Age in years	Max Age in years
Expert	7	71.40	45.10	12.00	27.00	59.00
Novice	21	61.90	23.30	1.70	20.00	27.00

Table 2

Teaching Experience in years, internship experience in teaching units (45min) and extracurricular teachin

Group	N	M Exp.	SD Exp.	Min Exp.	Max Exp.	M Semester	SD Semester	Min Semester	Max Semester	M Internship	SD Internship
Expert	7	18.10	14.10	3.00	37.00	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Novice	21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.40	2.50	3.00	11.00	12.00	8.60

Table 3

Scale analysis for novices' self-assessment

	N Items	M	SD	Min	Max	Skewness	Kurtosis	alpha
Classroom Management	8.00	2.94	0.26	2.50	3.38	0.02	1.69	0.31
Balance	3.00	3.14	0.56	1.67	4.00	-0.45	3.53	0.71
Presence	8.00	3.10	0.36	2.50	3.88	0.10	2.65	0.66
Natural Behavior	3.00	3.17	0.65	1.67	4.00	-0.65	2.91	0.80

Table 4

Scale analysis for experts' self-assessment

	N Items	M	SD	Min	Max	Skewness	Kurtosis	alpha
Classroom Management	8.00	3.00	0.20	2.75	3.25	0.25	1.42	-0.16
Balance	3.00	3.43	0.42	2.67	4.00	-0.57	2.87	0.41
Presence	8.00	3.36	0.45	2.50	3.88	-0.85	2.95	0.84
Natural Behavior	3.00	3.38	0.36	3.00	4.00	0.60	2.36	0.00

verbal disruption	agitation	lack of eagerness to learn
chatting with neighbor	drumming hands	putting head on table
whispering with neighbor	clicking pen	looking at phone
heckling	snipping with fingers	drawing on a sheet of paper

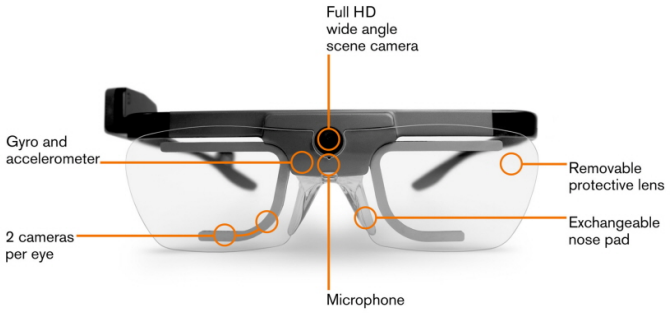

Figure 1. Tobii Pro Glasses 2; Source: https://www.tobiipro.com/product-listing/tobii-pro-glasses-2/

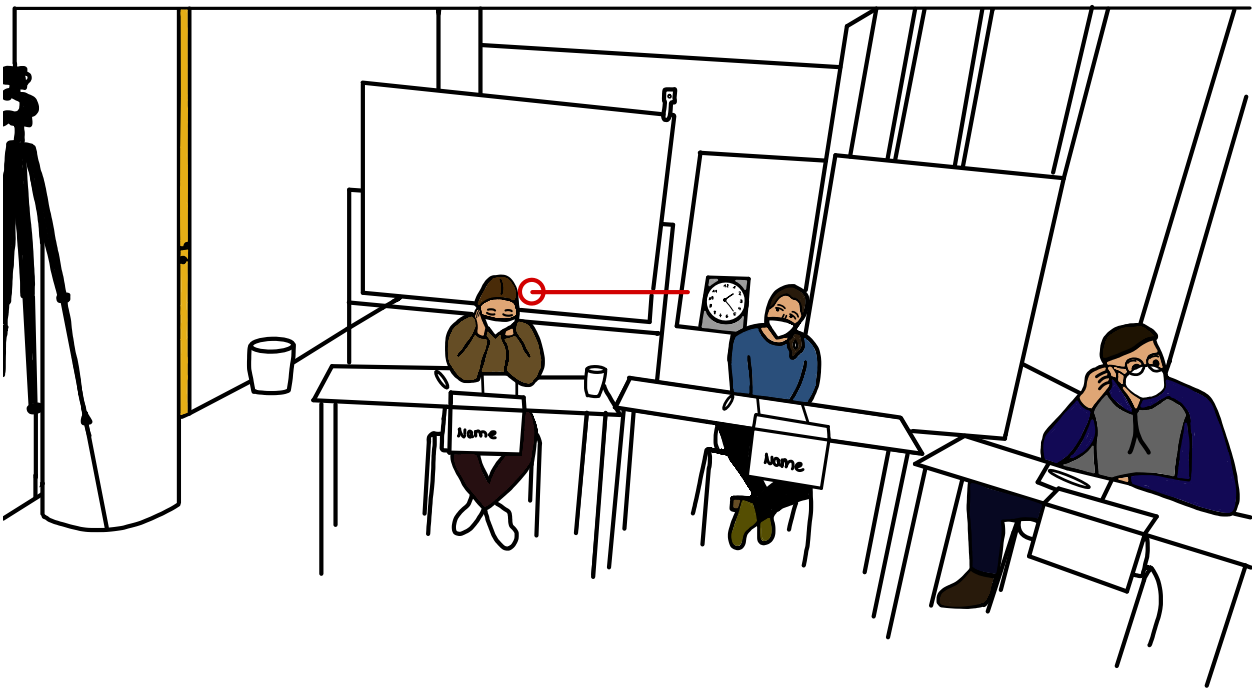

Figure 2. Teacher's Gaze Point

Figure 3. Subject and experimenter during the Stimulated Recall Interview