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Writing on screen for improving German orthography

3rd Baltic Sea – 17th Nordic Literacy Conference
Konstanze Edtstadler & Iderblog-Team
Turku/Åbo, Finland, 14.08.2016





The IDeRBlog- Project



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Individuell Differenziert Rechtschreiben mit Blogs =
Individually differentiated spelling with blogs www.iderblog.eu

Developing and providing an internet platform where

- the development of text writing skills
- the acquisition of German orthographic competence and
- the use of modern means of communication and digital instruments

are combined (cf. Edtstadler, Ebner, Ebner 2015)

Interdisciplinary team from 6 institutions in Germany, the German-speaking part of Belgium and Austria
supported by the European Commission





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SAARLAND





Grundschule St. Ingbert
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Background



German orthography:

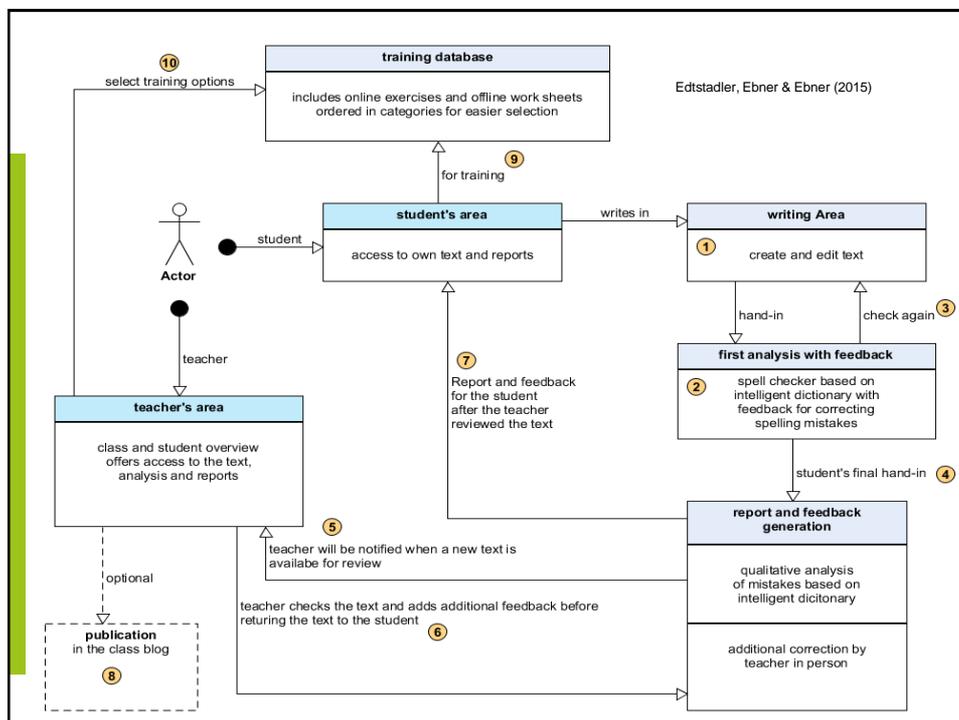
- not as transparent as Finnish, but also not as opaque as English
- correct spelling in German very important/prestigious, but comprehensive concepts of instruction are still needed

Qualitative analysis of orthographic mistakes:

- considering type of mistakes for providing specific exercises is highly efficient, but also very costly (cf. Edtstadler 2016)

Use of modern means of communication and digital tools:

- attractive for children, but advantages are not (extensively) used, e.g. voice output (cf. Edtstadler & Gabriel 2016)
- motivation for writing and re-writing by providing relevant reasons and audience (cf. Gov. of South Australia 2011)



The Intelligent Dictionary 

Category	Spelling of <i>/<ie>		
Phenomena	<i >instead of <ie> for /i:/	<ie> instead of <i> for /i/	<ie> instead of <i> for /i:/
Feedback	Pronounce the word and think about the spelling of the i-sound.		Although you can hear a long i, you do not spell it.

- feedback is neutral and patient
- encourages the development and application of spelling strategies
- forces to think about own spelling (metalinguistic awareness)
- autonomous correction in a motivating context (Klicpera et al. 2003)

The Intelligent Dictionary 

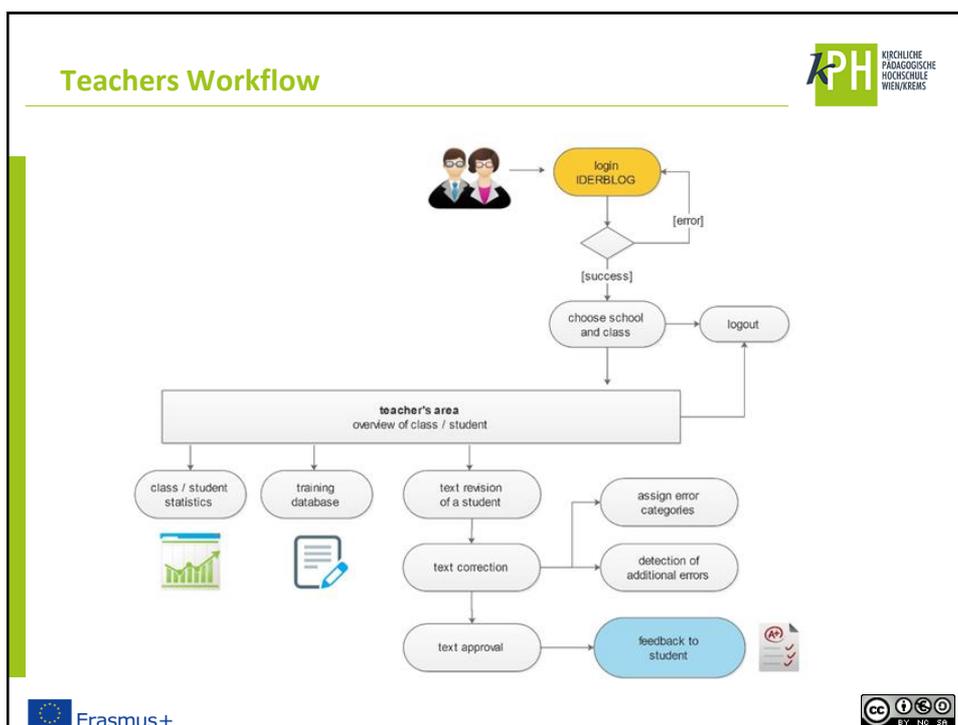
28 categories of the qualitative analysis are divided into 143 phenomena of orthographic mistakes in order to provide 58 different feedbacks for correcting the mistakes

- Student gets feedback in written form or via audio files
- Teacher gets an overview of the type of mistakes
- based on this analysis: appropriate selection of exercises and courses

Not all possible mistakes of all words coded (yet):

- Use of Language Tool
- Teachers assign



Publishing Texts

After teachers' revision, students can publish their text
 = Existence of a real audience within class/school or even world-wide

Other users can read and comment on the text
 → higher motivation for correcting and reading texts
 → development of media competence

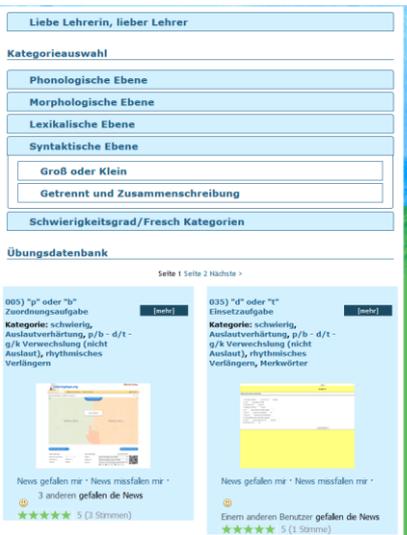
Anonymity ensured

- by the use of nicknames
- teachers have to revise texts before (e.g. mentioning personal data)

Erasmus+

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Training database



The screenshot shows a web interface for a training database. At the top, it says "Liebe Lehrerin, lieber Lehrer". Below that is a "Kategorieauswahl" section with several buttons: "Phonologische Ebene", "Morphologische Ebene", "Lexikalische Ebene", "Syntaktische Ebene", "Groß oder Klein", and "Getrennt und Zusammenschreibung". There is also a "Schwierigkeitsgrad/Fresch Kategorien" button. Below this is the "Übungsdatenbank" section, which shows two exercise cards. The first card is for the exercise "005) 'p' oder 'b' Zweifelsaufgabe" and the second is for "035) 'd' oder 't' Einzelfaufgabe". Each card includes a category, a description, a preview image, and user ratings.

- Contains online and offline exercises
- Preselection and recommendations are made by the system
- Congruently ordered in categories of spelling mistakes

Furthermore:
online courses with explanations of orthographic phenomena




Online Courses



The grid shows 15 online courses, each represented by a cartoon character holding a sign with a spelling rule. The courses are:

- d-t g-k p-b
- das oder dass
- Dehnungs-h
- Doppelkonsonanten
- Doppelvokale
- e-ä eu-äu
- Groß- und Kleinschreibung
- Hintere Wortbausteine
- i-Schreibung
- ng/nk st/sch/sp
- s/ss/B
- v/f/pf/ph

15 online courses
explanations with examples
online excercises
worksheets with solutions
interactive glossary

<http://typo3.lpm.uni-sb.de/derblog/fuer-erwachsene/schuelerkurse/ableiten/kurs-eae-aueu/>






Conclusion

The platform aims at combining text writing and sharing with improving German orthographic competence by using computers and tablets

Advantages for students:

- Motivating context for writing and correcting texts

Advantages for teachers:

- Insight in problematic areas of orthography of their students
- Huge amount of exercises and age-appropriate online courses
- Easy management of text corrections

Advantages for researchers:

- better understanding of the process of spelling acquisition






Literature

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Acknowledgements



This research project is supported by the European Commission Erasmus+ program in the framework of the project IDERBLOG (VG-SPS-SL-14-001616-3). For more information about the project IDERBLOG and its project partners:

Hugo Adolph¹, Christian Aspalter², Susanne Biermeier³, Mike Cormann⁴, Sandra Ernst⁴, Markus Ebner⁶, Martin Ebner⁶, Konstanze Edtstadler⁵, Sonja Gabriel⁵, Gabriele Goor⁴, Michael Gros¹, Anneliese Huppertz⁴, Kathrin Irmag⁴, Susanne Martich², Nina Steinhauer¹, Behnam Taraghi⁶ and Marianne Ullmann⁵, please visit our homepage <http://iderblog.eu/> (German language only).

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Further information – for free



www.iderblog.eu

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<http://www.openeducationeuropa.eu/en/article/Improved-German-Spelling-Acquisition-through-Learning-Analytics?paper=174137>

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