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Diversity in Teaching School Mathematics: From Egyptian Papyrus Roll to Gestalt Psychology to Japanese Curriculum to Common Core

Abstract. The presentation intends to demonstrate that the notion of diversity of mathematics teaching methods associated with the modern day pedagogy can be extended to include their international dimension and the success of the ideas of Gestalt psychologists tested in their work with young children in Brooklyn borough of New York city in the mid 20th century. The genesis of their ideas is in the contribution of ancient Egyptian civilization that goes back to several millennia in the history of humankind. It will be argued that effective pedagogy of school mathematics requires knowledge of the subject matter, appreciation of its historical perspectives, awareness of the current worldwide teaching standards and integration of the use of concrete problems with fostering students’ growth mindset as the psychological foundation of productive thinking.