pädagogische hochschule schwyz

Which students benefit most from metacognitive prompts during learning in a digital learning environment?

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EARLI SIG 6&7, Zollikofen, 24.8.2022

New opportunities to support SRL in DLEs: Metacognitive Prompts

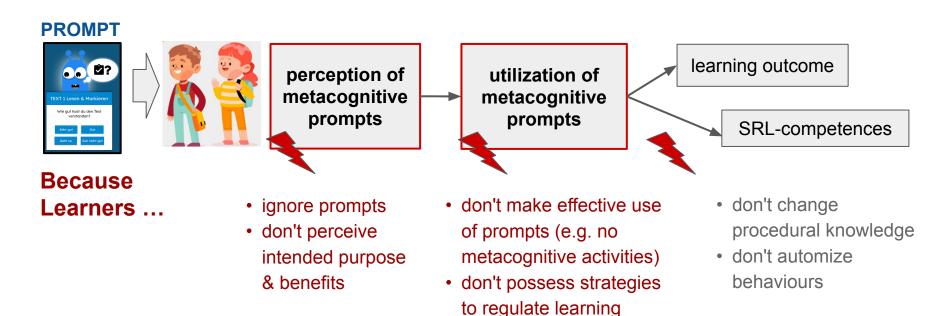


 Metacognitive prompts have the potential to foster SRL processes & improve learning outcomes

> see for instance reviews by Zheng, 2016; Guo et al., 2022

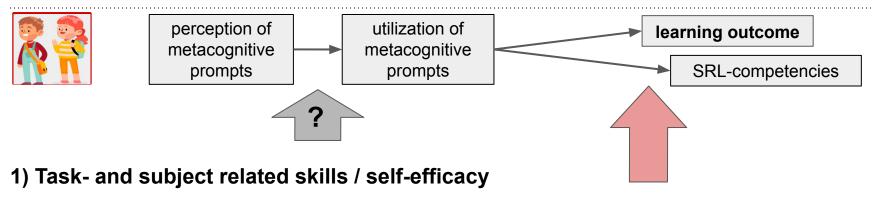
Digital Learning Environments (DLE)
 > timing, flexibility & adaptivity regarding the activation and automatization of metacognitive activities

But: Not all learners benefit from metacognitive prompts ...



e.g. Bannert & Mengelkamp, 2013; Baars et al., 2022; Engelmann et al., 2021; Wong et al., 2019 and our own research ...

Role of learner characteristics for perception & utilization

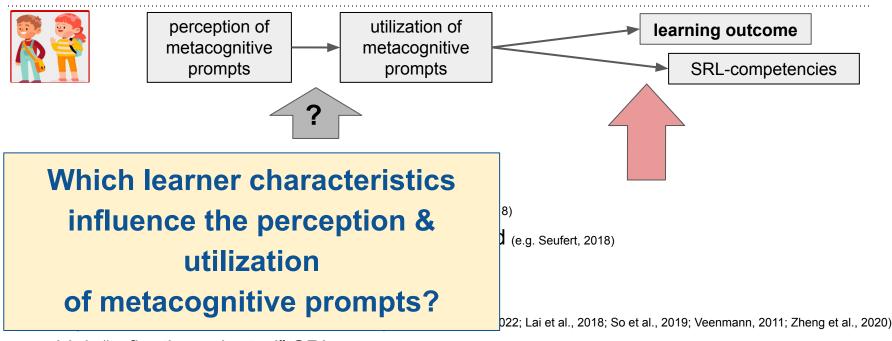


- high self-efficacy (e.g. Gentner & Seufert, 2020; Pieger & Bannert, 2018)
- medium task difficulty because of cognitive load (e.g. Seufert, 2018)

2) SRL-related skills / self-efficacy & attitudes

- high SRL-skills or SRL-Self-efficacy (e.g. Baars et al., 2022; Lai et al., 2018; So et al., 2019; Veenmann, 2011; Zheng et al., 2020)
- high "reflective-oriented" SRL (e.g. Engelmann et al., 2021; Zheng et al., 2020)

Role of learner characteristics for perception & utilization



• high "reflective-oriented" SRL (e.g. Engelmann et al., 2021; Zheng et al., 2020)

Intervention, study design Learn2Learn and sample

N = 362 primary school students

Classes: 22 (grade 5 & 6)

 EG_{quest} : n = 177

 EG_{interv} : n = 23

Assessed:

- learner characteristics
- perception (utilization) of prompts



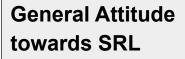
Learning Unit on Glaciers



I2I-Assistant incl. Prompts in LearningView

~12 Lessons

Which learner characteristics influence the perception & utilization of metacognitive prompts?



General Self-efficacy towards SRL

Task-related Self-efficacy (information/reading/writing)

questionnaire data





Perception of prompts (e.g. useful, confusing)

Utilization of prompts (e.g. trigger for reflective thinking)

questionnaire & interview data

Which learner characteristics influence the perception & utilization of metacognitive prompts?

General Attitudes maybe perceived as less useful towards SRL when SRL-efficacy is very high Perception of prompts **General Self-efficacy** (e.g. useful, confusing) towards SRL Utilization of prompts (e.g. trigger for reflective thinking) Task-related Self-efficacy (information/reading/writing)

questionnaire & interview data

<u>6</u> 6 2?

questionnaire data

Which learner characteristics influence the perception & utilization of metacognitive prompts?

General Attitudes towards SRL

General Self-efficacy towards SRL

Task-related Self-efficacy (information/reading/writing)

questionnaire data

maybe perceived as less useful when task related SE is very high

?

cognitive overload when Task-related SE is very low





Perception of prompts (e.g. useful, confusing)

Utilization of prompts

(e.g. trigger for reflective thinking)

questionnaire & interview data

Which learner characteristics influence the perception & utilization of metacognitive prompts?



Combination of factors

Perception of prompts
(e.g. useful, confusing)

Utilization of prompts

(e.g. trigger for reflective thinking)

General Self-efficacy towards SRL

Task-related Self-efficacy (information/reading/writing)

questionnaire data

questionnaire & interview data

₫?

(Linear) Relationships between ...

learner characteristics

General Attitude towards SRL

General Self-efficacy towards SRL

Task-related Self-efficacy (information/reading/writing)

Correlations (Spearman)



reaction to prompts

no further relationships found!

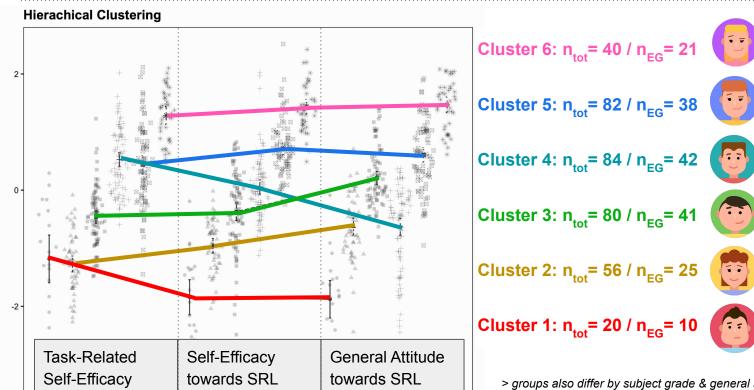
Perception of prompts (e.g. useful, confusing)

 $r = -.23^{**}$

Utilization of prompts

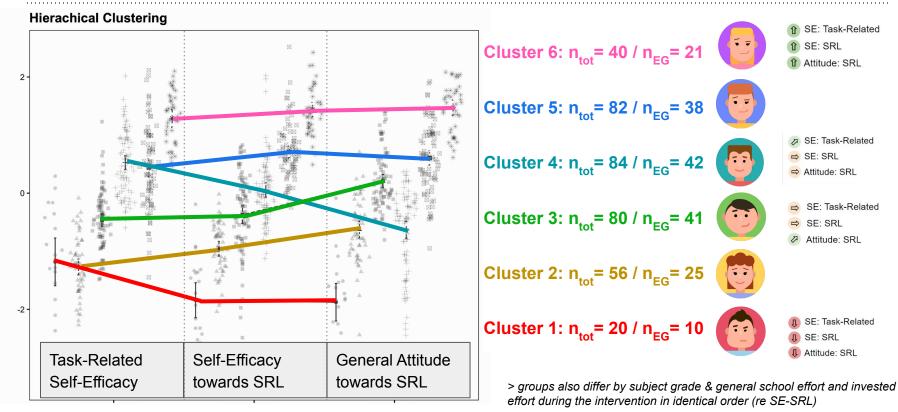
(e.g. trigger for reflective thinking)

Maybe a combination of different learner characteristics?

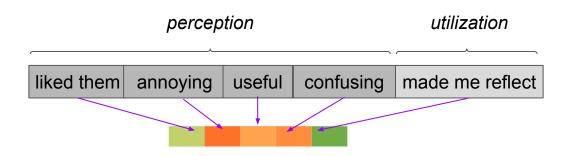


> groups also differ by subject grade & general school effort and invested effort during the intervention in identical order (re SE-SRL)

Maybe a combination of different learner characteristics?



Do the clusters differ in their reaction to metacogn. prompts?



specific patterns?













Students perception (& utilization) of prompts (questionnaire data)

liked them annoying useful confusing made me reflect

The assistant is great!

It makes me reflect but is also annoying and confusing. It is kind of helpful it makes me reflect but also confuses me. It is kind of helpful but doesn't make me reflect.

It sometimes makes me reflect but also annoys me a little. I don't like the assistant! It is not helpful.



Group 1:

- § SE: Task-Related
- I SE: SRL
- Attitude: SRL



Group 2:

- SE: Task-Related
- SE: SRL
- Attitude: SRL



Group 3:

- ⇒ SE: Task-Related
- ⇒ SE: SRL
- Attitude: SRL



Group 4:

- ⇒ SE: SRL
- Attitude: SRL



Group 5:

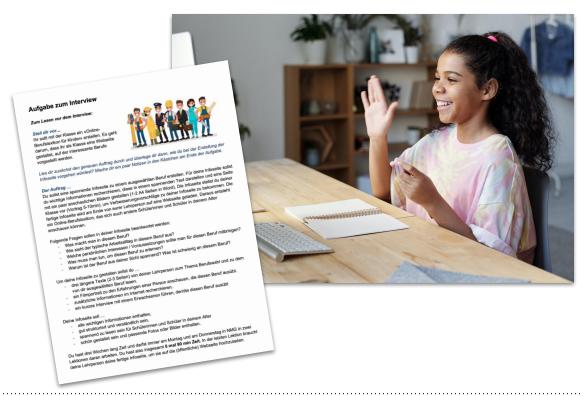
- SE: Task-Related
- Attitude: SRL



Group 6:

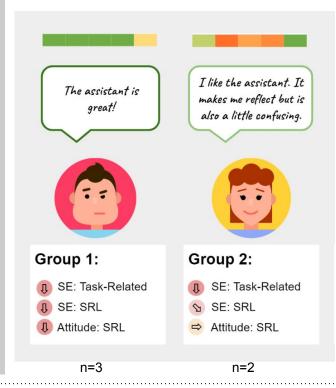
- ↑ SE: Task-Related
- 1 SE: SRL
- 1 Attitude: SRL

Contrasting cases to validate results (interview data)



Comparison of group 1 and 2 (interview data)

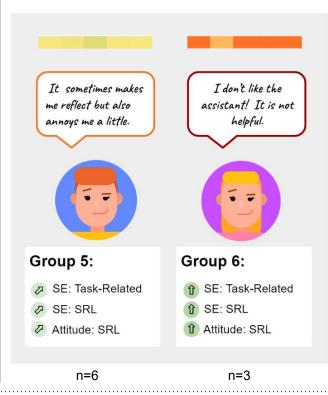
- overestimate themselves
- do not remember any metacognitive prompts
- do not report any MCA
- did not utilize prompts



- underestimate themselves
- remember metacognitive prompts well
- describe how the prompts triggered MCA
- understood purpose of prompts
- sometimes utilized prompts
- but also felt stressed by prompts (time pressure)

Comparison of group 5 and 6 (interview data)

- high level of MCA
- high attitude towards prompts
- understood the purpose of the prompts
- mostly complied
- reason for not complying: feeling stressed or in bad mood



- very high level of MCA
- much higher attitude towards prompts
- understood the purpose of the prompts
- sometimes complied
- reason for not complying: already skilled in SRL (do not always need prompts)

CONCLUSION

It's complicated ;-)

- expected relationships between learner characteristics and perception & utilization of prompts not confirmed by questionnaire data, with one exception:
 - > students who perceive high task-related SE report less utilization (reflection)
- analyzing combinations of learner characteristics might be more insightful
 e.g. to show the role of SRL-attitudes at different SE-levels
- interview data in general supported expected relationships
 e.g. positive attitude towards SRL leads to better utilization of prompts by students when task-related SE are at similar level
- differences between questionnaire and interview data analysis (esp. in very low and very high SE groups) highlight the importance of mixed-method designs to detect influential patterns and deepen understanding of influencing factors (time pressure, individual beliefs and concepts)

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https://ims.phsz.ch/L2L/DasProjekt

