

Tiedekunta - Fakultet - Faculty <b>Faculty of Behavioural Sciences</b>		Laitos - Institution - Department <b>Department of Education</b>	
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Työn nimi - Arbetets titel - Title <b>Various meanings of studying in Open University. Discourse analysis on the interview speech of students with the motive of developing their professional competence.</b>			
Oppiaine - Läroämne - Subject <b>Education (General and Adult Education)</b>			
Työn laji ja ohjaaja(t) - Arbetets art och handledare - Level and instructor <b>Masters thesis Instructor: Aino-Maija Lahtinen</b>		Aika - Datum - Month and year <b>September 2008</b>	Sivumäärä - Sidoantal - Number of pages <b>152 + 4</b>
Tiivistelmä - Referat - Abstract  <p>This study originates from the results of a study experience inquiry carried out for the Helsinki Open University students in the Fall of 2006. A significant number of students responded to the inquiry stating they study in the Open University in order to develop their professional competence. An interesting question aroused from the relationship between academic studies and professional competence. Previous studies on Open University students have mainly focused on categorizing different student profiles. This study aimed at discursive interpretation of meanings given to studying in Open University. The methodological orientation of the study was based on the assumption of social constructive nature of reality.</p> <p>First, the study examined what kinds of meanings students with the motive of developing their professional competence give to studying in Open University. Secondly, the study examined how the relationship of studying and professional competence was constructed in the interview speech. As a part of the second research problem, subject positions stemming from different interpretative repertoires were analyzed.</p> <p>The research data consisted of seven interviews that were carried out in the Fall of 2007. All of the interviewees were students who participated in the study experience inquiry and stated they study in order to develop their professional competence. Discourse analysis was selected as a methodological approach of the study. Similar, diverse and contradictory interpretative repertoires were identified in the interview speech. The purpose of the analysis was to uncover a spectrum of various meanings stemming from the interview speech. In the interpretation of the research results, the focus was on reflection of the general societal and cultural atmosphere and on the connection of the research results to the theoretical context of the study.</p> <p>The results of the first research question consisted of five interpretative repertoires, which of some were divided into several more descriptive repertoires. The results of the second research question consisted also of five interpretative repertoires. Furthermore, subject positions stemming from every repertoire were interpreted. The speech on studying turned out to be context specific, and the meanings given to studying came across as varied. Moreover, the relationship between professional competence and studying turned out to be contradictory and varied. According to the research results it can be concluded that studying in adulthood is not a univocal phenomena. The meanings stem from the complex tension between one's inner and outer environment. The speech about studying constructs societal perspective of the time in the form of discourses related to the postmodern society.</p>			
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