



**STRATIFIED TEACHING MODULE BASED ON COGNITIVE
APPRENTICESHIP MODELS IN CHINESE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS'
MATHEMATICS PERFORMANCE, PROBLEM-SOLVING ABILITY AND
LEARNING MOTIVATION**

By

WANG RUIMEI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

March 2024

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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March 2024

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Conventional teaching methods have shown an inability to adapt to the distinct learning preferences of students. To address these issues, stratified teaching framed by the Cognitive Apprenticeship Model (CAM) was developed in this study to improve the performance, problem-solving ability, and learning motivation in mathematics for 9th-grade students. This innovative pedagogical approach was created by applying the ADDIE methodology for instructional design and incorporating information technology. For the empirical portion of this research, a quasi-experimental design was implemented in a high school in China. A total of 150 students were randomly allocated into three groups, with each group consisting of 50 students. One group was taught using the CAM approach (i.e., the teachers employed modeling, coaching, scaffolding, fading, articulation, and reflection techniques). Another group was exposed to the Stratified Cognitive Apprenticeship Model Teaching Module (SCTM), while the control group was taught using conventional instruction (CI), which mainly involved teacher lectures, student note-taking, and homework completion. The effects

of the different teaching techniques were evaluated using pre-tests, post-tests, and delayed post-tests, which were compared to the MYP mathematics assessment standards and a questionnaire that measured motivation in studying mathematics. Analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) was performed using SPSS, and the findings indicated that the SCTM group exhibited superior performance in mathematical ability, problem-solving skills, and motivation for learning mathematics compared to the other groups. Therefore, this study supports using SCTM in high school mathematics, demonstrating its efficacy as a teaching technique. The findings of this study suggest that integrating SCTM with traditional teaching methods is a beneficial approach to improving students' mathematics performance, problem-solving abilities, and learning motivation. The favorable results of the SCTM approach provide a strong foundation for its application in high school mathematics instruction and may influence future educational methodologies and policies.

Keywords: Chinese High School Education, Learning Motivation, Mathematical, performance, Problem-Solving Skills, Stratified Cognitive Apprenticeship

SDG: GOAL 4: Quality Education

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**MODUL PENGAJARAN BERSTRATA BERDASARKAN MODEL
PERANTISAN KOGNITIF TERHADAP PRESTASI MATEMATIK,
KEMAHIRAN PENYELESAIAN MASALAH, DAN MOTIVASI
PEMBELAJARAN PELAJAR SEKOLAH MENENGAH CINA**

Oleh

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Kaedah pengajaran konvensional telah menunjukkan ketidakupayaan untuk menyesuaikan diri dengan keutamaan pembelajaran yang berbeza bagi pelajar. Untuk menangani isu-isu ini, pengajaran berstrata yang dibentuk oleh Model Perantisan Kognitif (CAM) telah dibangunkan dalam kajian ini untuk meningkatkan prestasi, kebolehan menyelesaikan masalah, dan motivasi pembelajaran dalam matematik bagi pelajar gred 9. Pendekatan pedagogi inovatif ini dicipta dengan menggunakan metodologi ADDIE untuk reka bentuk pengajaran dan menggabungkan teknologi maklumat. Untuk bahagian empirikal penyelidikan ini, reka bentuk kuasi-eksperimen dilaksanakan di sebuah sekolah menengah di China. Sejumlah 150 pelajar diperuntukkan secara rawak kepada tiga kumpulan, dengan setiap kumpulan terdiri daripada 50 pelajar. Satu kumpulan diajar menggunakan pendekatan CAM (iaitu, guru menggunakan teknik pemodelan, bimbingan, sokongan, pengurangan, artikulasi, dan refleksi). Satu lagi kumpulan didedahkan kepada Modul Pengajaran Model Perantisan Kognitif Berstrata (SCTM), manakala kumpulan kawalan diajar menggunakan

pengajaran konvensional (CI), yang terutamanya melibatkan kuliah guru, pengambilan nota oleh pelajar, dan penyelesaian kerja rumah. Kesan teknik pengajaran yang berbeza dinilai menggunakan ujian pra, ujian pasca, dan ujian pasca tertunda, yang dibandingkan dengan piawaian penilaian matematik MYP dan soal selidik yang mengukur motivasi dalam mempelajari matematik. Analisis kovarians (ANCOVA) dilakukan menggunakan SPSS, dan penemuan menunjukkan bahawa kumpulan SCTM menunjukkan prestasi yang lebih baik dalam kebolehan matematik, kemahiran menyelesaikan masalah, dan motivasi untuk belajar matematik berbanding kumpulan lain. Oleh itu, kajian ini menyokong penggunaan SCTM dalam matematik sekolah menengah, menunjukkan keberkesanannya sebagai teknik pengajaran. Penemuan kajian ini mencadangkan bahawa mengintegrasikan SCTM dengan kaedah pengajaran tradisional adalah pendekatan yang bermanfaat untuk meningkatkan prestasi matematik, kebolehan menyelesaikan masalah, dan motivasi pembelajaran pelajar. Keputusan yang menggalakkan daripada pendekatan SCTM memberikan asas yang kukuh untuk penerapannya dalam pengajaran matematik sekolah menengah dan mungkin mempengaruhi metodologi dan dasar pendidikan masa depan.

Kata Kunci: Kemahiran Penyelesaian Masalah, Motivasi Pembelajaran, Pendidikan Sekolah Menengah Cina, Perantisan Kognitif Berstrata, Prestasi Matematik

SDG: MATLAMAT 4: Pendidikan Berkualiti

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADDIE	Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation, Evaluation
ANCOVA	Analysis of Covariance
CA	Cognitive Apprenticeship
CLT	Cognitive Load Theory
CAM	Cognitive Apprenticeship Model
DI	Differentiated Instruction
IB	International Baccalaureate
IBO	International Baccalaureate Organization
ID	Instructional Design
MYP	Middle Years Programme
MSLQ	Motivated Strategies for Learning Questionnaire
SCTM	Stratified based on Cognitive Apprenticeship Teaching Model
ZPD	Zone of Proximal Development

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The International Institute for Educational Planning explored the “shadow education” system in China, emphasizing its emergence due to the public education system’s inability to meet the diverse needs of parents and students (Yung & Bray, 2017). “Shadow education,” also known as private tutoring or supplementary education (Yu & Zhang, 2022), includes cram schools, private one-to-one tutoring, and exam preparatory courses and has become a global phenomenon (Mori & Baker, 2010). Chinese parents often seek extracurricular tutoring because public schools lack individualized instruction, leading to a uniform educational experience (Yang & Bray, 2018).

Chen (2019) found that mathematics teachers in China need more expertise in differentiated instruction, leading to inequalities and inconsistencies in teaching methodologies. Motivation and teacher-student cooperation substantially affect students’ mathematics performance (Walde, 2019). Interactive teaching methods are essential for engagement but face obstacles such as a lack of proactive engagement and a tepid atmosphere (Xie, 2016). To overcome these problems, the Cognitive

Apprenticeship Model (CAM) enhances student interaction in technologically advanced learning environments and yields positive results (Sacchetta, 2022).

With the comprehensive implementation of curriculum reforms in China, stratified teaching has improved the overall quality of students (Sun, 2014). The 2017 Mathematics Curriculum Standards in China advocate for individualized mathematics education, making stratified teaching an effective measure to compensate for student differences (Tan, 2022). However, China's exam-oriented education has been widely criticized (Wang et al., 2020). Xue and Li (2023) advocate for student-centered education, inspired by the US model, which has cultivated talent and driven scientific advancement (Zhang, 2007). Student-centered learning, also known as learner-centered education, includes teaching methods that shift focus from the teacher to the student, aiming to develop learner autonomy and independence (Jones, 2007). According to Student-Centered Learning (2024), this approach contrasts with traditional teacher-centered education, where teachers typically decide what students will learn, how they will learn, and how learning outcomes will be assessed (Student-Centered Learning, 2024).

Thus, CAM benefits all students, especially those who are disadvantaged, disabled, or at risk, as it embeds learning in a work-like environment connected to their lives (Collins, 1987). CAM helps develop life skills, crucial for personal development and tackling real-life problems (Raju et al., 2021). Stratified teaching addresses the

difficulties of unified teaching in mathematics education by recognizing the substantial variations in students' foundational understanding of the subject (Zhu et al., 2020).

Therefore, this study examined several key teaching methods to implement and evaluate these educational strategies.

Stratified Cognitive Apprenticeship Teaching Module (SCTM): SCTM is an instructional approach that combines the principles of stratified teaching and CAM. It involves categorizing students based on their current knowledge, abilities, and potential and then applying tailored instructional strategies combined with CAM to each group. SCTM aims to optimize individual students' progress by addressing their specific learning needs and enhancing their performance, problem-solving abilities, and learning motivation in mathematics.

Conventional Instruction (CI): CI refers to the traditional teaching method. This approach typically involves a teacher-centered model in which the instructor delivers lectures and students passively receive information. The focus is on rote memorization and standardized testing, with limited emphasis on interactive or individualized learning experiences (Murphy et al., 2021).

Cognitive Apprenticeship Model (CAM): CAM is an educational framework that integrates traditional apprenticeship methods with formal education. It teaches

students the thought processes and skills needed to solve complex tasks in the following six steps (Collins, Brown, & Newman, 1989).

1. **Modeling:** The teacher demonstrates the task and provides a clear example of how to perform it.
2. **Coaching:** The teacher observes and provides guidance and feedback when the student attempts the task.
3. **Scaffolding:** The teacher offers support as needed to help the student accomplish the task.
4. **Fading:** The teacher gradually removes support as the student becomes more proficient.
5. **Articulation:** The student articulates their knowledge and reasoning processes.
6. **Reflection:** The student reflects on their performance and compares it with that of an expert to understand their strengths and areas needing improvement.

This thesis focuses on implementing stratified teaching framed by CAM in high-school mathematics by examining the following points:

1. The development of stratified teaching to improve performance, problem-solving ability, and learning motivation among 9th-grade students.
2. The influence of stratified teaching on performance, problem-solving ability, and learning motivation.

3. Emphasize stratified teaching strategies based on CAM, evaluating its role in mathematics learning, integration into teaching, and development of CAM-based modules to promote performance, problem-solving ability, and learning motivation.

1.1.1 Stratified Teaching in Learning Mathematics

Stratified teaching categorizes students according to their knowledge, abilities, and potential to use tailored instructional strategies (Gong, 2021). Various interpretations exist around the globe, such as “personalized learning” in the UK, focusing on combining quality with equal opportunities (Wu, 2016). The US emphasizes individuality and diverse instructional approaches to engaging students (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, 2014). South Korea’s stratified teaching supports exceptional mathematics and science education (Jung, 2021).

China is transforming its approach from traditional methods to logical comprehension-based teaching, especially in high-school mathematics. Stratified teaching ignites students’ interests, helps them overcome knowledge gaps, and enhances teaching effectiveness (Tu, 2018). Wang (2022) describes the disparities in study habits, cognitive attributes, and hobbies within a single classroom, supporting stratified teaching to address individual learning demands.

High school mathematics shows significant polarization, toward aptitude-based teaching (Chen, 2022). Although stratified teaching addresses instructional challenges and promotes equitable progress, barriers to successful implementation remain. Stratified teaching is fairly new in China, with issues in the preliminary investigation phase and a need for a comprehensive and scientifically sound system (Liu, 2015). Teachers' roles and concepts must evolve toward student-centered models (Gao, 2022). Recent curriculum reforms aim to cater to diverse student needs while promoting innovative talent (Gong, 2021).

China's traditional education system stifles creativity and independence; thus, more interactive teaching methods are needed (Wang & Hua, 2004). Nevertheless, the new college entrance examination reform plan advances mathematical core literacy, suggesting that traditional approaches are inadequate for contemporary talent development (Long, 2023).

1.1.2 Integration of the Cognitive Apprenticeship Model (CAM) in Stratified Teaching

Cognitive Apprenticeship Model (CAM), introduced by Collins and colleagues in 1989, combines traditional apprenticeship techniques with formal education to enhance cognitive and problem-solving abilities (Enkenberg, 1994). CAM promotes self-directed learning through imitation, coaching, exploration, and reflection, aligned with the goals of personalized education (Stalmeijer et al., 2009).

Studies have shown that CAM improves test scores and fosters autonomous cognition and self-drive (Foster, 2020). Cultivating self-regulated learning abilities, essential for stratified instruction, is a core component of CAM (Azevedo, 2004). However, CAM faces challenges, such as low student motivation and self-confidence (Collins et al., 1989; Brown et al., 2001; Chen, 2019). Thus, combining CAM with stratified instruction addresses these challenges and offers a personalized and dynamic educational environment (Ren, 2019). CAM improves collaboration through scaffolding, modeling, exploration, and reflection (Rodríguez-Boncos & Ortiz, 2016), making SCTM a beneficial technique for high school mathematics education in China.

1.2 Problem Statement

The “one size fits all” teaching approach in China’s education system often overlooks individual student needs, leading to suboptimal academic outcomes (Zhang & Liu, 2022). Thus, the conventional teaching method is inadequate for complex problem-solving tasks, particularly in mathematics, where strict adherence to curriculum standards exacerbates these challenges (Wang, 2020). For a long time, mathematics education has heavily relied on traditional lecture-based teaching (Ardeleanu, 2019). In this model, the teacher assumes a central role by imparting content through lectures, while students passively acquire the information. Although this strategy is effective in transmitting substantial volumes of information, it frequently fails to actively involve pupils in the learning process. Studies suggest that whereas traditional lectures are

excellent in conveying fundamental knowledge, they are less proficient in promoting advanced cognitive skills and problem-solving capabilities (Roehling & Bredow, 2021). Therefore, this strategy should be complemented with interactive instruction to overcome these constraints. Liu (2006) suggests that existing pedagogical methods stifle students' true mathematical potential. The current educational framework in China has generated considerable societal discord owing to its rigid adherence to conventional approaches, inciting extensive debate (Huang, 2022). Despite widespread attention and support for stratified teaching in modern education settings, its implementation often lacks a solid theoretical foundation. As expected, this gap leads to many personalized teaching practices that fail to improve student learning outcomes (Peng, 2019). In exam-centered education systems such as China's, where differentiated education is frequently discussed (Meng et al., 2021), there are still significant challenges in effectively implementing and evaluating these approaches (Gong, 2021).

Therefore, reassessing and adapting teaching methodologies in China is imperative. CAM offers a promising alternative, demonstrating its potential for enhancing problem-solving abilities (Zhao, 2021). A stratified teaching approach can tailor instruction based on students' cognitive levels and interests, provide diverse learning resources, and promote self-directed learning (Li, 2019). The decline in mathematics performance among high school students is an urgent problem (Stepp, 2016). Many students who excelled in mathematics during their elementary and middle school years

face difficulties in high school (Chen & Wang, 2022). This decline is partly due to a substantial drop in learning motivation among high school students in China (Zhang et al., 2023). Despite recent curriculum reforms, traditional teaching methods remain prevalent and fail to meet contemporary demands for talent development (Long, 2023). Mathematics is pivotal in the Chinese college entrance examination (Gaokao), and proficiency in high school mathematics enhances the understanding of subjects such as physics and chemistry (Shen, 2022). Furthermore, mathematics literacy is essential for making well-founded judgments and decisions, and attaining indispensable qualities for constructive, engaged, and reflective citizens (OECD, 2023). Therefore, effective strategies for improving mathematical outcomes are essential.

Developing problem-solving skills is paramount in high school mathematics education. However, current teaching approaches are inadequate for improving this capacity. Szetela and Nicol (1992) posit that problem solving entails critical thinking, creativity, and adaptability. Recent studies by Fitriani et al. (2022) and Zhao (2021), using Pólya's (1945) approach, found that students struggle with mathematical problem solving. Liu (2024) conducted a bibliometric analysis of 521 articles published between 1993 and 2023, exploring the developmental trajectory, research hotspots, and trends in the study of problem-solving abilities among middle school students. The study found that research on problem-solving abilities is primarily concentrated in the sciences, particularly in mathematics, where significant challenges

still exist. Thus, the present study aimed to investigate the effectiveness of stratified CAM-based teaching modules in improving students' problem-solving skills.

Learning motivation plays a crucial role in the progress and results of a learning process, particularly in mathematics. Feng (2011) and Woolfolk (2013) define learning motivation as the inclination to find significance in learning activities and derive their advantages. In mathematics, motivation can significantly impact student engagement, perseverance, and performance. For instance, mathematics learning often requires sustained effort and the ability to tackle challenging problems, making motivation a critical factor (Middleton & Spanias, 1999). Li and Liu (2008) found that learning motivation indirectly affects academic achievement in mathematics and is mediated by effective learning strategies. Tokan and Imakulata (2019) showed that intrinsic motivation directly affects learning behavior and mathematics achievement. Recent research by Zhang et al. (2023) confirmed that enhancing students' intrinsic motivation can significantly improve their mathematical performance. Ryan and Deci's Self-Determination Theory (2020) examines how human motivation is influenced by various regulatory self-governing processes, which are essential for fostering a deep understanding and appreciation of mathematics. One significant problem in China's math classrooms is the lack of student motivation, often due to traditional, teacher-centered instructional methods, despite recent curriculum reforms promoting student-centered approaches (Wang et al., 2022). Teacher-student interaction is crucial for motivation and learning; research indicates that teacher leadership and granting

students more freedom can enhance emotions and math achievement, while traditional methods may hinder engagement (Lin et al., 2020). Motivation and engagement are essential for math achievement, but in China, primary students' motivation and engagement are influenced by teaching methods and classroom environment, with practices like rote learning and high-stakes testing sometimes reducing motivation (Xia et al., 2022). The current study used the Motivated Strategies for Learning Questionnaire (MSLQ) by Pintrich et al. (1993) to assess participants' learning motivation in mathematics and evaluated the efficacy of stratified teaching modules based on CAM within the Chinese educational system.

Functions play an essential role in high school mathematics and are integrated throughout the curriculum (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), 2023). Functions and their properties are foundational to advanced mathematical concepts and are essential for students' success in STEM fields (Wang & Liu, 2023). Zheng (2012) examined the importance of teaching mathematical functions in high school. Recent studies by Wang (2021) and Liu (2023) indicate that functions and relations are critical components of mathematical literacy and problem-solving skills. Thus, understanding their roles and relationships is essential for academic success in advanced mathematics and related fields, forming a foundational aspect of mathematics education. Thus, by adopting a novel teaching approach in this chapter, the method's efficacy in helping students overcome these challenges can be gauged (Xu, 2022).

In conclusion, this study seeks to develop, implement, and compare a stratified teaching approach based on CAM with traditional methodologies to ascertain the effectiveness of the former in the Chinese educational context.

1.3 Research Objectives

The main objectives of this thesis are:

1. To develop a Stratified Cognitive Apprenticeship Teaching Model (SCTM) for teaching mathematical functions and relations to 9th-grade students, using the ADDIE model (a framework consisting of five phases: analysis, design, development, implementation, and evaluation).
2. To determine the differences in mathematics performance of 9th-grade students, centered on functions and relations, based on the pre-test, post-test, and delayed post-test results of the SCTM, CAM, and conventional instruction (CI) strategies.
3. To determine the differences in the mathematics problem-solving ability of 9th-grade students, centered on functions and relations, based on the pre-test, post-test, and delayed post-test results of the SCTM, CAM, and CI strategies.
4. To determine the differences in the mathematics learning motivation of 9th-grade students, focused on functions and relations, based on the pre-test, post-test, and delayed post-test results of the SCTM, CAM, and CI strategies.
5. To identify and analyze errors in students' answer scripts concerning functions and relations in the pre-test, post-test, and delayed post-test across SCTM, CAM, and CI strategies.
6. To examine the problem-solving abilities reflected in students' answer scripts concerning functions and relations in the pre-test, post-test, and delayed post-test across SCTM, CAM, and CI strategies.

1.4 Research Questions

The current study attempts to answer the following questions:

1. How can the Stratified Cognitive Apprenticeship Model Teaching Module (SCTM) be applied to teaching mathematical functions and relations to 9th-grade students?
2. What are the effects of the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategies on the mathematics performance of 9th-grade students, centered on functions and relations (knowing and understanding, investigating patterns, communicating, and applying skills to real-life problems), based on the post-test and delayed post-test results?
3. What are the effects of the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategies on the mathematics problem-solving abilities of 9th-grade students, centered on functions and relations (understanding the problem, devising a plan, carrying out the plan, and looking back), based on the post-test and delayed post-test results?
4. What are the effects of the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategies on the motivation of 9th-grade students to learn about mathematical functions and relations (intrinsic goal orientation, extrinsic goal orientation, task value, and control of learning beliefs), based on the post-test and delayed post-test results?
5. How do the CAM, SCTM, and CI teaching strategies affect the identification and analysis of errors in the answer scripts of 9th-grade students, as reflected in both post-test and delayed post-test assessments?
6. How do the CAM, SCTM, and CI teaching strategies influence the problem-solving abilities of 9th-grade students, reflected in their answer scripts, through the analysis of their pre-test, post-test, and delayed post-test results?

1.5 Research Hypotheses

Based on research questions (RQs) 2–4, the following hypotheses were proposed:

RQ 2

H₀₁: There are no significant difference in the mean mathematics performance of the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategy groups in the post-test.

H₀₂: There are no significant difference between the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategy groups in mean mathematics performances performance of the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategy groups in the post-delayed test.

H₀₃: There are no significant differences in the mean mathematics performance score (knowing and understanding, investigating patterns, communicating, and applying skills to real-life problems) of the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategy groups in the post-test.

H₀₄: There are no significant differences in the mean mathematics performance score (knowing and understanding, investigating patterns, communicating, and applying skills to real-life problems) of the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategy groups in the post-delayed test.

RQ 3

H₀₅: There are no significant differences in the mean mathematics problem-solving abilities of the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategy groups in the post-test.

H₀₆: There are no significant differences in the mathematics problem-solving abilities means of the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategy groups in the post-delayed test.

H₀₇: There are no significant difference in the mean mathematics score for problem-solving abilities (in terms of understanding the problem, devising the plan, carry out the plan, and looking back) in the Post-test between the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategy groups.

H₀₈: There are no significant differences in the mean mathematics problem-solving scores (knowing and understanding, investigating patterns, communicating, and applying skills to real-life problems) of the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategy groups in the post-delayed test.

RQ 4

H₀₉: There are no significant differences in the mean learning motivation of the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategy groups in the post-test.

H₁₀: There are no significant differences in the mean learning motivation of the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategy groups in the delayed post-test.

H₁₁: There are no significant difference in the mathematics mean score of "learning motivation" (in terms of intrinsic goal orientation, extrinsic goal orientation, task value, and control of learning beliefs) in the Post-test between the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategy groups.

H₁₂: There are no significant differences in the mean mathematics learning motivation scores (intrinsic goal orientation, extrinsic goal orientation, task value, and control of learning beliefs) of the CAM, SCTM, and CI strategy groups in the delayed post-test.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study examined the effectiveness of a stratified teaching model based on CAM in improving high school students' mathematics performance by focusing on functions

and relations. In particular, this study aimed to assess whether using this teaching model leads to greater conceptual understanding and mastery of mathematics skills among students as well as increased problem-solving skills and motivation to learn the subject. This research is expected to contribute to developing practical pedagogical approaches for teaching mathematics in high school settings and inform future educational policies and practices.

The practical significance and value of this study is reflected in four main aspects:

1. Students can learn based on their individual development thanks to stratified instructions. Top students no longer feel bored, and those with learning issues can activate their learning interests. Teachers are less likely to overlook students in the middle range of abilities. Students can learn effectively based on their talents and learning requirements, and students from various backgrounds can grow, benefitting them and advancing their fundamental mathematical literacy.
2. Most instructors recognize that individual disparities between students are increasing and that stratified teaching is necessary, but few have implemented it. Thus, teachers must consider the actual requirements of students to implement stratified instruction, which will significantly enhance the development of high school mathematics education.
3. Empirical studies on stratified mathematics instruction in senior high schools are currently lacking in terms of psychology, pedagogy, and geography teaching theories. Hence, this study validates the impact of pertinent theories through empirical research in the context of the new college entrance test and curriculum requirements. Moreover, this study offers practical data to promote the reform of senior high school classroom instruction.
4. The integration of CAM (Cognitive Apprenticeship Model) into the stratified teaching framework is an essential aspect of the study's significance, as it

Connects the divide between theoretical knowledge and practical implementation in high school mathematics instruction. This study seeks to optimize students' cognitive engagement, cultivate a more profound comprehension of mathematical concepts, and facilitate the application of knowledge to novel and intricate issues by implementing CAM principle. This technique enhances stratified teaching by addressing individual learning needs and enhances the educational experience by highlighting the significance of context, expert modeling, scaffolding, and reflection in learning mathematics. Implementing CAM in a stratified teaching paradigm is anticipated to provide new perspectives on successful mathematics instruction and contribute to the advancement of adaptable and student-focused teaching methods.

The proposed study of the effectiveness of a stratified teaching model based on CAM has significant theoretical and practical value. Theoretically, this study will contribute to understanding the relationship between the cognitive apprenticeship theory and hierarchical teaching models, and how they can enhance high school mathematics education. Furthermore, this study provides insights into the potential benefits of incorporating interactive and collaborative learning strategies into the classroom setting.

Practically, this study's findings have implications for teachers, administrators, and policymakers interested in improving the quality of high school mathematics education. By evaluating the effectiveness of the proposed teaching model, this study aims to provide evidence-based recommendations to enhance teaching practices and curriculum development. Ultimately, this study may help educators and policymakers make informed decisions that benefit high school students' learning experiences and academic outcomes in mathematics.

The novelty of this study is evident in three main aspects. First, it conducts a stratified analysis of students through comparative experiments. Second, it investigates stratification research in high school mathematics instruction. Third, it validates the use of cognitive apprenticeship and CAM in stratified education through empirical investigation.

This study is innovative in applying the cognitive apprenticeship theory to develop a stratified teaching model for high school mathematics education. While the cognitive apprenticeship theory has been extensively studied in other fields, its application to mathematics education is fairly new. Furthermore, the proposed hierarchical instruction model represents a novel approach to teaching mathematics by incorporating conceptual understanding and skill development.

Moreover, this study's innovative approach focuses on interactive and collaborative learning strategies, which have been shown to enhance student engagement and motivation. By incorporating these strategies into the classroom, the proposed teaching model aims to create an immersive and dynamic learning environment that fosters mathematical abilities in the students.

Overall, this study's innovative teaching model, combined with an evaluation of its effectiveness, can significantly contribute to high school mathematics education. The findings of this research will inform the development of future pedagogical approaches

and ultimately lead to improved mathematics learning outcomes for high school students.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

Although every effort was made to eliminate errors in the design and analytical components of this study, several limitations must be acknowledged. First, the data for this study came from a single international high school in China, whose student population differs from those of Chinese public high schools. This difference may limit the generalizability of the findings to a broader population. Second, this study focuses on the effects of a stratified education module based on CAM, using specific mathematical functions: linear, quadratic, and exponential. Thus, different results can be obtained if other mathematical topics are considered.

Furthermore, the scope of this study was confined to 9th-grade students at an international high school, meaning that the findings may differ for students from other grades or localities. The duration of the intervention was limited to only eight weeks. Thus, longer instruction periods may yield different outcomes, suggesting that future research could explore these effects over extended periods. Despite efforts to standardize teaching levels by consulting specialists to evaluate participating teachers, variability in teaching quality remains unavoidable. This may have affected the results,

indicating the need for more rigorous control or assessment of teaching practices in future studies.

Moreover, although CAM and stratified education theoretically complement each other, their practical implementation may face challenges. Therefore, teachers require sufficient training and support to implement CAM and stratified education. Hence, educational institutions should provide the necessary resources to support these teaching methods. Recognizing these limitations is crucial for future research to overcome these issues and enhance the validity and applicability of the findings in diverse educational contexts.

1.8 Operational Definitions

The following definitions are given to help comprehend the terms used in this study.

1.8.1 Stratified Teaching

Stratified instruction is an educational approach that organizes students into different groups based on their knowledge and abilities (He, 2022). This method, developed by Liu (2006) and Cai (2022), involves classifying students into homogeneous groups according to their current knowledge, abilities, and potential and then providing tailored instruction to each group. In the current study, stratified teaching allocated

students to high- and low-performance classes based on their performance on a pre-test. Subsequently, teaching strategies, curriculum pacing, and instructional content were adapted to meet each class' s unique needs and skills. The effectiveness of stratified teaching was measured using pre-test, post-test, and delayed post-test scores, which assessed students' performance in functions and relations, linear functions, quadratic functions, and other functions.

1.8.2 Cognitive Apprenticeship Model (CAM)

As described by the University of Southern California, a learning module is a curated compilation of cohesively presented educational materials in an academic environment. In educational contexts, a module refers to an instructional unit focusing on a specific subject, usually involving student-centered activities and culminating in a project demonstrating understanding (Stephen, 2022). In this study, the module referred to a new stratified teaching module developed using CAM. CAM incorporates six essential attributes, as defined by Collins et al. (1989) and highlighted by Butler and Peabody (2019): modeling, coaching, scaffolding, articulation, reflection, and exploration. The implementation and effectiveness of the CAM-based module were evaluated through performance tests and rubrics of problem-solving skills and learning motivation.

1.8.3 Performance

Performance is defined as encompassing both traditional outcomes, such as test scores or essay writing quality, and practical skills, such as constructing a circuit in a science class (Double et al., 2020). According to Wegner (2009), performance is a holistic assessment of a child's physical, developmental, and emotional progress. Ward et al. (1996) mention that academic performance evaluation typically involves exams or ongoing assessments; however, there is still no universally agreed-upon way to conduct these evaluations. Within this framework, this study defined performance concerning the evaluation criteria of International Baccalaureate (IB) mathematics, encompassing knowing and understanding, investigating patterns, communicating, and applying mathematics in real-life contexts (IBO, 2023).

Performance was measured through tests using the assessment criteria of the IB MYP mathematics framework. The pre-test, post-test, and delayed post-test (refer to Appendices B, C, and D, respectively) included content related to functions and relations, linear functions, quadratic functions, and other functions, their graphs, and uses. Each test was divided into four parts according to the MYP mathematics assessment criteria, and each item was scored on a 100-point basis.

Knowing and Understanding

According to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, “knowing” pertains to possessing beliefs or information concerning a particular subject. Knowing encompasses awareness and gaining knowledge, information, or skills through structured or individualized education. However, the concept of “understanding” extends beyond mere knowledge. According to BYJU, this refers to the capacity to elucidate, situate, and grasp information and ideas. Comprehension entails a more profound understanding of the importance of knowledge, incorporating it into a more inclusive structure, and applying it in diverse circumstances. This study defines knowing and understanding based on the 2023 criteria set by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), which assesses student competence in mathematics. This includes their capacity to choose suitable mathematical methodologies for both familiar and novel issues, apply these selected methodologies, and resolve problems in diverse contexts (IBO, 2023).

Investigating Patterns

In psychology and social sciences, pattern analysis identifies and elucidates changes in behavior, events, and other phenomena over time (Miller, 2021). “Investigating patterns” in mathematics identifies repetition or regularity in numbers, shapes, or equations. Sequences, geometric forms, algebraic structures, and other mathematical entities are often analyzed to determine patterns and relationships. The goal is to discover fundamental mathematical concepts or theorems (Chen, 2021). In this study,

patterns were assessed based on IBO' s (2023) description, which refers to students' proficiency in using mathematical techniques to uncover complex patterns, express these patterns through consistent general principles, and validate identified rules.

Communicating

Mathematical communication includes the ability to arrange and connect mathematical thoughts using different modes of communication, clearly and logically communicate mathematical ideas to peers, teachers, and others, critically evaluate and appraise others' mathematical thinking and strategies, and employ mathematical language to express mathematical concepts (Rohid et al., 2019). Here, communication skills were assessed based on the description provided by the IBO (2023), which refers to using appropriate mathematical language, transition between representations, and articulation of a coherent, logical progression of ideas.

Applying Mathematics in Real-Life Contexts

Applying mathematics in real-life contexts refers to incorporating real-world scenarios into curricula and assessments to enhance the practical application of mathematical concepts (Smith & Morgan, 2016). Here, “applying mathematics in real-life contexts” was evaluated based on the description provided by the IBO (2023), which evaluates students' adeptness in identifying relevant elements of real-life situations, selecting and applying suitable mathematical strategies for these situations, and justifying the accuracy and relevance of the solutions derived.

1.8.4 Problem-Solving Ability

Problem solving is essential in mathematics education as it is crucial for developing deep comprehension and enhancing students' mathematical skills. This enables educators to assess students' prior knowledge, skills, and starting points, facilitating an effective mathematics teaching and learning process (Palmér & Boumel, 2020). Problem solving also refers to applying knowledge, reasoning, and critical thinking to solving complex problems. Problem-solving skills involve identifying a problem, generating possible solutions, evaluating them, and selecting the best one (Schoenfeld, 1985). This study adopted Pólya's framework to measure students' problem-solving abilities, including understanding a problem, devising a plan, carrying it out, and looking back (Pólya, 1945). Effectiveness was measured using rubrics based on Pólya's steps, with scores ranging from zero to three points for each step (Fitriani et al., 2020).

Understanding the Problem

This initial stage is fundamental for understanding the nature of the problem, distinguishing between known and unknown elements, and precisely defining what the problem is about (Pólya, 1945). Effectiveness was measured by evaluating the students' ability to identify the requirements for solving a given problem.

Devising a Plan

After understanding the problem, the next phase involves strategizing a solution that may include selecting an appropriate method, partitioning the problem, or hypothesizing (Pólya, 1945). Effectiveness was measured by assessing the students' plans and strategies to solve problems.

Carrying Out the Plan

A planned strategy is implemented in this phase. This requires diligent application of the chosen methods and may necessitate adjustments to the initial plan (Pólya, 1945). Effectiveness was measured by evaluating the execution of the strategy and the correctness of the solution.

Looking Back

Pólya (1945) emphasizes the importance of post-solution reflection, involving a review of the solution and the process, enabling a more profound learning experience, and enhancing problem-solving skills. Effectiveness was measured by assessing the students' reflections on their solutions and processes, including identifying errors and considering alternative methods.

1.8.5 Motivation

Motivation drives behavior and influences whether individuals engage in specific actions essential for learning and achieving (Guay et al., 2010). In educational contexts,

motivation is a critical component of curriculum effectiveness (Filgona et al., 2020). The current study focused on understanding motivation through intrinsic and extrinsic goal orientations, task value, and control of learning beliefs, using the MSLQ framework outlined by McKeachie et al. (1986). Effectiveness was measured using a seven-point Likert scale.

Intrinsic Goal Orientation

Intrinsic goal orientation reflects the degree to which a student engages in a task because of internal drivers such as wanting to face a challenge, curiosity, and mastery (McKeachie et al., 1986). Ryan and Deci (2017) posit that intrinsic goal orientation is motivated by internal factors, including personal interest, enjoyment of learning, and a sense of accomplishment from mastering a subject. Here, a modified version of the MSLQ developed by Pintrich et al. (1991) was used to assess students' intrinsic goal orientation in mathematics classes, focusing on their motivation derived from challenges, curiosity, and an intrinsic desire to understand mathematical concepts.

Extrinsic Goal Orientation

Extrinsic goal orientation pertains to the extent to which a student's engagement in a task is motivated by external factors such as grades, rewards, evaluations by others, and competition (McKeachie et al., 1986). Wigfield and Eccles (2020) define extrinsic goal orientation as the degree of academic engagement driven by external incentives, such as grades, honors, or the approval of others. The MSLQ developed by Pintrich et

al. (1991) was used to evaluate students' extrinsic goal orientation in mathematics classes, focusing on achieving high grades, improving overall grade point averages, surpassing peers, and seeking validation and recognition from external sources.

Task Value

Task value refers to a student's assessment of a task's level of interest, importance, and utility. This differs from goal orientations, which concern the underlying reasons for a student's engagement in a task (McKeachie et al., 1986). Eccles and Wigfield (2020) emphasize that task value involves how students perceive the course material regarding its interest, importance, and practical utility. The MSLQ developed by Pintrich et al. (1991) was used to measure students' perceptions in this domain, regarding how they valued the interest, importance, and applicability of mathematics coursework.

Control of Learning Beliefs

Controlling learning beliefs relates to students' convictions about the effectiveness of their efforts to achieve positive learning outcomes (McKeachie et al., 1986). An updated version of the MSLQ was used to assess students' beliefs in this area. Control of learning embodies the belief that success in an academic setting, such as a mathematics course, is primarily attributable to personal efforts and effective study strategies.

1.9 Summary

This chapter introduces a stratified teaching model based on CAM for high school mathematics. This chapter discusses the rationale for using a stratified approach and the benefits of cognitive apprenticeship. It outlines the research background, objectives, hypotheses, and research questions that underpin this study. This chapter also provides a clear problem statement, highlighting the need for an effective instructional model for teaching high school mathematics. Finally, this chapter sets the stage for this study by providing a comprehensive overview of the theoretical and practical issues developed by the proposed model. To help comprehend the terms of this study, the following definitions are given.

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