

Table of contents

Preface.....	1
Listo of Dutch words used in text.....	3
Table of contents.....	5
1. Introduction.....	9
2. Ethnic minority students of The Netherlands.....	11
2.1 The ethnic minorities of The Netherlands.....	11
2.2 Ethnic minority students and mathematics education.....	13
3. Contexts and cognition.....	15
3.1 Introduction.....	15
3.2 The concept of context.....	15
3.2.1 Context and con-text.....	15
3.2.2 Mental context.....	17
3.3 Contexts in mathematics education.....	18
3.3.1 Introduction	18
3.3.2 Traditional word problems.....	18
3.3.3 Modelling.....	22
3.3.4 The use of contexts in RME.....	24
3.4 Context effect.....	26
3.5 Conclusion.....	30
4. Research question.....	33
4.1 Introduction.....	33
4.2 Research question and goal.....	33
4.3 Research sub-questions.....	34
5. Research design.....	37
5.1 Introduction.....	37
5.2 Preliminary study.....	38
5.2.1 Introduction.....	38
5.2.2 Interview with Hafida.....	38
5.2.3 Instruments development and try out.....	40
5.3 Main research.....	53
5.3.1 Introduction.....	53
5.3.2 Instrumentation.....	54
5.3.3 The research population.....	59
5.3.4 The research procedure.....	61
5.4 Data analysis.....	63
6. The student's work in the class.....	67
6.1 Introduction.....	67
6.2 The contextual problem "Hoeveel Parket".....	67
6.2.1 Introduction.....	67
6.2.2 "Hoeveel Parket?" in class A.....	67
6.2.3 "Hoeveel Parket?" in class B	77
6.2.4 Notes.....	83
6.3 The contextual problem "Schiphol".....	84
6.3.1 Introduction.....	84
6.3.2 "Schiphol" in class A	84
6.3.3 "Schiphol" in class B.....	89
6.4 The contextual problem "Op een camping".....	93
6.4.1 Introduction.....	93

6.5 The contextual problem “ Verschillende verhaaltjessommen”	100
6.6 Questionnaire “Vragenlijst situaties”	106
6.6.1 Introduction.....	106
6.6.2 Student’s familiarity with the contexts.....	106
6.6.3 Summary.....	114
6.7 Conclusions.....	117
7. The interviews.....	125
7.1 Introduction.....	125
7.2 The beginning of the interviews.....	125
7.3 The contextual problem “Basisscholen in Hasseldam”	128
7.3.1 Introduction.....	128
7.3.2 In the interview with Rachid.....	128
7.3.3 In the interview with Jouad.....	134
7.3.4 In the interview with Ibtissam.....	139
7.3.5 In the interview with Malika.....	148
7.4 The contextual problem “Bintjes”	152
7.4.1 Introduction.....	152
7.4.2 In the interview with Rachid.....	152
7.4.3 In the interview with Jouad.....	157
Conclusions.....	165
8. Conclusions and Recommendations.....	169
8.1 Introduction.....	169
8.2 Difficulty in detecting the students difficulties.....	170
8.3 The students’ own experience.....	172
8.4 Context influence on problem solving.....	173
8.5 Familiarity with the contexts used.....	180
8.6 Recommendations.....	182
Summary.....	185
References.....	189
Bibliography.....	193
Appendix 1-----	195
Appendix 2-----	199
Appendix 3-----	235
Appendix 4-----	289
Appendix 5-----	295
Closing word-----	297