

Analysis of the Geometric Thinking Level of Primary School Students with Moderate Academic Ability in Mataram City: Evidence from a Plane Geometry Task

Radiusman¹, Syarifuddin², Lalu Sirajul Hadi³, Prayogi Dwina Angga⁴, Lalu Raftha²¹tech⁵, Desinta⁶

^{1,2,3,4,5,6}University of Mataram, Nusa Tenggara Barat, Indonesia

Article Info

Article history:

Received 2026-07-09

Revised 2026-08-15

Accepted 2026-08-16

Keywords:

Geometric thinking

Moderate academic ability

Plane geometry

Primary school students

ABSTRACT

Geometric thinking is a crucial skill for solving geometry problems and navigating everyday life. This descriptive qualitative study aims to analyze the levels of geometric thinking regarding plane figures among primary school students with moderate academic ability. The study also describes the errors students make when solving problems involving plane geometry. Data were collected through interviews and an analysis of students' written answers to five open-ended questions designed to assess specific indicators of geometric thinking: 1) visual skills; 2) verbal skills; 3) drawing skills; 4) logical skills; and 5) applied skills. This study involved 531 fifth-grade students from 12 public primary schools in Mataram City; however, the analysis focused on 450 students classified as having moderate academic ability based on their obtained score intervals. The researchers interviewed five students who provided the most common answers for each question. The collected data were analyzed using thematic analysis, including familiarization, coding, searching for initial themes, reviewing and developing themes, defining and naming themes, and report writing. The results indicate that students with moderate academic ability demonstrated proficiency primarily in visual, drawing, and verbal skills, yet still frequently made errors regarding applied skills. The results also indicate that students with moderate mathematical ability have not yet fully grasped geometric concepts. These findings enable teachers to identify the capabilities and errors of students with moderate academic ability during geometry instruction, thereby improving their understanding of plane geometry.

This is an open-access article under the CC BY-SA license.



Corresponding Author:

Radiusman

Primary School Teacher Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Mataram, Mataram, Indonesia

Email: radius_saragih88@unram.ac.id

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesian primary school students' ability to understand and solve mathematics problems currently remains poor. According to the Trends in International Mathematics and

Science Study (TIMSS), which tests children's mathematics skills in participating countries, including numbers, statistics, and geometry, Indonesia ranks 44th and 49th among participating countries [1]. Furthermore, the report shows that Indonesia's mathematics score of 397 is below the average score of participating countries (the average score of TIMSS members is 500). Examples of TIMSS geometry problems and the results showing Indonesia's ranking compared to participating countries can be seen in Figure 1.

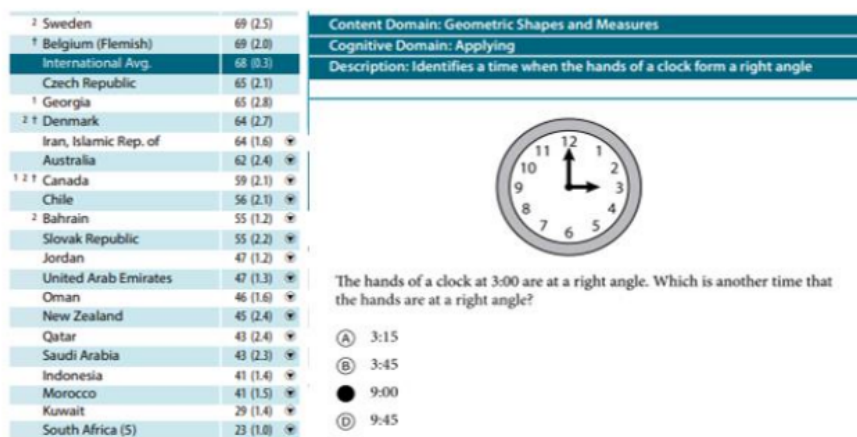


Figure 1. Example of TIMSS Questions and Rankings of Indonesian Primary School Students

Geometry is one of the core subjects that must be taught at the primary school level. Geometry taught at the primary school level in Indonesia is divided into two parts, namely plane geometry (often called 2-dimensional) and geometry of solid shapes (often called 3-dimensional). Plane geometry includes the introduction of points, lines, and angles as well as the shapes and properties of squares, rectangles, rhombuses, kites, trapezoids, and circles, while geometry of solid shapes includes the introduction of shapes and properties of cubes, cuboids, prisms, cylinders, pyramids, cones, and spheres [2]. This geometry material is taught to students from lower to upper grades, starting with the introduction of geometric shapes and progressing to solving geometry-related problems.

Geometry is a material that plays a crucial role in building student understanding. Geometry is very useful in helping students visualize, think critically, solve problems, make arguments, and provide proof [3]. Through geometry, students must describe geometric shapes using given characteristics and solve geometry-related problems. Geometry can also help students develop ideas about shape and space and connect various mathematical concepts when solving problems [4]. There are various ways to learn geometry, including games and activities such as paper folding and drawing, which aim to increase knowledge of the shapes and characteristics of geometric objects.

Despite the long history of geometry instruction, students still struggle to master it. They perceive geometry as a highly formal and complex subject, making it difficult to master [5]. Many students remain at the knowledge (C1) and understanding (C2) levels. Students still struggle to answer questions related to geometric elements, geometric properties, constructing geometric shapes using planes, and manipulating geometric shapes [6], [7]. Students have difficulty understanding mathematical concepts [8], connecting various

geometric concepts to solve problems [9], understanding geometric definitions and theorems, using visual skills, and demonstrating mathematical literacy [5]. Figure 2 shows a student answer illustrating the difficulty of answering geometry questions about geometric elements.

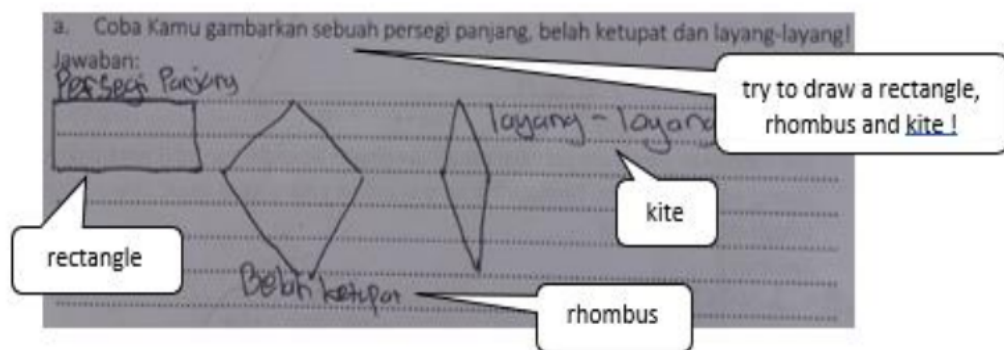


Figure 2. Student's Answer for Drawing Skill Plane Figures

Based on Figure 2, students were indeed able to draw the plane figures and label them according to the problem statement; however, they failed to indicate geometric elements on the figures, such as marking parallel and equal-length sides, drawing diagonals for kites and rhombuses, identifying the types of angles, and labeling the vertices. These results indicate that geometry, specifically regarding plane figures, remains a challenge for students. The difficulties students encounter are closely linked to their geometric thinking abilities.

Geometric thinking is the ability to understand, reason about, and visualize shapes and patterns through mental activities³⁴ such as recognizing shapes, analyzing properties, and solving problems [10]. It progresses from basic abilities, such as recognizing the shapes and properties of plane figures, to more complex aspects, including classification⁵ and determining geometric relationships [11]. Geometric thinking has several levels: first, visual skills; second, verbal skills; third, drawing skills; fourth, logical skills; and fifth, application skills [12]. Visual skills are students' ability to recognize and interpret geometrically represented images, verbal skills are students' ability to read, understand, and communicate geometric information using words, drawing skills are abilities that help students understand the relationship between shapes and their properties through direct practice, logical skills are students' ability to identify similarities and differences between geometric shapes through logical reasoning, and application skills are students' ability to solve geometric problems through understanding geometric concepts [12], [13].

The results of the study indicate that the level of geometric thinking is not uniform. [14] stated that students can reach the visualization and analysis level by constructing geometric shapes and identifying them using known data. Students can explain the similarities and differences between the geometric shapes presented, but they have not yet reached the abstraction stage. Students still have difficulty finding concepts from the geometric shapes presented and connecting various geometric concepts to solve problems. Likewise, the results of [15] research stated that when connected with other mathematical materials, students are no longer able to apply geometric concepts in solving non-routine problems, even at the most basic stages (visualization), such as making straight lines,

drawing lines normally, or drawing the reflection results of a geometric shape. Students' inability to master geometric thinking can make it difficult to solve geometry problems, which can also affect their ability to solve related problems in everyday life.

Interviews conducted at several primary schools in Mataram City, attended by students from several sub-districts, also showed that students have varying levels of geometric thinking. These interviews revealed students' weaknesses in learning geometry, particularly planes. Generally, teachers stated that students could still create representations of planes, but some students could not provide complete characteristics. The teacher also stated that students did not understand the properties of plane shapes, especially data shapes that, in representation, have the same shape (square, rhombus, and kite), so it was difficult to distinguish the plane shapes. Other interview results also revealed that students largely did not understand the concept of area or circumference in real-world contexts (story problems), even though they could work with it when it was not presented in a story-problem format. The interview results show that students' geometric thinking levels differ, and their difficulties in solving these problems follow Hoffer's levels of geometric thinking.

Given this context, it is important to research students' levels of geometric thinking. Such research will yield comprehensive information regarding the geometric thinking levels of primary school students. In addition to identifying these levels, it is also necessary to analyze the errors students make when solving the assigned problems. Furthermore, the results of this analysis can serve as a basis for formulating appropriate measures or policies to help improve the geometric thinking abilities of primary school students in Mataram city.

Many studies have been conducted on geometric thinking, including on geometric proof and justification skills [16], representation, spatial structure, and measurement [17], geometric problem solving [18], errors and misconceptions in solving geometric problems [19], developing in-depth geometric thinking collaboratively [20], and 3D geometric thinking skills [7]. Furthermore, research on the level of geometric thinking has been conducted, namely the level of geometric thinking in the application of spatial functions [3], on the analysis of the level of geometric thinking through van Hiele's theory in middle school students [13], [16], and the level of geometric thinking of prospective teachers using van Hiele's theory [4]. While these studies applied the van Hiele framework, less research has used Hoffer's skill framework to interpret primary school students' written answers when solving geometry problems; thus, this study is warranted.

Research on Hoffer's levels of geometric thinking is worthwhile because the framework provides a detailed explanation of the characteristics of geometric thinking at each level, and these characteristics are well suited to primary school students. Based on the foregoing, this study aims to analyze the geometric thinking levels of primary school students with moderate academic ability in Mataram City and to describe their work at each level of geometric thinking.

2. METHOD

This study uses a qualitative case study method. Case study research aims to analyze a case in detail and depth from a single individual, group, or community to generalize it to several specific groups [21]. This case study examines primary school students' geometric

thinking levels on the topic of planes, based on Hoffer's theory. Table 1 shows the indicators of geometric thinking levels according to Hoffer's theory.

Table 1. Indicators of Geometric Thinking Levels According to Hoffer's Theory

No	Levels	Indicator
1	Visual skills	Able to remember and recognize flat geometric shapes
2	Drawing skills	Able to draw geometric shapes accurately, even adding marks to the drawing to explain its properties, such as marking angles or sides of equal length
3	Verbal skills	Able to explain or describe geometric shapes, properties, relationships, and concepts
4	Logical skills	Able to compare and construct logical arguments about the relationships between flat geometric shapes
5	Applied skills	Able to recognize physical models of geometric shapes, apply the properties of geometric models to the properties of physical objects, and use these geometric models in problem solving

This study involved 521 fifth-grade primary school students in six districts of Mataram City. The schools were selected using purposive sampling based on their accreditation status in Mataram City, and the study focused specifically on students with moderate academic ability. To categorize students by academic ability, the study used the "three-box method" [22]. The "three-box method" is a technique used to divide a group of students into three subgroups based on the scores they achieved. The study involved five essay questions, each with a minimum score of zero (0) and a maximum score of 10, resulting in a total possible score range of 0 to 50. The formula for determining these three student groups is as follows:

$$I = \frac{X_{max} - X_{min}}{3}$$

Where:

I = category interval length

X_{max} = maximum value

X_{min} = minimum value

3 = number of categories

Data collection was conducted through interviews and a set of geometry problems consisting of five open-ended questions, with each question addressing a specific indicator of geometric thinking. A single indicator was assigned to each question because Hoffer's criteria for geometric thinking are hierarchical in nature; this implies that students can only answer questions at a higher level after completing the preceding level. Two experts specializing in mathematics and mathematics education validated the problems used in this study. The validation process encompassed content validation and curriculum alignment. Interviews were conducted with five primary school students, selected for having the most common answer pattern within the "moderate academic ability" group, using open-ended questions that allowed the researcher to probe beyond the predetermined inquiries. The researcher conducted repeated interviews to elicit consistent answers, and this consistency

served as the basis for concluding the thinking levels of primary school students with moderate academic ability.

Based on the students' answers, their levels of geometric thinking will be analyzed according to established indicators. This study will analyze the data using thematic analysis in six steps: familiarization with the data, coding, identifying initial themes, reviewing and developing themes, determining and naming themes, and writing a report [23]. This research presents the coding scheme for geometric thinking levels in Table 2.

Table 2. Coding of Geometric Thinking Level Data

Levels of thinking	Code	Theme
visual skills	writing the names of plane figures	Introduction to plane figures
verbal skills	writing the definitions of plane figures	Understanding concepts of plane figures
drawing skills	drawing plane figures	Using representations of plane figures
logical skills	writing the differences and similarities between plane figures	Introduction to relationships between plane figures
applied skills	solving real-life problems related to plane figures.	Using formulas and procedures

Through these six steps of thematic analysis, we will obtain a report on the level of flat plane geometric thinking of primary school students, specifically grade 5 students with moderate academic ability. Next, we will also describe the responses of five research subjects in solving geometry-level problems. The flow of research to be carried out can be seen in Figure 3.

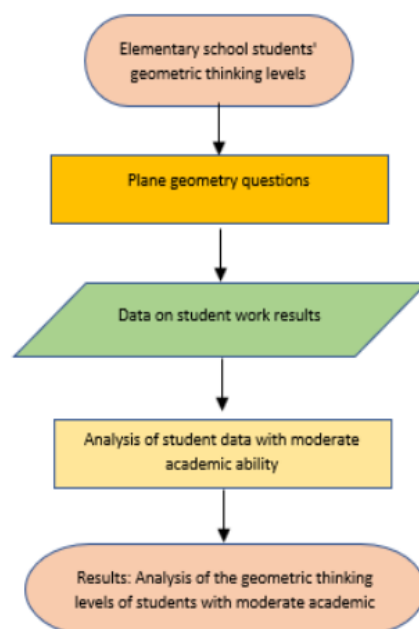


Figure 3. Research Flow Diagram

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of tests conducted on 531 primary school students, various answers were found based on the level of geometric thinking in solving geometry problems. Based on the students' answers, the geometric thinking ability levels were divided into three groups based on the three-box method theory [22]: high, moderate, and low. These groups were determined by the highest scores, which were then divided into three parts. Table 3 shows the grouping of students' abilities based on these geometric thinking categories.

Table 3. Grouping of Student Abilities Based on Geometric Thinking Categories

No	Group	Score range	Number of students	Percentage
1	Low	0-15	65	12.25 %
2	Moderate	16-33	450	84.75 %
3	High	34-50	16	3.01 %

Based on Table 3, this study describes the answers of students with moderate academic ability when solving geometry problems, categorized according to indicators of geometric thinking levels. The study focuses on students with moderate academic ability because this group represents the largest segment compared to other academic groups. Each student's answer was classified into a specific answer category for each question, resulting in a total of 450 students per category. Table 4 presents the answers of students with moderate academic ability for each problem, classified by geometric thinking category.

Table 4. Responses of Students with Moderate Academic Ability in Solving Problems
Based on Geometric Thinking Categories

No	Geometric Thinking Categories	Indicator	Responses Category	Number of Students	Percentage
1	Visual skills	Able to remember and recognize flat geometric shapes	Students write the names of flat surfaces that do not match the characteristics given in the problem.	103	22.88 %
			Students describe a flat surface that matches the characteristics given in the problem.	3	0.66 %
			The student wrote the name of the flat surface correctly, but the reason given was wrong.	19	4.23 %
			The student wrote the name of the flat surface correctly but did not write the reason	101	22.45 %
			Students write the name of the plane correctly and give the correct reason	224	49.78 %
2	Drawing skills	Able to draw geometric shapes accurately, even adding marks to the drawing to explain its	Students cannot describe the specified flat plane	2	0.45 %
			Students can describe several specified flat surfaces but have not been given signs on the flat surfaces	4	0.89 %

		properties, such as marking angles or sides of equal length	Students can describe all the specified flat surfaces but have not been given signs on the flat surfaces	440	98 %
			Students can describe all the specified flat surfaces and have given signs on several of these flat surfaces	3	0.66 %
3	Verbal skills	Able to explain or describe geometric shapes, properties, relationships, and concepts	Students are wrong in defining the given flat plane	62	13,78 %
			Students use pictures to define flat surfaces	1	0,23 %
			Students use pictures to define a given plane	3	0,66 %
			Students explain the definition of a plane through analytical, genetic, and formulaic definitions	384	85.33 %
4	Logical skills	Able to compare and construct logical arguments about the relationships between flat geometric shapes	Students can write down the similarities and differences of the given flat surfaces	58	12.88 %
			Students make pictures to write down the similarities and differences of the given flat planes	1	0.22 %
			Students do not write answers on the worksheet	9	2 %
			Students make mistakes in writing the similarities and differences of the given flat surfaces	96	21.33 %
			Students only write down some of the similarities and differences between the given planes	2	0.45 %
			Students do not answer the questions given	99	22 %
			Students only write down the similarities or differences between the given planes correctly	184	41.12 %
5	Applied skills	Able to recognize physical models of geometric shapes, apply the properties of geometric models to the properties of physical objects, and use these geometric models in problem solving.	Students do not write answers on the worksheet	14	3.11 %
			Students wrote the wrong answer	405	90 %
			Students write the answers correctly but do not write the process.	21	4.67 %
			Students write the answers correctly and write the process correctly.	10	2.22 %

3.1. Visual Skills

Based on Table 4, regarding visual skills, students were asked to recall and recognize two-dimensional geometric shapes. Based on the problem presented, the answers from students with moderate academic ability were dominated by three types of answers: 1)

writing the name of a two-dimensional shape that did not match the given characteristics; 2) correctly identifying the shape but failing to provide a reason; and 3) correctly identifying the shape and providing a valid reason. For answers to writing the name of a data plane that does not match the characteristics given, students write the answer with the name of a flat plane that has a similar shape or words that are often spoken every day, such as rectangle, square, cube, and beam [24], [25]. This also shows that the students' concepts are not yet perfect because they cannot differentiate between examples of three-dimensional or two-dimensional geometry. Figure 4 shows an example of a student's written answer naming a flat plane that does not match the characteristics.

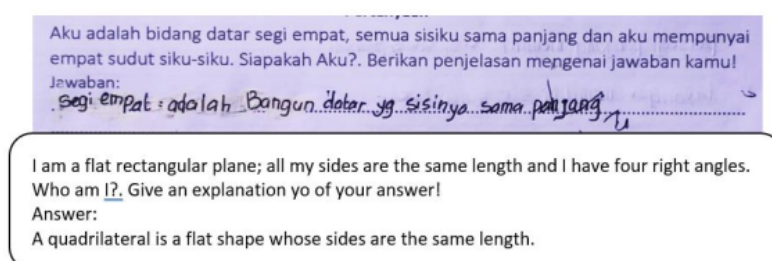


Figure 4. First Type of Answer from Student with Moderate Academic Ability for Visual Skills

In the second type of answer, students correctly identify the name of the plane figure but provide no justification; they state the correct name without noting the relevant geometric features [26], [27]. Ideally, students should have included the characteristics specified in the problem statement, but they did not. Interview findings reveal that students hesitated to list the characteristics provided in the problem because they believed other, more accurate characteristics existed beyond those explicitly stated. Figure 5 shows an example of this second answer type correctly naming the plane figure without justification.

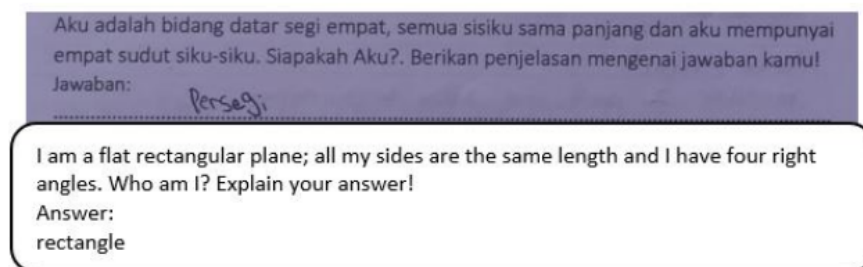


Figure 5. Second Type of Answer from Student with Moderate Academic Ability for Visual Skills

For the third type of answer, namely writing the correct name of the plane accompanied by the appropriate reason, the student understood the problem. This also shows that the student can recognize and identify a plane based on the characteristics given. An example of an answer from a student with moderate ability in writing the third type of answer, namely writing the correct name of the plane accompanied by the appropriate reason, can be seen in Figure 6.

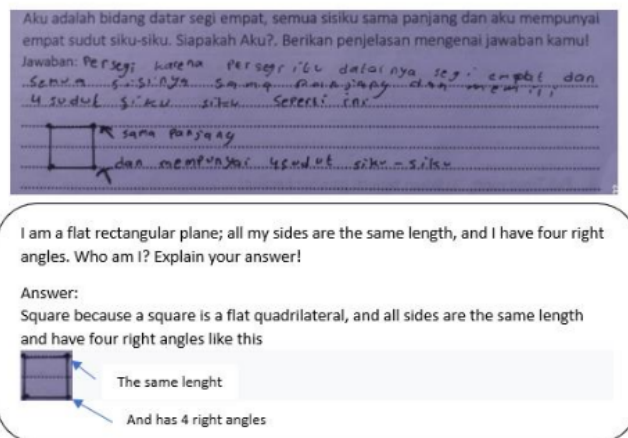


Figure 6. Third Type of Answer from Student with Moderate Academic Ability for Visual Skills

In visual skills, recognizing planes ¹² is a prerequisite skill that every student must master to understand more complex geometric concepts, such as understanding the properties of planes, understanding the relationships between planes, completing area and circumference calculations, and solving geometry problems. Students with moderate academic ability generally find it easy to recognize plane shapes, but they ³ recognize plane shapes based on whole shapes rather than using geometric properties. The results of this study indicate that students with moderate academic ability more often write plane shapes based on everyday objects, for example, marking a square with a box. Students prioritize shapes without analyzing the properties that distinguish squares from boxes [28]. Furthermore, students with moderate academic ability often write that all plane surfaces with four sides are called quadrilaterals because they have a weak ability to understand the properties of plane ³⁵ faces, without recognizing the specific characteristics of these plane surfaces. However, students with moderate academic ability still write the properties of the given plane surfaces even though they do not write the symbols that mark the characteristics of the plane surfaces [29].

3.2. drawing Skills

Regarding drawing skills, students are required to draw geometric shapes accurately and add markings to illustrate their properties, such as indicating equal angles or sides. Based on the given problem, the dominant answer among students with moderate proficiency was the ability to draw all the specified plane figures, though they did not yet include markings on the figures they drew. In this type of answer, the student draws and labels the plane figure but does not include distinguishing features, such as markings indicating parallel sides, right angles, equal side lengths, or diagonal intersections [26], [27]. Figure 7 shows an example of a student's answer that describes all the specified planes but does not yet include signs on the drawn plane.

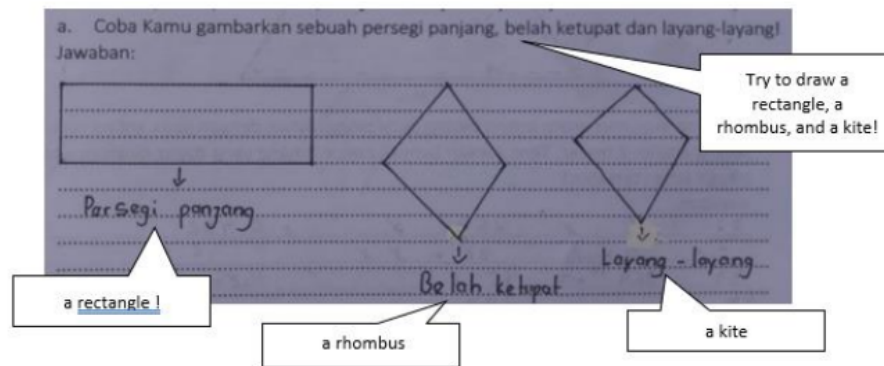


Figure 7. Example of Answer from Student with Moderate Academic Ability for Drawing Skills

In drawing skills, students with moderate academic ability could depict the requested plane but did not demonstrate the size, accuracy, or characteristics that indicate the plane's nature. Students with moderate academic ability also provided drawings of planes with incorrect proportions, such as determining the length of sides, the size of angles, symmetrical shapes, and size comparisons, which resulted in students with moderate academic ability drawing rhombuses and kites with almost the same shape. This indicates that students with moderate academic ability have not fully fulfilled the properties and characteristics of planes accurately [30]. Although the drawings were not perfect, students with moderate academic ability were still able to name the flat surfaces they drew. This indicates that students with moderate academic ability already possess intermediate mathematical representation skills, namely the ability to transform verbal information into simple visual forms [31], and can still be further trained with a proper conceptual understanding of the actual drawing.

3.3. Verbal Skills

In the verbal skills, students were asked to explain or define a plane. Based on the given problem, the results of students with moderate academic ability were dominated by two types of answers: students who incorrectly defined a plane and students who explained the definition of a plane through conceptual, operational, and axiomatic definitions. For the first type of answer, namely students incorrectly defining a plane, students with moderate academic ability define a plane using characteristics that do not correspond to a plane, for example, sides and angles. Students write that a square is a plane figure with four sides of unequal length [32], whereas, regarding angles, students with moderate academic ability explain that a rhombus is a plane figure with four angles of equal measure [33], [34]. Figure 8 shows an example of a student's answer defining a plane figure.

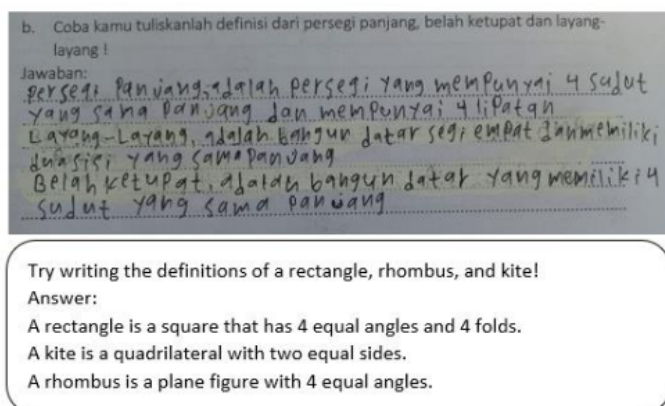
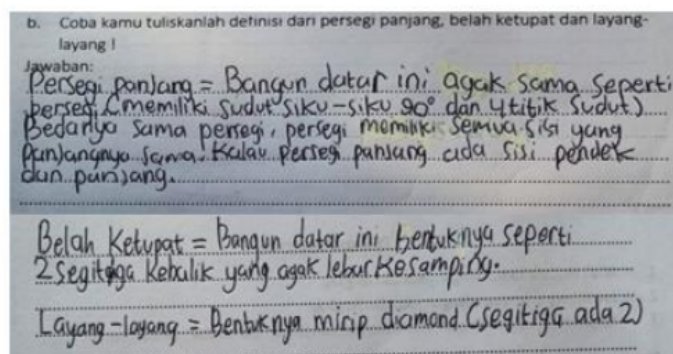


Figure 8. First Type of Answer from Student with Moderate Academic Ability for Verbal Skills

For the second type of answer, which explains the definition of a plane through analytical, genetic, and formulaic definitions, students with moderate academic abilities write the analytical definition of a plane using specific characteristics of a plane, such as sides, angles, and axes of symmetry. For the genetic definition, students connect the process of forming the plane requested in the problem with other planes. Figure 9 shows examples of student answers when solving problems using analytical and genetic definitions.



Try writing the definitions of a rectangle, rhombus, and kite!

Answer:

Rectangle = This plane shape is somewhat similar to a square (it has 90° -degree right angles and 4 vertices).

The difference is that a square has all sides of equal length. A rectangle has short and long sides.

Rhombus = This plane shape is shaped like 2 inverted triangles that are slightly wider at the sides.

Kite = This shape is similar to a diamond (there are 2 triangles).

Figure 9. Second Type of Answer from Student with Moderate Academic Ability for Verbal Skills

For the formula definition, students write the definition of a plane using the area formula for that plane. Figure 10 shows examples of student answers for the second type of answer.

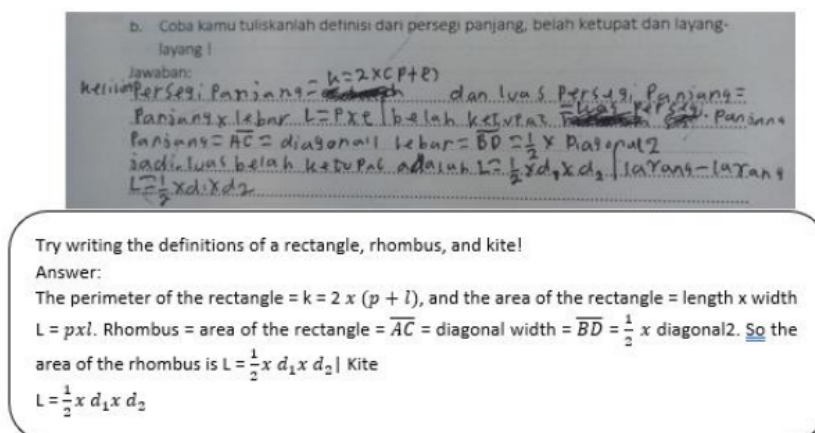


Figure 10. Third Type of Answer from Student with Moderate Academic Ability for Verbal Skills

For verbal skills, students with moderate academic ability still define plane ²⁶ in general. The definitions given are only based on the image of the plane, such as only based on the number of sides, the number of angles, and the axis of symmetry. However, they are not given completely, such as providing the relationship between the sides and angles [35], so that the definitions given for each plane have similarities without any distinctive characteristics that differentiate each definition of the plane. This shows that the visual abilities of students with moderate academic ability still dominate in terms of providing definitions of each plane [28]. Furthermore, students with moderate academic ability still use incorrect names, such as for angles with equal lengths. This indicates that students with moderate academic ability ² still have suboptimal geometric vocabulary and can still be developed academically. Students with moderate academic ability also appear to be more likely to use visual abilities and experiences gained in learning to define planes compared to formal definitions based on the plane's specific properties [36].

Interestingly, when defining a plane, students ¹⁴ with moderate academic ability already use genetic definitions and formulas owned by students with high academic ability [37]. Medium academic students define a plane using other planes, such as rectangles with squares, kites with rhombuses, and rhombuses with triangles (genetic definitions). This shows that students with moderate academic ability can already understand that several planes can be arranged to form a new plane through an understanding of the hierarchical structure of geometric classification [35]. For formula definitions, students with moderate academic ability write the formulas for the area and perimeter of each given plane. The definition of a formula is a consequence of the analytical definition ²² of any plane surface, for example, a rectangle. A rectangle is a plane surface that has 2 pairs of parallel sides, where the parallel sides are equal in length. The longer side is symbolized by p , and the shorter side by l ; using these two sides, students with moderate academic ability define a rectangle by determining the area, namely $p \times l$, and the perimeter, namely $2(p + l)$. The ability to define a plane through the definition of a formula shows that students with moderate academic ability are able to connect properties, images, and formulas as an inseparable conceptual unit [38], [39].

3.4. Logical Skills

In logical skills, students are asked to compare and construct logical arguments about relationships in plane geometry. Based on Table 4, the answers of students with moderate abilities are dominant in four types of answers, namely 1) being able to write the similarities and differences of the given plane, 2) only writing the similarities or differences of the plane, 3) incorrectly writing the similarities and differences of the plane, and 4) not answering the questions given. In the first type of answer, students with moderate academic ability listed the similarities and differences between the given planes, although their answers were incomplete. Nevertheless, the answers provided demonstrated a grasp of the concepts of each plane presented in the problem. The first type of answer can be seen in Figure 11.

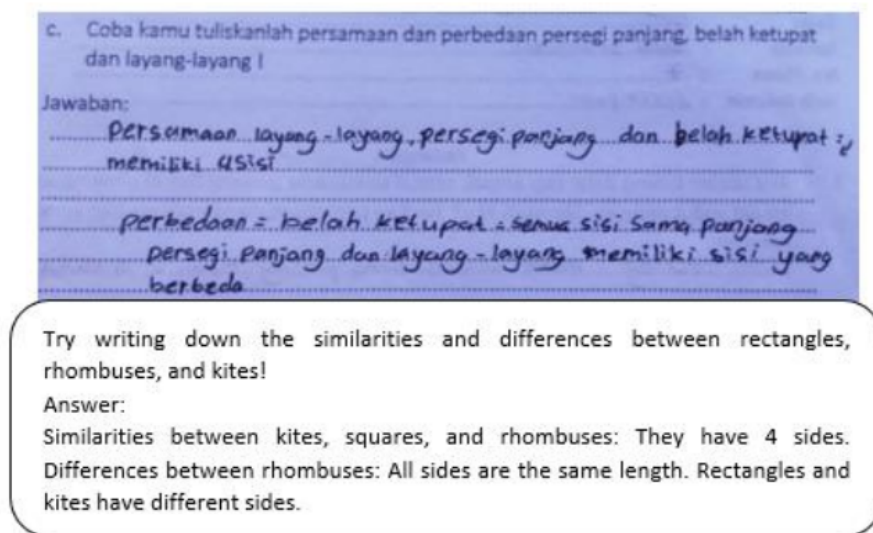


Figure 11. First Type of Answer from a Student with Moderate Academic Ability for Logical Skills

For the second type of answer, students can only write the similarities or differences of the given flat plane. In general, students with moderate academic abilities write down the similarities or differences of each flat plane based on the number of angles and side lengths they have. Students' ability to write down differences or similarities in flat planes shows that primary school students of moderate ability can compare and identify the characteristics of flat planes [24]. The second type of answer appears in Figure 12.

c. Coba kamu tuliskanlah persamaan dan perbedaan persegi panjang, belah ketupat dan layang-layang!

Jawaban:
 Persegi panjang dan belah ketupat tidak memiliki sisi siku-siku.
 Persegi panjang tidak memiliki sisi lancip.

Persamaan:
 memiliki 4 sisi dan 4 sudut.

Perbedaan:
 persegi panjang tegak lurus sedangkan belah ketupat dan layang-layang tidak tegak lurus.

Try writing down the similarities and differences between rectangles, rhombuses, and kites!

Answer:

Kites and rhombuses do not have right angles. Rectangles do not have acute sides. Similarities:

They have 4 sides and 4 angles.

Differences:

Rectangles are perpendicular, while rhombuses and kites are not.

Figure 12. Second Type of Answer from Student with Moderate Academic Ability for Logical Skills

For the third type of response, students made errors in writing the similarities and differences between planes. Based on the interview results, students with moderate abilities stated that these errors occurred because they could not correctly remember the planes given, resulting in errors in writing the similarities and differences. The results of the third type of answer also indicate that students' conceptual understanding of the relationship between planes is still low because they cannot distinguish between examples and non-examples of planes and their properties. Figure 13 shows an example of the third type of answer.

c. Coba kamu tuliskanlah persamaan dan perbedaan persegi panjang, belah ketupat dan layang-layang!

Jawaban: Persegi panjang memiliki 4 sisi sama panjang.

Belah ketupat memiliki 2 garis yang saling berhadapan.

Layang-layang memiliki garis yang sejajar.

Try writing down the similarities and differences between rectangles, rhombuses, and kites!

Answer:

A rectangle

has 4 sides of equal length.

A rhombus

has 2 lines that are opposite each other.

A kite

has parallel lines.

Figure 13. Third Type of Answer from Student with Moderate Academic Ability for Logical Skills

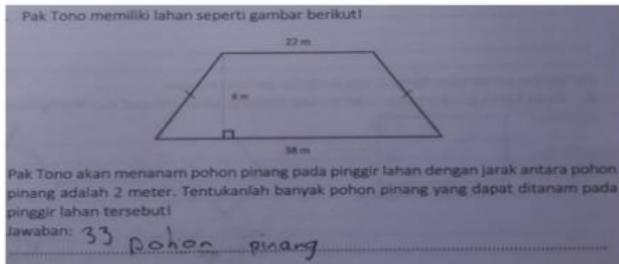
For the fourth type of answer, students were completely unable to list the similarities and differences between the given planes. Based on interviews, students with moderate academic ability said they could not identify the differences and similarities between the

given planes. Another reason revealed that students with moderate academic abilities were still confused about distinguishing between the types of planes.

In logical skills, students with moderate academic ability more often connect planes through visual observation of the planes. Furthermore, students with moderate academic ability also write logical arguments using more geometric properties, such as explaining differences and similarities by connecting squares, kites, and rhombuses through the length of their sides, the types of angles the planes have, and the number of angles of each plane. This indicates that students with moderate academic ability have begun to integrate concepts about plane relationships, even though the relationships given are not completely accurate [40], [41].

3.5. Applied Skills

In applied skills, students are asked to recognize physical models of geometric shapes, apply the properties of geometric models to the properties of physical objects, and use these geometric models in problem solving. Based on Table 4, the dominant answer in this indicator is students writing incorrect answers. Students with moderate academic ability often write incorrect answers and do not write down the problem-solving steps commonly used to solve the problem, such as writing down the information known in the problem and the problem-solving process. Students with moderate academic ability have difficulty identifying the information provided and fail to document the problem-solving process [42]. Generally, students with moderate academic ability write down the answer to the given problem. Figure 14 shows an example answer from a student with moderate academic ability for applied skills.



Pak Tono memiliki lahan seperti gambar berikut!

22 m

6 m

38 m

Pak Tono akan menanam pohon pinang pada pinggir lahan dengan jarak antara pohon pinang adalah 2 meter. Tentukanlah banyak pohon pinang yang dapat ditanam pada pinggir lahan tersebut!

Jawaban: 33 pohon pinang

Mr. Tono has land like the one shown below!

22 m

6 m

38 m

Mr. Tono will plant areca nut trees on the edge of the land, spacing them 2 meters apart. Determine the number of areca nut trees that can be planted on the edge of the land!

Answer:
33 areca nut trees

Figure 14. The Answer from Student with Moderate Academic Ability for Applied Skills

In applied skills, students with moderate academic ability were unable to solve the given problems using the process according to problem-solving standards. Although they

were given a flat plane image representing the problem, students with moderate academic ability wrote only the answer. These results are inconsistent with Weigand et al. [41], which found that images can make it easier for students to solve problems by helping them identify sides, angles, dimensions, and relationships between parts. Students with moderate academic ability also show that their ability to apply mathematical concepts to solve everyday problems remains limited [37], [43].

4. CONCLUSION

The research findings indicate that fifth-grade primary school students with moderate academic ability in Mataram City show high accuracy in answering questions related to visual skills; however, this accuracy declines when addressing questions at the applied skill level. These students possess limited ability to solve problems involving geometric concepts applied to everyday life. This suggests that students with moderate mathematical ability in Mataram City have an uneven or incomplete understanding of the subject. These fifth-grade students' capabilities require immediate improvement, as knowledge and understanding of geometry are essential to daily life. These findings reflect the interpretations of fifth-grade students with moderate academic ability in Mataram, based on a single assessment item for each geometric thinking skill. Given the importance of geometry education, teachers should use concrete objects, such as traditional foods or the shapes of traditional houses, as instructional aids to support student learning. Future research should employ multiple tasks for each geometric thinking skill, measure students' academic achievement, and investigate how instructional interventions influence the development of logical and applied geometric skills. The results of this study offer deeper insight into the characteristics of geometric skills among fifth-grade primary students of moderate academic ability, as well as the errors they make when solving geometry problems.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author would like to thank the Rector of the University of Mataram and the Institute for Research and Community Service (LPPM) of Mataram University for funding support through the DIPABLU scheme for Capacity Building Research at the University of Mataram for the 2026 fiscal year with Number: 5178/UN18.L1/PP/2026. Gratitude is also expressed to the Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Mataram, for support and facilities for activities through Decision Number: 887/UN18.F5/HK/2026. The author would like to thank the principal, teachers, and students at the school where this research was conducted, who have provided a lot of support so that this research can run smoothly. The author would also like to thank other parties who cannot be mentioned one by one for their support in implementing this research.

REFERENCES

- [1] I. V. S. Mullis, M. O. Martin, P. Foy, and M. Hooper, *TIMSS 2015 International Results in Mathematics*. Boston: International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, 2015.
- [2] E. Prajitno and A. Wijaya, *Guru Pembelajaran: Modul Pelatihan SD Kelas Awal*. Jakarta: Direktorat Pembinaan Guru Pendidikan Dasar, Direktorat Jenderal Guru dan Tenaga Kependidikan, 2016.
- [3] R. B. Dimla, "Probing Students' Levels of Geometric Thinking in Geometry and Their Enacted Example Space Function," *J. Educ. Black Sea Reg.*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 155–163, 2018.

- [4] R. B. Armah, P. O. Cofie, and C. A. Okpoti, "The Geometric Thinking Levels of Pre-service Teachers in Ghana," *High. Educ. Res.*, vol. 2, no. 3, pp. 98–106, 2017, doi: 10.11648/j.her.20170203.14.
- [5] K. H. Massarwe, "Studying Geometric Concepts in Elementary School through Construction by Compass and Straightedge To cite this article : Studying Geometric Concepts in Elementary School through Construction by Compass and Straightedge," *Int. J. Stud. Educ.*, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 42–63, 2023, doi: 10.46328/ijonse.95.
- [6] N. B. Mensah, E. B. Odro, and D. A. Williams, "Examination of 9th graders' levels of geometric thinking," *Int. J. Res. Educ. Sci.*, vol. 9, no. 3, pp. 688–703, 2023, doi: 10.46328/ijres.3184.
- [7] T. Öcal and M. Halmatova, "3D geometric thinking skills of preschool children," *Int. J. Curric. Instr.*, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. 1508–1526, 2021.
- [8] P. Panteli and A. Panaoura, "The Effectiveness of Using Mobile Learning Methods in Geometry for Students with Different Initial Mathematical Performance," *Univers. Wiser Publ.*, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 1–10, 2020, doi: 10.37256/ser.112020128.1-10.
- [9] F. Alghadari, T. Herman, and S. Prabawanto, "Factors Affecting Senior High School Students to Solve Three- Dimensional Geometry Problems," *Int. Electron. J. Math. Educ.*, vol. 15, no. 3, pp. 1–11, 2020, doi: 10.29333/iejme/8234.
- [10] M. Pittalis and C. Christou, "Types of reasoning in 3D geometry thinking and their relation with spatial ability," *Educ Stud Math*, vol. 75, pp. 191–212, 2010, doi: 10.1007/s10649-010-9251-8.
- [11] M. Bernabeu, M. Moreno, and S. Llinares, "Polygon Class Learning Opportunities: Interplay Between Teacher's Moves, Children's Geometrical Thinking, and Geometrical Task," *Int. J. Sci. Math. Educ.*, vol. 22, no. 6, pp. 1381–1403, 2024, doi: 10.1007/s10763-023-10425-3.
- [12] A. Hoffer, "Geometry is more than proof," *Math. Teach.*, vol. 74, no. 1, pp. 11–18, 1981, doi: <https://doi.org/10.5951/MT.74.1.0011>.
- [13] F. Mudhefi, K. Mabotja, and D. Muthelo, "The use of Van Hiele ' s geometric thinking model to interpret Grade 12 learners ' learning difficulties in Euclidean Geometry," *Perspect. Educ.*, vol. 42, no. 2, pp. 162–175, 2024, doi: 10.38140/pie.v42i2.8350.
- [14] A. Cesaria, T. Herman, and J. A. Dahlan, "Level Berpikir Geometri Peserta Didik Berdasarkan Teori Van Hiele pada Materi Bangun Ruang Sisi Datar," *J. Elem.*, vol. 7, no. 2, pp. 267–279, 2021, doi: 10.29408/jel.v7i2.2898.
- [15] T. Kandaga, "Epistemological Obstacle in Transformation Geometry Based on van Hiele ' s Level," *EURASIA J. Math. Sci. Technol. Educ.*, vol. 18, no. 4, 2022.
- [16] H. Demircioğlu and K. Hatip, "Examining 8th grade students' van Hiele geometry thinking levels, their proof writing and justification skills," *Int. J. Curric. Instr.*, vol. 15, no. 1, pp. 294–308, 2022.
- [17] S. Sudirman, R. Runisah, Y. S. Kusumah, and B. A. P. Martadiputra, "Epistemological Obstacle in 3D Geometry Thinking : Representation , Spatial Structuring, and Measurement," *Pegem J. Educ. Instr.*, vol. 13, no. 4, pp. 292–301, 2023, doi: 10.47750/pegegog.1.
- [18] I. C. De Vink, R. H. Willemsen, R. Keijzer, A. W. Lazonder, and E. H. Kroesbergen, "Supporting creative problem solving in primary geometry education," *Think. Ski. Creat.*, vol. 48, no. December 2022, p. 101307, 2023, doi: 10.1016/j.tsc.2023.101307.
- [19] M. Mosia, M. Edward, and T. John, "Research in Social Sciences and Technology Errors and Misconceptions in Euclidean Geometry Problem Solving Questions : The Case of Grade 12 Learners," *Res. Soc. Sci. Technol.*, vol. 8, no. 3, pp. 89–104, 2023.
- [20] R. Oughton *et al.*, "Developing ' deep mathematical thinking ' in geometry with 3- and 4-year-olds : a collaborative study between early years teachers and university-based mathematicians," *Math. Think. Learn.*, vol. 26, no. 3, pp. 306–325, 2024, doi: 10.1080/10986065.2022.2119497.
- [21] R. Heale and A. Twycross, "What is a case study?," *Evid Based Nurs*, vol. 21, no. 1, 2018, doi: 10.1136/eb-2017-102845.
- [22] A. Ferdinand, *Metode Penelitian Manajemen Pedoman Penelitian Untuk Penulisan Skripsi, Tesis, Dan Disertasi Ilmu Manajemen*, 3rd ed. Semarang: Fakultas Ekonomika Dan Bisnis Universitas Diponegoro, 2013.
- [23] V. Braun and V. Clarke, "Using thematic analysis in psychology," *Qual. Res. Psychol.*, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 77–101, 2006, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1191/1478088706qp063oa>.
- [24] R. Ponte, F. Viséu, T. B. Neto, and A. P. Aires, "Revisiting manipulatives in the learning of geometric figures," *Front. Educ.*, vol. 8, no. June, pp. 1–13, 2023, doi: 10.3389/educ.2023.1217680.
- [25] Z. Yıldız, "The effect of distance education practices during the COVID-19 pandemic on mathematics and geometry teaching," *South African J. Educ.*, vol. 44, no. 2, pp. 1–13, 2024, doi: 10.15700/saje.v44n2a2359.
- [26] A. Rizkya Ramadhani and I. Junaedi, "Eighth Grade Students' Geometric Writing Ability Based on Van Hiele's Theory in the GeoGebra-Assisted PBL Model," *EduGrows Educ. Learn. Rev.*, vol. 1, no.

- 2, pp. 143–154, 2025, doi: 10.69836/edugrows.v1i2.113.
- [27] V. Bočková and L. Rumanová, “Mathematical Modeling Approach and Exploration of Geometric Properties as Part of an Outdoor Activity for Primary-School Pupils in Out-of-School Learning,” *Educ. Sci.*, vol. 14, no. 12, 2024, doi: 10.3390/educsci14121304.
- [28] D. Götz and H. Gasteiger, “Reflecting geometrical shapes: approaches of primary students to reflection tasks and relations to typical error patterns,” *Educ. Stud. Math.*, vol. 111, no. 1, pp. 47–71, 2022, doi: 10.1007/s10649-022-10145-5.
- [29] J. V. Protacio, “Mapping algebraic and geometric thinking with the van Hiele model among college students in STEM programs,” *STEM Educ.*, vol. 6, no. 4, pp. 632–658, 2026, doi: 10.3934/steme.2026026.
- [30] X. Yao, “Characterizing Learners’ Construction of Geometry Diagrams in Dynamic Geometry Environments,” *Int. J. Technol. Math. Educ.*, vol. 29, no. 4, pp. 233–243, 2022, doi: 10.1564/tme_v29.4.04.
- [31] T. Ma and W. Zhang, “Research on the impact of different teaching methods on students’ spatial ability and three-dimensional geometric thinking,” *Front. Psychol.*, vol. 17, no. February, 2026, doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2026.1744734.
- [32] K. Kusno and S. Sutarto, “European Journal of Educational Research,” *Eur. J. Educ. Res.*, vol. 11, no. 3, pp. 639–652, 2022.
- [33] A. Simpson, E. Shokeen, N. Katirci, and C. Williams-Pierce, “Elementary students’ shared understanding of angle during an educational robotics task,” *Front. Educ.*, vol. 9, 2024, doi: 10.3389/educ.2024.1425307.
- [34] S. Satır and A. Kurtuluş, “Examination of Seventh Grade Students’ Van Hiele Geometric Thinking Levels and Their Mistakes on ‘Quadrilaterals,’” *Osmangazi J. Educ. Res.*, vol. 10, no. 2, pp. 23–51, 2024, doi: 10.59409/ojer.1366292.
- [35] Y. Gunpinar and W. Sung, “Exploring 2D Geometric Shape Classification Using AI-Driven Feature Tables in Mathematics,” *Sch. Sci. Math.*, pp. 1–14, 2025, doi: 10.1111/ssm.70003.
- [36] A. Haj-Yahya, R. Hershkowitz, and T. Dreyfus, “Investigating students’ geometrical proofs through the lens of students’ definitions,” *Math. Educ. Res. J.*, vol. 35, pp. 607–633, 2023, doi: 10.1007/s13394-021-00406-6.
- [37] A. Arnal-Bailera and V. Manero, “Design and validation of a questionnaire to assess the definition process at Van Hiele level 5,” *Educ. Stud. Math.*, vol. 121, pp. 423–444, 2025, doi: 10.1007/s10649-025-10456-3.
- [38] S. Desai, S. B. Bush, and F. Safi, “Mathematical Representations in the Teaching and Learning of Geometry: A Review of the Literature from the United States,” *Electron. J. Res. Sci. Math. Educ.*, vol. 25, no. 4, pp. 6–22, 2021.
- [39] S. Jablonski and M. Ludwig, “Teaching and Learning of Geometry—A Literature Review on Current Developments in Theory and Practice,” *Educ. Sci.*, vol. 13, 2023, doi: 10.3390/educsci13070682.
- [40] R. Ramírez-Uclés and J. F. Ruiz-Hidalgo, “Reasoning, Representing, and Generalizing in Geometric Proof Problems among 8th Grade Talented Students,” *Mathematics*, vol. 10, no. 789, 2022, doi: 10.3390/math10050789.
- [41] H. G. Weigand, K. Hollebrands, and M. Maschietto, “Geometry education at secondary level – a systematic literature review,” *ZDM - Math. Educ.*, vol. 57, pp. 829–843, 2025, doi: 10.1007/s11858-025-01703-1.
- [42] A. A. P. Rosyadi, A. Kafifah, Y. M. Cholily, and S. Inganah, “Students’ mathematical errors in solving literacy and numeracy problems,” *JRAMathEdu*, vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 105–116, 2024, doi: 10.23917/jramathedu.v9i2.10464.
- [43] E. Wahyuningrum *et al.*, “Transforming Geometric Thinking Through a Flipped Semi-Concrete Model: A Van Hiele and Cognitive Load Theory Perspective in Coastal Elementary Education,” *J. Curric. Stud. Res.* <https://curriculumstudies.org>, vol. 8, no. 2, pp. 187–218, 2026.

1948_Similarity

ORIGINALITY REPORT

11%

SIMILARITY INDEX

6%

INTERNET SOURCES

9%

PUBLICATIONS

3%

STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

1	Submitted to FAKULTAS ILMU KOMPUTER Student Paper	2%
2	N Maharani, Suratno, Sudarti. "The analysis of creative thinking skills of junior high school students in learning natural science on environmental pollution materials with different academic skills", Journal of Physics: Conference Series, 2020 Publication	1%
3	www.grafiati.com Internet Source	1%
4	A K Dewi, Sunardi, M Irvan, Hobri, F N Rohmah. "Students' error analysis in solving geometry problems based on the mathematical anxiety under the theory of van hiele", Journal of Physics: Conference Series, 2020 Publication	<1%
5	core.ac.uk Internet Source	<1%
6	Markus Palobo, Nasruddin, Yonarlianto Tembang, Oswaldus Dadi. "From Recognition to Logical Deduction: Assessing the van Hiele Levels of Geometric Thinking Among Students of Diverse Disciplines", Riemann: Research of Mathematics and Mathematics Education, 2026 Publication	<1%
7	eprints.utm.my Internet Source	<1%
8	Hamidah Hamidah, Zaenuri Zaenuri, Isnarto Isnarto, Arief Agoestanto. "Self-investigation exercises: geometry learning strategies for prospective teacher students", Journal of Education and Learning (EduLearn), 2025 Publication	<1%
9	distantreader.org Internet Source	<1%
10	Kufa, Raviro Sibongile. "Teachers' Dispositions Towards the Teaching of Euclidean Geometry in Grade 12 Mathematics in Tshilamba Circuit in Limpopo Province", University of South Africa (South Africa) Publication	<1%

11	hrcak.srce.hr Internet Source	<1 %
12	www.mdpi.com Internet Source	<1 %
13	Wawa-Egbuche, Sephora A.. "Understanding the Wellness Needs of Black Men Student Athletes", Marquette University Publication	<1 %
14	F I Taharu, Safilu, L Aba. "The effect of problem-based learning on high school students' problem-solving skill and comprehension of biological concept based on their academic performance", Journal of Physics: Conference Series, 2020 Publication	<1 %
15	jurnal.uns.ac.id Internet Source	<1 %
16	pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov Internet Source	<1 %
17	journal.unnes.ac.id Internet Source	<1 %
18	Nofyta Arlianti, Kamid Kamid, Jefri Marzal, Muhammad Haris Effendi Hasibuan. "Improving geometry transformation thinking skills using student activity sheets based on discovery-contextual learning based on Van Hiele's theory", JPPI (Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan Indonesia), 2025 Publication	<1 %
19	Submitted to UNITAR International University Student Paper	<1 %
20	jurnal.stie-aas.ac.id Internet Source	<1 %
21	adoc.pub Internet Source	<1 %
22	app.seesaw.me Internet Source	<1 %
23	jurnalkip.unram.ac.id Internet Source	<1 %
24	nanopdf.com Internet Source	<1 %
25	ww.ijicc.net Internet Source	<1 %

26	Nguyen, Kevin. "Design of a Bone-Implant Micromotion Test for Total Ankle Arthroplasty Tibial Components", Queen's University (Canada), 2024 Publication	<1 %
27	ojspanel.undikma.ac.id Internet Source	<1 %
28	repository.unibabwi.ac.id Internet Source	<1 %
29	www.researchgate.net Internet Source	<1 %
30	Risman Firmansyah, Asep Ikin Sugandi, Euis Eti Rohaeti. "Development of Discovery Learning Assisted by Cabri Express Teaching Materials to Improve Students' Communication Ability and Mathematical Disposition", (JIML) JOURNAL OF INNOVATIVE MATHEMATICS LEARNING, 2023 Publication	<1 %
31	Trimurtini, S., S. B., Y. L., Iqbal Kharisudin. "A Systematic Review on Geometric Thinking: A Review Research Between 2017-2021", European Journal of Educational Research, 2022 Publication	<1 %
32	cdn.juris.id Internet Source	<1 %
33	journal-gehu.com Internet Source	<1 %
34	journal.unesa.ac.id Internet Source	<1 %
35	Juola-Rushton, Anne Marie. "What are the socio-emotional experiences and perceptions of third grade students with high-stakes testing?", Proquest, 20111108 Publication	<1 %
36	Mashuro, Khama. "The Use of English as a Language of Instruction and Its Implications on Social Justice in Primary Schools in Chivi District, Zimbabwe : A Critical Investigation", University of South Africa (South Africa) Publication	<1 %
37	Scristia, Tatang Herman, Septy Sari Yukans. "Redesigning geometry assessments to promote advanced geometric thinking: A case study on formal deduction and rigor", Jurnal Elemen, 2025 Publication	<1 %
38	Surya Amami Pramuditya, Sri Pitriayana, Toto Subroto, Risnina Wafiqoh. "Implementation of augmented reality-assisted learning media on three-	<1 %

dimensional shapes", Jurnal Elemen, 2022

Publication

39 Nurain Suryadinata, Tina Yunarti, M Coesamin. "IDENTIFIKASI PENGETAHUAN CALON GURU SEKOLAH DASAR TERHADAP PEMBELAJARAN GEOMETRI DIMENSI TIGA", EMTEKA: Jurnal Pendidikan Matematika, 2025

Publication

<1%

40 Thlologelo, Ramodisa. "Exploring Grade 6 Mathematics Learners' Learning Difficulties in Space and Shape : A Case of Mopani East District", University of South Africa (South Africa)

Publication

<1%

Exclude quotes

Off

Exclude matches

Off

Exclude bibliography

On