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Abstract

Online supervision mainly focuses on written communication and electronic drafts, while offline supervision comprises physical and social clues, verbal communication, and drafts of texts. This article focuses on supervisors' written online communication about drafts of undergraduate student dissertations. Theoretically, these utterances form part of the communicative exchanges performed in the practice of supervision. This means that supervision is an emergent phenomenon that relates to its past, current, and future states. The setting was a dissertation course within a bachelor programme in behavioural science. The data consists of 423 utterances from four supervisors. The utterances were analysed and categorised, and the results show different qualities and degrees of identifications in the supervisors' communicated utterances. The study shows that the quality of supervisors' utterances embraces the difference between the application of comments, points of view, instructions, and questions. This implicates the importance of supervisors' awareness of the nature and the combination of their utterances if they want to increase the student autonomy when supervising

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