

**FOSTERING MATHEMATICAL
GIFTEDNESS & CREATIVITY
Through MEAs**

Author

Şeyma ŞENGİL AKAR



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PREFACE

This book is a translation into English of my doctoral dissertation titled “Investigation of Mathematical Creativity of Gifted Students’ Mathematical Creativity in the Process of Mathematical Modeling Activities” that I prepared while working at Hacettepe University Institute of Educational Sciences. I always wanted to do my PhD at Hacettepe University, the cradle of educational sciences in our country. The years I worked there as a researcher formed my academic skeleton. I am still grateful to all my professors. However, when I finished my PhD at Hacettepe, I regretted that this work would not reach a wider audience because I wrote my thesis in my own language. I owe a debt of gratitude to my husband, Ibrahim Akar, who encouraged me to translate my doctoral thesis into English.

An article (Chamberlin & Moon, 2005) that I read while I was studying in the graduate program of gifted education at Anadolu University inspired this study. Therefore, this study, in which I took Chamberlin and Moon’s study as a starting point, is a qualitative research design. In this study, we worked with gifted students at the middle school level. In order to obtain more in-depth data about children’s mathematical creativity, this research, which was organized in a multiple case study design, shows that mathematical creativity emerges both process- and outcome-oriented. This is the originality of this study. In addition, we can say that both group and individual mathematical creativity emerged in this study. This study is presented in detail. In this respect, I hope that it will guide and inspire researchers working on this subject.

Even after all these years, I still identify myself as a teacher. When new acquaintances ask my profession, I say “I am a teacher.” Therefore, this study is very special for me because I returned to teaching while collecting the data for this study. The most important thing for me in this process is that I personally observed and experienced that the activities I did contributed to the development of children. Therefore, I hope that readers and researchers will be inspired by the results of this study. I hope that the results of this study will shed light on academics and teachers working in the field of gifted education, mathematical creativity, problem solving, creativity, group creativity and individual creativity.

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