



# Reflective Practice and Blogs: Developing a new model for assessment

Rosanne Birney

Dr. Mícheál Ó hÉigearthaigh

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# Research Objectives

- To examine the assessment of Reflective Practice in both blogs and traditional learning logs
- To develop a detailed Reflective Practice Assessment Framework



# Initial Study

- An initial study set out to examine the use of blogs as a tool for reflective learning
- Blogs are a useful tool for reflection as feedback can easily be provided through the commenting feature (Wagner, 2003)
- Regular feedback may improve depth & quality of reflection (Williams *et. al.*, 2000)
- However, formative assessment and providing regular feedback can be time-consuming



# Automated Assessment

- Automated assessment technologies (e.g. Latent Semantic Analysis) were examined
- However, in order to automate the assessment of Reflective Practice a detailed description is needed:
  - What exactly constitutes ‘reflection’?
- Ontologies (formalised descriptions)



# Reflective Practice Assessment

- Existing models of Reflective Practice provide only general guidelines which must be interpreted by the tutor
- Models by Mezirow (1990), Boud, Keogh & Walker (1985), Hatton & Smith (1995) and Moon (1999, 2004) were examined
- These well established models are useful but nonetheless require a human judgement call as to what level of reflection has been reached



# Reflective Practice Assessment Framework

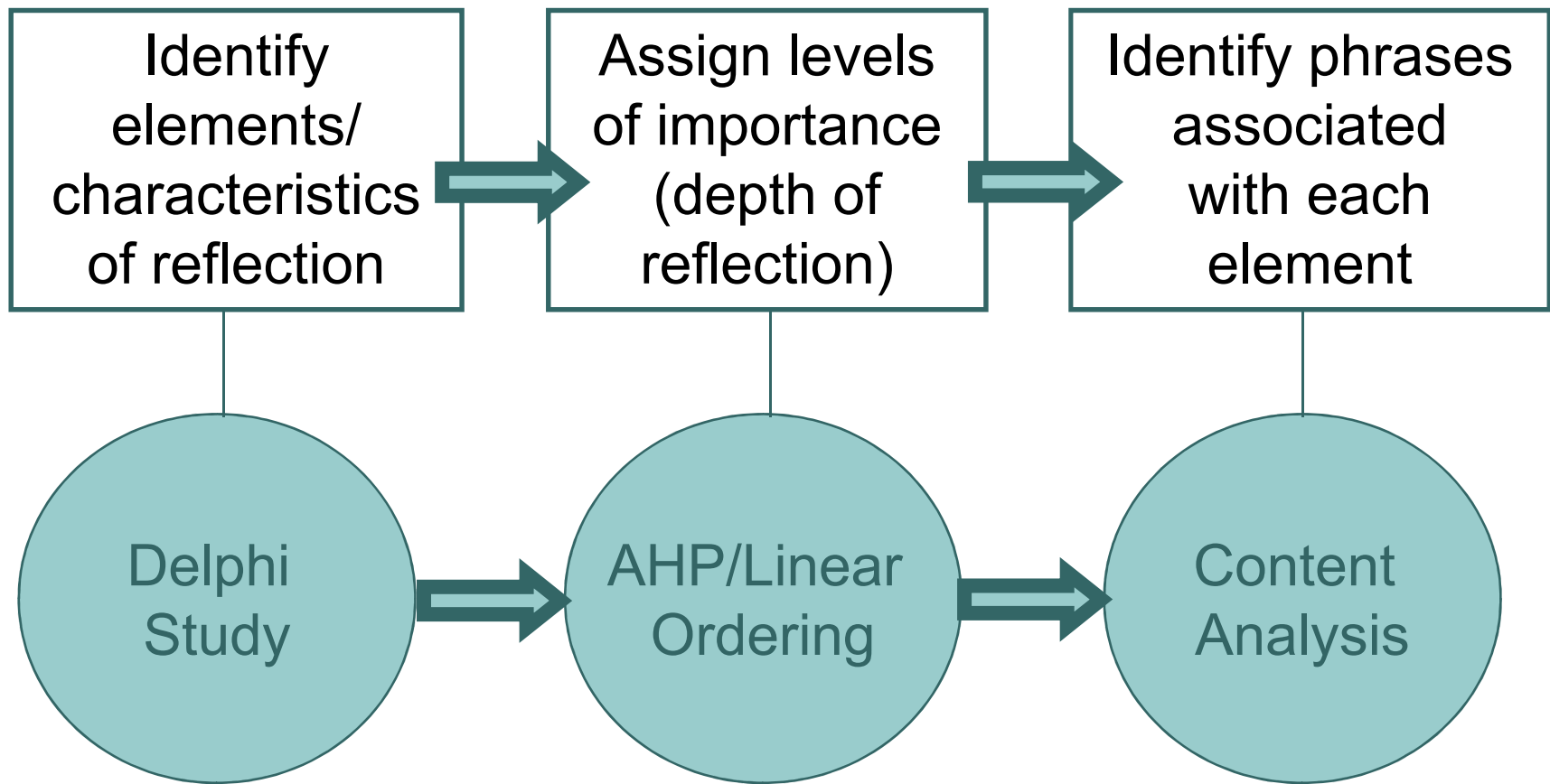
- A detailed Reflective Practice Assessment Framework which provides information at phrase level is needed
- First, it is necessary to determine what constitutes Reflective Practice
  - What are its elements/characteristics?
  - Are some elements more important than others (greater depth of reflection)?
  - Is it possible to identify phrases associated with each element of reflection?



# Research Contribution

- The Reflective Practice Assessment Framework will address the gap between:
  - Existing models of Reflective Practice which provide only general guidelines
  - Automated assessment technologies which require more detailed criteria

● ● ● | **Methods**







# Delphi Study

- Delphi Study – a method of achieving consensus amongst a group of experts
  - Reflective practice experts were selected (n=8)
  - Round One: Participants are asked an open-ended question
    - What criteria enable you to identify that a particular level of reflection has been reached?



# Delphi Study

- Responses from Round One were analysed and 12 common indicators of reflection were identified
- In Round Two these indicators were returned to experts for ranking using pairwise comparisons





# Analysis to date

- Pairwise comparisons were analysed using the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP)
- AHP is a technique used to aid complex decision-making (Saaty, 2000)
- This resulted in a list of indicators ranked according to depth of reflection
- Other techniques (e.g. Linear Ordering) are now being examined to confirm the AHP rankings



## Future work

- Samples for the Content Analysis are now being collected
- It is hoped that this analysis will identify phrases associated with each Reflective Practice indicator
- The weighted indicators and associated phrases will form the basis for a detailed Reflective Practice Assessment framework



# Any Questions?

## ○ Contact Details:

- Rosanne Birney,  
Department of Computing, Mathematics & Physics  
Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland  
[rbirney@wit.ie](mailto:rbirney@wit.ie)

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