

The role of history in foreign language teaching

The presentation of history in teaching of German as a foreign language – Use of historical films during the teaching

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Abstract

Foreign language textbooks play a very important role in creating a standardized image of another country. Historical themes are now essential elements in textbooks for German as a foreign language alongside other cultural themes. The densely visualized modern foreign-language textbooks convey historical content through collages, statistics, colorful images and a modern layout. In most foreign language textbooks, a unit or at least a sub-chapter is devoted to historical topics. With the description and explanation of historical events, foreign language lessons offer an opportunity to show learners the connections between the present and the past. The aim of this article is to examine the presentation of history in the teaching of regional studies in some textbooks for German as a foreign language.

Methods of representing history in foreign language teaching History in foreign-language German textbooks is a sub-aspect alongside other cultural topics. It occurs implicitly in the texts and illustrations presenting the present, on the one hand, and explicitly in the units, chapters, and lessons devoted to historical themes, on the other. About the language, the cultural content is the subject of the lesson. They are mostly supported by the media. such as: 1. Texts (textbooks and authentic texts) 2. Samples (original objects such as stamps, coins, catalogues, postcards, calendars, etc.) 3. Representing media such as photos, slides, posters, film, television, murals, etc. 4. Acoustic media (cassettes, records, radio, etc.) 5. Symbolic media (maps, models, diagrams, plans, programs, etc.)

In this article, we concentrate on conveying historical topics using TV feature films. First, the importance of these media in the classroom is presented and at the end concrete examples of films are shown.

Keywords: History, foreign language, teaching, German.

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