

Popular culture in teaching Polish as a foreign language. Introduction to glotto-cultural studies

SUMMARY

The book explores the connections between contemporary popular culture and the process of teaching and learning Polish as a foreign language.

The author demonstrates how a dominating cultural medium affects a didactic process, particularly the teaching/learning foreign languages. What seems to be a vital factor is a look at language-culture relations. It is possible to define culture in teaching/learning foreign languages as 1) a transmitter of values, lifestyles, etc.; 2) a transmitted content (e.g. cultural canon), which allows the author to explore relations between dominating media and types of culture, and to examine how media influence didactic and teaching/learning foreign languages (in oral, typographic or audiovisual culture). The conclusions of cultural pedagogy and cultural education's research are invaluable here as people must be well-prepared for participation in the present multimedia culture. That is why pedagogy uses many means and techniques from the didactic process, which are very often new methods of cultural training/education (so-called pro-media education).

Analysis of theoretical sources proves that popular culture is used by the educational system more and more intensively. Pop cultural texts and content exert influence on foreign languages teaching, as they form (inter)cultural competence of people learning foreign languages, e.g. Polish.

The book contains an analysis of problems which arise when popular culture is described. Defining various types of culture is the consequence of evaluation and judgement of culture. The author describes the internal differentiation of popular culture and discusses the issue of (conceptualizing) pop cultural self-identities. The book is also concerned with the subject of pop culture mythology and its components: mythical structures. Mythical structures are considered very important, albeit not only navigational means; and thanks to them, people are able to move about culture. In the author's opinion, popular culture is one of the possible ways to transmit cultural canon, which people should learn. All learners of foreign languages can also study the culture of their nation. The level of their "cultural comfortability" will depend on the level of cultural competence: if they know the core values (canon) and peripheral zones of, e.g. Polish culture well, they feel more comfortable in a new environment.