

**How to explore students' cultural concept in teaching German as a foreign language? Example of using task-based teaching method in the research**

**ABSTRACT**

The concept “culture” is used to explain something special in a place. Usually holidays, foods and economical productions are the main topics in textbooks of German as foreign language and German courses. To learn a foreign language means at the same time to learn the culture of the target language. One of the most important functions of learning language is to make intercultural communication appropriately. An appropriate intercultural communication will be achieved only if the cultural backgrounds of the speakers from both sides are taken into consideration. Usually foreign language teachers focus on the target culture while they are teaching a foreign language and pay less attention on the receptive facilities the students have: how do the students understand the foreign culture by their own ways?

This paper tries to figure out the way how the target language culture appears in the German textbooks and the way to find out the cultural concept of the students. This paper presents a teaching example, in which I used task-based teaching methods to let the students be aware of their own culture concept in the German language courses. Through that the cultural awareness of the students was aroused without saying.

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**Key Words:** intercultural communication/ interkulturelle Kommunikation, task-based language teaching, culture/ Kultur, textbook analysis/ Lehrwerkanalyse, German as foreign language/ Deutsch als Fremdsprache

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**Exploring students' cultural concepts when teaching German as a foreign language: A task-based teaching method**

**ABSTRACT**

The word “culture” is used to describe the distinctive behaviors, ideas and beliefs of the people living in a particular geographical area. To learn a foreign language implies concurrently learning the culture of the target language; therefore, one of the most important tasks in learning the language is to engage in appropriate intercultural communication. This task can be achieved only if the cultural backgrounds of the speakers on both sides are taken into consideration. Teachers of a foreign language usually focus on the target culture while teaching that language and pay less attention to the receptive facilities the students already have, that is, how they understand the foreign culture via their own strategies.

Usually holidays, foods and economic production are the main topics in textbooks for German as a foreign language and various courses focusing on the German nation and its people. Accordingly, this research is an attempt to (1) analyze the way that the target-language culture is presented in German textbooks and (2) explore ways to determine the cultural concepts of the students. This report presents a teaching example, in which I used a task-based instructional method to stimulate the students' awareness of their own cultural concepts in their study of German language courses. Through those tasks, the cultural awareness of the students was aroused without direct reference to the phenomenon.

**Keywords:** intercultural communication/ interkulturelle Kommunikation, task-based teaching, culture/ Kultur, textbook analysis/

[Keywords, continued]

Lehrwerkanalyse, German as a foreign language/ Deutsch als Fremdsprache

Editor's Notes:

(1) The words “How to” are *very seldom* used to begin the title of a formal research report in English; similarly, it is rare to state a direct question in the title. Hence, I revised your title in accordance with conventional practice.

(2) I moved your second sentence to the beginning of the second paragraph so that the General-to-Specific flow of this abstract would not be interrupted.

(3) In several instances, I revised your diction to avoid occasional redundancy and also to achieve greater variety in vocabulary and a more polished flow of ideas.

(4) You used the singular noun “method” in your title but the plural form “methods” in the text. I revised the text to agree with the title in number. However, if you actually used more than one task-based method, then your title should be revised to “Exploring students' cultural concepts when teaching German as a foreign language: Task-based teaching methods” ; and the pertinent sentence in your second paragraph should be revised to “...in which I used task-based instructional methods to stimulate...” The underlying principle is that the indefinite article [*a/an*] should not be used with a plural noun.