

Modification of primary school students' attitudes towards culturally different persons - summary

The dissertation discusses the shaping of attitudes towards culturally different persons. The motivation behind this research, based on the content of multi-cultural education, springs from continual need for extending the repository of empirical data in the area, especially with respect to the school and the mission ascribed to it. Moreover, noticeable in the Polish societies tendencies of turning to ethnocentrism and xenophobia indicate the urgent need for supplementing the knowledge of our own culture and history, shaping positive attitudes towards culturally different persons, and modifying those attitudes which are negative or at least neutral. The greatest expectations and tasks in this respect are posed for schools and academic institutions.

In Poland, an overwhelming majority of research on children's and teenagers' attitudes towards cultural diversity and culturally different persons are diagnostic in nature. Cause-and-effect experimental research on children's and teenagers' attitudes towards cultural diversity is rare. For this reason, the aim of the research in this dissertation is an attempt at evaluating the effectiveness of educational actions concerning modification of attitudes towards cultural diversity in primary school children.

For this reason, the author conducted and interpreted a study within the methodology of pedagogical experiment according to Salomon's plan. For the purpose of the study a custom educational program on multi-cultural education titled KOPEZ (Culture-Otherness-Attitudes-Education-Change) was developed. It was assumed that teaching the program will have a positive effect on the attitudes of students towards culturally different persons.

The experiment was conducted in the school year 2015/2016. It involved 90 6-grade students from one of Lublin primary schools. The study was conducted on the school grounds where the students attended.

The dissertation comprises five chapters. Three initial chapters concern theoretical aspects and the following two concern methodology and the study proper. Moreover, the dissertation includes introduction, conclusion, bibliography, index of tables diagrams and figures, and appendix with the KOPEZ program as well as research tools.

The first chapter presents the analysis of the notion of cultural difference. By drawing on the knowledge from different disciplines of scholarship, various visions of cultural difference, conditions for its perception, and descriptive categories were presented. Moreover,

an attempt was made to capture the nature of cultural difference and characterize the important, in this context, relationship between culture and society.

The second chapter includes a comprehensive analysis of the notion of attitude. Various approaches at defining, shaping, and modifying attitudes were shown. A complex description of the attitudes of intolerance was included and particular components were analyzed in reference to terminology, etiology and prophylactics.

The third chapter is a characterization of modern social and cultural processes, whose intensity results in the need for including the topics and methods of multi-cultural education into school programs.

The fourth chapter describes methodological aspects of the dissertation. It includes the paradigm of the research, the goal of experiment and educational actions, research problems and working hypotheses. Moreover, the chapter characterizes research methods and techniques, the place and the organization of research and the persons under study.

The fifth chapter analyzes the research results concerning the modification of primary school students' attitudes towards culturally different persons. The results from each component of the attitude under investigation was analyzed: cognitive, emotional, and behavioral, by comparing the difference between the initial and final state of knowledge, semantic differential, and social distance.

The author hopes that the subject of this dissertation, and the research results in particular, will help to design and implement activities in multicultural education, especially with respect to shaping and modifying attitudes towards cultural diversity and culturally different persons.

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