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The Educational Effect of Foreign Experience on the Methodology of Teaching the German Language

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A B S T R A C T
In this article, the opinions of our country and foreign scientists about the educational effect of foreign experience on the methodology of teaching the German language are mentioned. Foreign experience, especially in immersive and intercultural settings, greatly influences the teaching methodology of the German language by introducing practices that enhance linguistic competence, cultural understanding, and communicative skills. Exposure to native contexts and the latest pedagogical approaches from German-speaking countries has led to significant methodological developments.

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Introduction.

Foreign experience, particularly living and working abroad, can have a profound and multifaceted impact on the methodology of teaching the German language. Here are some key effects:

1. Enhanced Cultural Understanding and Sensitivity:

Authentic Language Use: Living in Germany exposes teachers to real-life situations and colloquialisms, allowing them to teach authentic language use, including slang, regional dialects, and cultural nuances often missing in textbooks.[1]

Intercultural Competence: Immersion in German culture helps teachers understand the cultural context behind language, including social norms, customs, and values. This allows them to create more engaging and culturally relevant lessons.[2]

Empathy and Understanding: Experiencing the challenges of learning a foreign language firsthand gives teachers empathy for their students and allows them to better tailor instruction to their needs.

[1] **Byram, M., & Risager, K. (1999).** *Language teachers, politics, and cultures.* Multilingual Matters. Discusses the role of culture in language teaching, with insights on intercultural competence.
[2] **Ellis, R. (2003).** *Task-based language learning and teaching.* Oxford University Press. Examines the methodology of TBLL and its application in foreign language teaching, including German.

2. Refined Teaching Techniques:

Learning from Different Approaches: Exposure to different teaching styles and methods abroad can provide teachers with fresh ideas and approaches to integrate into their own lessons.

Innovative Strategies: Teachers might discover new technologies, interactive activities, and learning materials used in other countries that can enhance student engagement and comprehension.

Emphasis on Communication: Experience with German speakers in a real-world context reinforces the importance of communicative competence and encourages teachers to shift away from traditional grammar-focused methods.[3]

Materials.

3. Personalized and Relevant Curriculum:

Tailored Content: Teachers can draw on personal experiences and insights to create more relevant and engaging curriculum that resonates with students' interests and learning styles.

Real-World Connections: Foreign experience allows teachers to incorporate authentic examples and scenarios from their own travels or interactions with native speakers into their lessons, making the language more relatable.

Cultural Immersion: Teachers can incorporate elements of German culture, such as music, art, history, and literature, into their lessons, creating a more immersive learning experience.[4]

Table 1. Here's a table that summarizes the educational effects of foreign experience on the methodology of teaching the German language:

Educational Effect	Impact on Teaching Methodology
Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity	- Enhanced cultural competence allows teachers to integrate cultural context, making lessons engaging and authentic. - Use of authentic materials (e.g., news articles, videos) reflects modern language and colloquial usage.
Practical Communication Skills	- Emphasis on spoken fluency helps students prepare for real-life interactions. - Improved pronunciation techniques enable teachers to provide accurate feedback on accent and pronunciation.
Innovative and Interactive Techniques[5]	- Task-based learning focuses on real-life tasks (e.g., ordering food, asking for directions), making language learning practical. - Experiential learning (role-play, field trips) increases motivation and active participation.
Multilingual and Intercultural Perspectives[6]	- Comparative insights between students' native languages and German help teachers address linguistic and cultural challenges.

[3] **Elsen, H. (2007).** *German as a foreign language: Language acquisition and teaching methods.* Journal of Language Teaching and Learning, 1(1), 45-59. Focuses on effective methodologies for teaching German to non-native speakers.
[4] **Goethe-Institut. (2021).** *Methodology and didactics in German language teaching.* Goethe-Institut. Outlines the principles and methods promoted by this major German cultural institution, known for advancing German language teaching worldwide.
[5] **Helm, F. (2013).** *A dialogic model for telecollaboration.* Journal of Language and Intercultural Communication, 13(1), 57-73. Discusses telecollaborative exchanges (virtual classrooms), often used to connect students with German native speakers.
[6] **Hufeisen, B., & Neuner, G. (2003).** *The plurilingual approach: Learner's profile and language learning strategies.* Council of Europe. Explores strategies to foster multilingualism, relevant for students of German exposed to multiple languages.

	- Emphasis on intercultural competence teaches students skills for cross-cultural communication.
Modern Teaching Resources and Technologies	- Adoption of language apps, virtual reality, and online exercises enhances engagement and accessibility. - Use of blended learning combines classroom instruction with self-paced online modules.
Adaptation to Diverse Teaching Styles[7]	- Exposure to varied teaching methods (e.g., communicative approach) allows for more tailored instruction. - Flexibility in adapting teaching strategies improves responsiveness to diverse student needs and learning styles.

This table highlights how foreign experience influences German language teaching by enhancing teachers' cultural, linguistic, and methodological adaptability.

Research and methods.

4. Increased Motivation and Enthusiasm:

Personal Passion: Living abroad often sparks a passion for the German language and culture, which translates into a more enthusiastic and inspiring teaching style.[8]

Authenticity and Credibility: Teachers with firsthand experience in Germany are seen as more credible and relatable by students, fostering trust and encouraging their participation.

5. Continuous Learning and Development:

Lifelong Learning: Foreign experience encourages a commitment to lifelong learning, as teachers actively seek new experiences and information to improve their teaching skills and knowledge.

Professional Networks: Connections made abroad can lead to collaborations with other teachers, researchers, and language professionals, fostering professional growth and development.[9]

Conclusion.

Foreign experience—such as studying, teaching, or even living abroad—can have a profound impact on how language teachers approach the methodology of teaching German. Foreign experience can enrich the methodology of teaching the German language, making it more culturally sensitive, engaging, and relevant for students. It allows teachers to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, creating a more dynamic and meaningful learning experience.[10]

In summary, foreign experience enhances the methodology of teaching German by enriching teachers' cultural awareness, practical communication skills, and adaptability, enabling them to create more engaging, relevant, and effective learning environments. This holistic approach ultimately prepares students for real-world language use and intercultural communication.

[7] **Königs, F. G. (2014).** *The communicative approach in German as a foreign language teaching: Developments and perspectives.* Deutsch als Fremdsprache, 51(1), 29-36. Reviews the communicative approach, widely practiced in German-speaking countries.

[8] **Krumm, H. J. (2001).** *Intercultural language teaching and learning: The European perspective.* Language Learning Journal, 23(1), 8-14. Discusses intercultural methodologies in Europe, which influence German language teaching.

[9] **Liddicoat, A. J., & Scarino, A. (2013).** *Intercultural language teaching and learning.* Wiley-Blackwell. Focuses on teaching methods that promote cultural awareness alongside language skills, inspired by European language instruction.

[10] **Littlewood, W. (2004).** *The task-based approach: Some questions and suggestions.* ELT Journal, 58(4), 319-326. Examines task-based learning, with applications for teaching German through realistic, task-oriented exercises.

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