

Difficulties and challenges in teaching Polish as a foreign language to hearing impaired students

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Abstract

5th International Conference on Modern Research in Education, Teaching and Learning is seeking submissions related to the Education Theory and Practice, but also teaching and learning and foreign language teaching. Especially I'm interested in the last topic. For many years I have been teaching Polish as a foreign language for students with disabilities. In submitted paper I will talk about difficulties in learning and teaching the mother tongue as a foreign language. There are still no textbooks for learning the Polish language of hearing-impaired Poles. All didactic materials that I use in the course are my authorship. Learning the Polish language of deaf Poles requires adapting methods and tools to the perceptual abilities of students. Not all language skills are important in teaching the phonic language of the deaf. Moreover, the hierarchy of importance of language skills is changing. Teaching deaf students is mainly based on improving reading comprehension and writing skills. Speech skill is not as important as when it comes to learning the phonic language of hearing people.

In my speech, I would like to share my observations from my work as a teacher of Polish to deaf students. I will identify the most important difficulties and limitations in the didactic process. Especially, I would like to pay attention to the differences between the methodology of teaching a foreign language of hearing people and the mother tongue of deaf people.

I will also present selected examples of didactic materials that I developed for the needs of the Polish language course for deaf students. I will also show the possibility of using the available didactic materials that are used in the Polish language course for foreigners for the purposes of classes with deaf students.

Keywords: false beginners, Polish language, sign language, deaf, foreign language