

Extracurricular Activities in Foreign Language Teaching and Learning

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Abstract

This paper discusses the role of extracurricular activities in foreign language learning, more specifically in teaching and learning Romanian as a foreign language and French as a foreign language in Romania.

The research study outlines an array of extracurricular activities offered for foreign university students. We have divided them into two groups depending on the language that they are learning: students from Republic of Moldova who learn French in the university as part of the curriculum and foreign students from different countries such as Siria, Maroc, Egypt, Iran, Albania, India, African countries, who learn Romanian during the Preparatory year study program in order to continue their university studies in Romania afterwards.

This study proposes to investigate the role of extracurricular activities in learning foreign language, in our case in different contexts – as part of the university curriculum, in the case of French, and through immersion, in the case of Romanian. The study also investigates the opinions of students and language instructors regarding the perceived impact of these activities on students' language acquisition, cultural acquaintance and language learning motivation, given the fact that we are taking into account two different categories of target audience – Moldavian students having a similar cultural and linguistic background to Romanian students and a group of foreign students with a very different linguistic and cultural background. Our focus is firstly on the role of the extracurricular activities in learning foreign language, and secondly on the specific of the two studied languages, French and Romanian.

Keywords: teaching, learning, language, Romanian, French