

The thesis deals with the significance of the modern Olympic Games for the French culture and with the use of this phenomenon in teaching French as a foreign language . It provides a brief historical summary of the Olympic games, focusing in particular on the personage of Pierre de Coubertin. It attempts to depict the role of the French language at the Olympic games, taking into account the increasing influence of the English language. The position of France towards this issue and a presumable future progress are also presented, based on available books, databases and on documents published by the *International Olympic Committee* and by the *Olympic Museum* (Lausanne). Moreover, the thesis examines the presence of this phenomenon in primary and secondary school textbooks. It also analyses its occurrence in the maturita tests. The didactic potential of the Olympic phenomenon is assessed. The thesis can thus serve as the basis for further use of this topic in French lessons.

Keywords: Olympic games, textbooks, Coubertin, culture studies, French language