

Abstract

The subject of this diploma thesis is the use of cultural topics as part of the teaching of Czech as foreign language. Its first chapters summarize approaches towards the incorporation of these topics into the language classes, their definition and role in teaching the language, and their classification for the purposes of understanding the thematic context of a given theme. The next part of this thesis builds upon the example of a concrete historical figure, Vaclav Havel. Through an analysis of interviews held with teachers, the thesis maps their experience with the introduction of this concrete topic as part of Czech cultural topics incorporated into their classes, shows the factors on which incorporation of these topics in the class syllabus depends, shows what materials are typically used, whether or not they are accessible to the teachers, what potential the topic of Vaclav Havel holds in the teaching of the language, and what difficulties the incorporation of cultural topics of this type in the teaching of the language may entail. The overview of the utilization of the topic of Vaclav Havel in the teaching of Czech is complemented by analyses of interviews held with students and selected didactic materials (*Basic Czech I, II, III; Čeština expres 1, 2, 3, 4; Český krok za krokem 1, 2; Čeština pro cizince A1/A2, B1, B2*) which were identified by the teachers as the basis of their class syllabi with a direct influence on the extent of utilization, as well as the selection, of cultural background topics in the teaching of the Czech language to foreigners. Additionally, the publication “*Česká čítanka*” and the worksheet “*Václav Havel – Bariéra*” were analyzed as resources used for lessons directly focusing on the life and work of Vaclav Havel. Methodologically, this thesis is based on qualitative research and its outcomes may contribute to a better understanding of the factors that influence the practice of teaching the language and serve as a guideline for future research in this area.