

This diploma thesis deals with German proverbs and with ways of their application in teaching the German language. It describes the proverb, its historical development and its present frequency of usage as well. By means of my own research in the form of questionnaires to be filled in by native speakers of German, the thesis lists the best-known German proverbs. Moreover, it shows the manner in which the proverbs are presented in today's German textbooks, and also creates and demonstrates its own exercises that are to be put into practice later on. It gives a detailed description of the preparation plan for three lessons centred on the topic of proverbs, and their course. Based on the thorough evaluation of the course and results of this teaching experience, it concludes that with the help of proverbs, foreign language teaching can be meaningfully enriched and enlivened.

K E Y W O R D S :

Proverbs, phrases, exercises, teaching unit.