

9.3 Result of the questionings about proverbs at schools in Vienna, Bratislava, Magdeburg and Wroclaw.

1) Students of a secondary school in Vienna (6th class) were asked to fill in a questionnaire (see S 9.4) with 31 proverbs generally used in German language.

The following percentage signifies, how many proverbs had been completed in a right way:

20 students, aged from 16 – 17 years, were present, 17 filled the papers in.

11 girls	52,3 %
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6 boys	50,8 %
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Schnitt der 17 Listen	51,7 %
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About 50 % of the proverbs were filled in in a right way; the percentage of the girls being a bit higher than that of the boys.

2) The Questioning at another secondary school in Vienna.

6th class, 23 Students (boys and girls)	47,1 %
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2th class 23 Students	23,4 %
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3) Questioning of students in some classes of a secondary school in Bratislava.

(Questionnaire see S 9.2, 30 proverbs)

Age 13 - 18 years	67 % correct answers
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It is to be taken into account, that in the questionnaire only one word had to be filled in:

For ex.: Bez ..(prace)...ne su kolace / without...(work)... no cake, or:

...(Konec)... dobre, vsetko dobre /All is well that ...(ends)... well.

In the questionnaire in Vienna half of the sentence had been missing: For ex.: Müßiggang ist... (aller Laster Anfang).../ Idleness is ...(the root of all evil)....

This difference might be the reason of the different results..

4) Questioning of students at the university of Wroclaw, age beyond 20 years, carried out by Dr. Małgosia Małec, Wroclaw.

This study had been carried out within the VECU – project „ Culture of every day“.

We use the interesting passage concerning the role of proverbs in our language:

The integration of generations can happen in different ways and may be visible on different levels of social life. One level is the culture of all day life, which consists of several elements, one of them being the proverbs. They are transferred from one generation to the next often as a “silent knowledge”, which enters into our consciousness without being aware of it.

Later they get articulated and activated in situations of all day life.

Proverbs belong to informal knowledge, the area of which we ignore, except we are asked for; they are dispersed in our language of all day life.

One way to find out the knowledge of proverbs is to ask for completing incomplete proverbs, the so called "Projection method"

At the U3A (University of third Age) in Wroclaw a group of students (23) at the age beyond 20 years had been chosen for this investigation. They were asked to complete 44 proverbs, chosen before by Senior students of the U3A, which had been estimated to be most popular and commonly used.

The evaluation of the question lists showed

67,5%

of correct answers.

The lists were structured quite similar to those in Bratislava. Within the proverbs one or some more words were missing, which had to be completed.

5) Questioning of well educated adults in Vienna 55 – 78 years old:

8 adults (31 proverbs) 92,5% correct answers.

6) Questioning of senior students 54 – 75 years old in Magdeburg:

20 students (31 proverbs) 91,6 % correct answers.

7) Summary.

The results of the questionings are quite analogue:

+ Proverbs are quite well known even today and apparently are used as well.

+ The knowledge of proverbs is rising by age:

From the age of 13 to 78 years the knowledge rises from 23 to 92,5 %