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Secondary school textbook of Chinese for usage outside of China

Panel: Chinese language teaching in primary and secondary schools in Europe

Every country has its own standards for foreign language teaching. In Russia these standards are set by Russian Federal educational standard. General State Exam (OGE) and Unified State Exam (EGE) in Chinese which are now being tested will also contribute to unification of standards and requirements to language skills of graduates.

Teaching materials play a very important role in education process. Recently, various textbooks from China became available, which provides teachers with colorful multi-media teaching materials. But most of them are designed for teaching Chinese in the Chinese language environment and usually by native speakers, and for that reason lack many necessary explanations. Even if translated to local languages, they don't fit to local realities and don't comply with local educational standards. Typological difference between Chinese and Indo-European languages is too big to be able to rely only on communicative methods, and some grammar points and communicative strategies have to be explicitly clarified. Moreover, learners with different mother tongues tend to have different types of difficulties when learning Chinese. We believe that to satisfy all these needs, it is necessary to develop local teaching materials in collaboration with local and Chinese specialists.

As example this paper uses a series of Chinese textbooks for 5th to 9th grade secondary school pupils that we have developed, which now is in process of accreditation by the Russian Ministry of Education. It contains a textbook, a workbook, teachers' book with guidelines, keys and tests and electronic version for each grade. This series of textbooks introduces many facts about Russia and China in Chinese (geography, history, literature, music, cinema, national holidays etc.) and makes comparisons between Russian and Chinese culture and traditions. It effectively uses Chinese and Russian in tasks and explanations and develops communicative skills through special projects, surveys, discussions and descriptions of charts and graphs with the data suitable and interesting for the secondary school pupils. The paper focuses on the main features for a school textbook of Chinese for usage outside of China.