

Culture awareness in Chinese teaching in secondary school

Everyone knows that teaching language cannot be separated from its culture. Culture takes an important role in language teaching and learning. Especially in secondary school culture can arouse enormous wave among students.

Today I'll briefly share my experience of Culture Study in language teaching with you all. As we all know, Language is not only a means of communicating information. It is also a means of establishing and maintaining relationships with other people. If we teach a foreign language without introducing, at the same time, the culture in which that language operates, we are merely conveying words to which the student might attach the wrong meaning. Unless students understand the underlying cultural implications of a statement, they will attach their own cultural meaning to the statement.

Hence, without sociolinguistic competence, a student of a foreign language may not understand the behavior of others and may show disrespect for the culture and traditions of the speakers of that language.

For example, the common questions often asked by students are:
Why is the Chinese New Year not on the same date as us?
Why do Chinese people regard the red color as the lucky color?
Why do Chinese people eat dog meat? etc.

Instead of answering the questions I found that to set cultural study projects for them is really a good way. As in this way students not only get to know the culture but also get interested in learning Chinese language. The following is the procedure to take students to get there.

