

NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS ON THE PERSPECTIVE OF ABC-BOOKS IN THE ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

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Abstract

ABC-books are more than just educational tools. Beyond this, they are sources of collective consciousness. As a text they unveil what textbook writers deem important to convey to children, they unveil certain characteristics of a given society and the need to transmit the national identities. This study aims at getting a view on the role of ABC-books in the Albanian language in Albania, Kosovo and ethnic Albanian schools in Macedonia. This study should analyze how the ABC-books in Albanian language try to build national identities through different kinds of images, pictures, national symbols, Albanian names, national heroes etc. Images in the ABC-book the first book of the children are very important. Except text, images themselves are the best guide to the education of the children with the national awareness. Images are mute witnesses and it is difficult to translate their testimony into words. They may have been intended to communicate a message on their own. Use and significance of the Albanian flag, national anthem, historical heroes, Albanian national costumes as part of a culture rich national folk are present in the children's primers in Albanian language, which are used today in Kosovo and Macedonia, and assist in the establishment and consolidation of national consciousness. The study shall be focused on the following points: How much importance and room is left on national symbols, and images on the textbooks? To show how symbols, emblem, anthem and important figures in the history of Albania in children's primer, are used with the clue to strengthen the identity and national pride. To evidence how primer national self-determination realized through images, historical postcards, national costumes that identify Albanian nationality. To analyze what lies behind the large uses of these symbols, in the ABC-books in Albanian language. What should be done in the future and the way forward to improve the ABC-books on this matter? The study shall be mainly based on the ABC-books in Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia.

Keywords: *national identities, images, national symbols, emblem, anthem, national pride.*