

Abstract:

The economic and socio-political developments of the P.R. China, which started in the seventies have produced a greater variety of employment options for Chinese students studying German as a Foreign Language. While in the past their main employment fields were the universities, a great number will work in enterprises funded with foreign capital (i.e., Chinese-German joint-venture enterprises).

Already there have been complaints by the entrepreneurs and managers about their insufficient language knowledge, poor working skills, and lack of intercultural competence. The blame is placed on the German departments. To offer a more efficient education and to prepare the students better for the future working situation, the German departments have taken measures to improve language education by making German for specific purposes ("Economy German") available in the regular schedules.

Still, changes in the existing curricula will have to be made and textbooks revised in order to guarantee a future-oriented education, that fuses language and intercultural knowledge and skills together. In this way students will be more successful in business.

This paper covers the question of how existing language learning concepts in German as a Foreign Language can be combined with concepts of social psychology and sociology (cross cultural training) and be more effective for Chinese students learning German as a Foreign Language.