



Finnish pre-service language teachers' perceptions of culture – from social justice to cultural humility

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Schools are becoming increasingly more diverse. To ensure social justice in education, teachers need *cultural competence* (see e.g. Seeleman, Suurmond, & Stronks, 2009), namely the ability to work respectfully with people from diverse cultures and the ability to discuss diverse cultures respectfully in language teaching. A deeper understanding still can be gained through *cultural humility* (Hook et al, 2013), which is the ability to recognize one's own cultural biases and the ability to be open to seeing things from other cultures' point-of-view. Previously, cultural humility has been used as a teaching method within psychology and health sciences. In this presentation, we attempt to bring this concept into the field of language education.

Our aim is to investigate how pre-service language teachers understand social justice and cultural humility within the school context. The data consists of pre-service language teachers' responses ($n = 28$) to an online survey including Likert scale statements and open-ended questions regarding social justice (modified from Cochran-Smith et al, 2012) and cultural humility (modified from Hook et al, 2013). The data is analyzed both quantitatively, looking at response frequencies to the Likert scale questions, and qualitatively, including content analysis of the pre-service teachers' responses. In addition, we analyze the possible links between the pre-service teachers' understanding of social justice and cultural humility, and their background factors, such as having completed teacher training, having lived abroad or having studied in another language than their first language.

We expect the pre-service teachers to have a relatively sound understanding of social justice, but only a developing understanding of cultural humility, a lesser-known concept within the field of education. Based on our results, we will suggest ways to include cultural humility in language teacher training and language teachers' professional development.

Keywords: Social justice, Cultural humility, Pre-service language teachers

References

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