

Challenges in Teacher Training in the Aspects of Teaching Hungarian as a Foreign Language

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The teaching of Hungarian as a Foreign Language (HFL) has a 200-year tradition in Hungary. However, the HFL teacher training started in 1982 at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. Tradition of the HFL teacher education has some specialties revealing only in Hungary in comparison with other European countries.

As the main target group of teaching HFL has been young adults for many decades of the end of 20th century, the teacher training focused mainly on the teaching methodology of adult language learners. Nowadays, a new language learner's group is appearing: children between 3-10 years. In my presentation, I will briefly present what educational programs are available to become an HFL teacher in Hungary, moreover, what anomalies cause problems for the kindergarten teachers, primary school teachers, and their non-Hungarian pupils. According to the teacher training traditions, there is a big gap in education of the HFL teachers: needs of the HFL teachers and the possibilities in teacher training process will never meet and it causes problems in teaching HFL in kindergartens and primary schools.

Revealing the new challenges in teaching HFL nowadays, a new training has been enrolled at Kaposvár University, starting this academic year, which is available for future kindergarten and primary school teachers and the teachers for children with special needs. The presentation will contain the first experiences of this new training as well.