

## INCREASING OF THE INTEREST FOR GERMAN LANGUAGE STUDYING THROUGH ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THEIR CUSTOMS AND TRADITION

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### Abstract

Each country is rich in its own customs and traditions. Our country as well, and our children get to know them from an early age. In the world there were many peoples who speak their own languages and respect their own traditions and customs. One of the ways to increase children's interest in learning a foreign language such as German is to introduce them to their traditions and customs. The biggest role to achieve this is ours, the teachers, because the children spend a large part of the day at school, and when they are at home doing their homework.

**Keywords:** customs, tradition, foreign language.

### INTRODUCTION

**"Birds know each other by singing, people by talking."**

**-folk saying-**

When it comes to tradition, our people have many proverbs, one of which is the above-mentioned one, that people know each other by talking, and birds by singing. This old wisdom speaks of how big the difference is between people who can speak more, that is, know more languages. Those people have better chances to manage, to secure a quality job and better quality life. This should be our basis when we tell children and students how important it is to learn the German language. In recent decades, this language has become more and more in demand, there is an increasing need to know this language. Therefore, in my opinion, one of the ways to succeed in increasing children's interest in learning this language is to introduce them to German customs and traditions that are related to the biggest holidays that they celebrate and that we also celebrate. In addition, I will present the customs for celebrating one of the biggest holidays, which is the birth of Jesus Christ, Christmas and how it is celebrated in Germany.

### CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY

On the night of December 24th to 25th, Catholic Christians around the world celebrate Christmas. In Germany, this date, in accordance to the ancient tradition, is the culmination of a long period of preparation for the holiday, which begins in November. Preparations for Christmas in Germany take four weeks and this period is called "Advent". It includes the days of confession, penance, communion. For comparison, in our country Orthodox Christmas is preceded by a forty-day fastening and Christmas is celebrated on January 7th.

German everyday life begins by preparation for Christmas four weeks before Christmas Eve. It is the time of Advent, a word that comes from the Latin expression *Adventus Domini*, which means, the arrival of the Lord, the birth of Christ. In fact, the four weeks of Advent are a foretaste of the joy of Christmas. Of course, especially for children, but also for everyone in German families. Children are given Advent calendars with twenty-four pages behind which sweets, chocolate or small toys are hidden. It is most beautiful when mothers make the calendars from colorful bags, with the number of the day. And they hang them on doors or windows. Each week, one of the four candles on the Advent wreath, made of evergreen twigs, is lit. In general, Germans share the joy of waiting for Christmas by

meeting relatives, friends or work colleagues every week. German cities smell particularly delicious before Christmas. It's the smell of roasted, sugared almonds, of mulled mulled wine, of warm waffles, of Christmas cookies and cinnamon and coriander cupcakes.

Before Christmas at midnight, a solemn service begins in Catholic churches. Two more divine services are performed in the morning, at dawn and in the afternoon. They symbolize the Nativity of Christ in the womb of God, the Father, in the womb of the Mother of God and in the soul of every Christian. The next morning, the whole family gathers at the festive table, rejoicing at the birth of the Savior. We go to church on Christmas morning, and then the whole family gathers for lunch.

Waiting for the holiday, according to the residents of Germany, is no less exciting and beautiful than Christmas itself. During the Advent period, Germans decorate trees and houses with toys and lighted garlands. On the streets, in the windows of shops and in the yards, there are colorful "holes" - models of the cave where the baby Jesus was born, with figures of the main characters of the biblical legend. The doors of the houses are decorated with garlands of candles, intertwined with bright ribbons, and on the windows and windows wooden figures are placed and hung, carefully transferred to families from generation to generation. In a prominent place in every house is a tree, dressed with glass toys, balls and candles - without this tree with the star of Bethlehem on top it is hard to imagine Christmas in Germany. Traditions and customs also prescribe to decorate the premises with miniature houses with lighting, figurines and green trees. In our country, the Christmas tree and some homes are decorated with green and red decorations.

The season of the famous pre-Christmas sale is proudly called "the fifth season" by the Germans. Then they start celebrating Christmas in Germany. The date - the eleventh day of the eleventh month - is supplemented by a mystical time - eleven hours and eleven minutes. At this moment, the famous goddess markets are solemnly opened, according to the number of which Germany surpasses all other countries in Europe.

It is traditional in Germany to buy a Christmas tree, in all cities there are traditional Christmas tree markets, where families with children choose a Christmas tree for their homes. We decorate most of our homes with artificial Christmas trees.

A long historical period of fragmentation could not affect how it is customary to celebrate Christmas in Germany. The traditions and customs of different regions of the country do not resemble each other, because they have ancient roots and formed separately. In seaside German towns on Christmas morning the ship with Father Frost on board arrives at the port (in Germany, his name is Weinachtsmann). Descending from the ladder, Santa Claus congratulates the adults and children who meet him with the upcoming holiday and presents gifts that he brought in abundance. In the eastern part of Germany, a region of dense forests and Ore, the tradition is different. The Christmas market sells smoking human figurines, wooden candlesticks and original festive pyramids. People are having fun on the city streets, many of them wearing national costumes. In Thuringia - the homeland of the first glass Christmas balls - the fair is full of various products and souvenirs made of this material. In the southern part of Germany, the main symbol of Christmas is a wooden nursery, reminiscent of the birth of the baby Jesus Christ. The Alpine Choir sings at concerts in the cities of Bavaria. Brass bands perform the national music with trombone and alpine horn - traditional instruments that can be heard right when celebrating Christmas in Germany.

The traditions and customs of the western regions of the country on this holiday resemble the stories of the Brothers Grimm, who were from this part. The road of fairy tales passes through several cities, constantly reminding the traveler of famous stories.

On the eve of the holiday - Christmas Eve or holy evening - the whole family gathers behind the richly decorated and decorated table. According to custom, the best dishes and appliances are placed on this day, and the menu consists of no less than seven dishes. The members make gifts among themselves. Such a tradition does not exist during the celebration in our country. We exchange gifts for the New Year.

Before the festive meal begins, it is customary to break the plates - thin fresh cakes, lit in the temples during the Advent period. Digging out the pieces of the dispute, the Germans congratulate each other on Christmas and wish each other the best.

In the center of the festive table, according to custom, there is a herd of grazed geese, surrounded by various salads and snacks. Traditional dishes for Christmas in Germany - sauerkraut, seafood and bean soup, symbolizing prosperity. For dessert, it is customary to serve shtollen - a sweet roll with raisins and nuts, covered with whipped cream and powdered sugar. An interesting tradition of German housewives is baking on the eve of Christmas special cookies. It has the shape of a horseshoe, in which a strip of paper is placed with a written prediction for the one who will win. Predictions can be any, both serious and joking, but most importantly - with all good, for relatives and guests who visit the house these days, another reason for joy.

The celebration of the German Christmas has similarities with the celebration of our Christmas, so it would be a very good technique for the students to familiarize themselves with this at a time when it is also celebrated in our country. That way, the interest will be even greater.

According to a research that I conducted myself, I came to the realization that in our city, a German language teacher in the high school noticed a decline in interest in learning the German language. In one of her lectures, she told her students about the original "Oktoberfest" that took place on October 18, 1810. in Munich, in celebration of the wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig to Princess Theresa of Saxe-Hildburgshausen. Then, the wedding took place on October 12, they organized a magnificent horse race on October 17 and that this festival is one of the most famous in the world. The children expressed their displeasure that unfortunately they could not visit him. Then the professor came up with the idea to bring the festival here, that is, she agreed with a German company during the period when the festival is held for their celebration in the company, that her students will be present as well. The students were delighted because the German company had copied the festival. There were huge amounts of food on the tables, traditional food such as: "Hendl" (chicken), "Schweinsbraten" (roast pork), "Haxn" (pork knee), "Würstel" (sausages). together with "Brezel" (pretzels), "Knödeln" (potato or bread dumplings), "Käsespätzle" (cheesecakes), "Reiberdatschi" (potato pancakes), "Sauerkraut" or "Blaukraut" (red cabbage) with some Bavarian specialties, such as "Obatzda" (fat stew seasoned with cheese and butter) and "Weisswurst" (white sausage). There were also traditional beer barrels, desserts, and company employees were dressed in traditional German clothes. They spoke only in German. The students, who knew the German language very well, constantly communicated with everyone. This event was retold by the students for a long time.

Not a long period of time passed, the teacher noticed an increased interest among her students, they devoted themselves much more to the study of the German language.

## CONCLUSION

The specificity of the customs and the way of celebration make Christmas in Germany special and different compared to the celebration in other parts of the world. Because of that, the students should familiarize themselves with this tradition and custom of celebrating this great holiday. It would be best if we could take the children to Germany to see all this with their own eyes, but unfortunately that is not possible. That is why we can try to do everything necessary to bring the German people closer to them. They will find that only by knowing the German language, they will be able to capture that environment and understand their customs and traditions.

The initiative of the high school teacher should also serve as an example. Just one day and the visit of the German company in our city at a time when they are celebrating the October festival, the interest of the students to get to know the German people increased. They also saw that they would do this best through a good knowledge of the German language, so their interest in learning this foreign language increased to a great extent.

As teachers, we can take the initiative in cooperation with German companies in the city and the surrounding area and organize similar events through which we will bring the customs and traditions

of the German people closer to the students. In this way, we will increase their interest in learning the German language, we will stimulate their desire. They will see that they are not studying it under compulsion, but on their own initiative and only in that way they will be able to achieve success.

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