“Instrumentos”: Perspectives of the Study of Literature as a Tool in Multicultural Education for the Mapuche Communities of Southern Chile

Laura VanOss
In a rural school with an 100% Mapuche student body, three different grade levels demonstrated distinct possibilities for cultural application in a literature class.

**Historia de Los Mapuche – History of the Mapuche**

"En su proyecto civilizador los europeos dispusieron de tres grandes herramientas: armas, religión y educación. Las armas definieron las relaciones de poder, el cristianismo fijó el nuevo orden de los valores y creencias y la educación sentó las bases para la uniformidad cultural" (Turra 2009).

The Chilean national state occupied the southern Araucanía region in 1861. The seizure signified a beginning of the “Mapuche Conflict,” characterized by violence against the Mapuche people, seizure of Mapuche lands, and cultural subjugation. In the European settlers’ civilizing project, school became a place where children were forbidden to speak their language, and teachers could impose the majority culture.

**Estudio de Caso – Case Study: Escuela G-539 Chapod**

In a rural school with an 100% Mapuche student body, three different grade levels demonstrated distinct possibilities for cultural application in a literature class.

**Grade 1**
- Student Task: Read a “post card” in a state-provided workbook
- Cultural Application: Student teacher encouraged students to write words of their responses in Mapudungun

**Grade 2**
- Student Task: Read an informative pieces in the state workbook
- Cultural Application: None

**Grade 3**
- Student Task: Write and illustrate a traditional epeu
- Cultural Application: Oral teaching, incorporation of the epeu

**Conclusions - Conclusions**

"Un dialogo puede existir en ambos saberes para generar en ellos una conciencia más de relaciones interculturales que es una relación que esté marcado por una sociedad más fuerte.”

-Daniela Labarca, Student Teacher, Escuela G-539 Chapod

**Final Thought**

The majority of the intercultural education Intercultural education continues to move forward, conversation concerns the application of and literature classrooms have the potential to Mapudungun. Not much attention is given to provide a meaningful environment to incorporate the subject of literature as a platform. Many Mapuche culture. Improving incorporation of epeu schools lack relevant and effective and guxam, developing Mapudungun texts, and emphasizing Mapuche authors can all lead to a more authentic intercultural classroom.

**Fuentes – Sources**