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*Ethno-pedagogical Approach to Intercultural Upbringing/Education*

*Podjęcie etnopedagogiczne do międzykulturowej edukacji i wychowania*

Ethno-pedagogy is a scientific discipline which studies the experience of different ethnic and cultural groups in the field of upbringing and education. As an interdisciplinary branch of science, it integrates the knowledge gained from the fields of pedagogy, ethnology, anthropology, sociology, social geography, social psychology and ethno-psychology, which can be applied to distinct patterns of upbringing and education. That knowledge is especially significant during the process of structuring intercultural upbringing and education in multicultural societies. Ethno-pedagogical approach accentuates the need for modern regional and transboundary upbringing/education to be based on idiosyncrasies of various cultural norms and patterns of every single ethnic and cultural group. This enables acculturation processes where immigrant integration in the field of education is not a one-way, but a multi-way and mutual process. Therefore, it has the characteristics of multiculturalism, and not of assimilation. Special pedagogical culture is created that way, and it respects and recognizes the significance of multiple identities and mutual respect, acceptance and reciprocity. All of this points to the fact that ethno-pedagogy recognizes the difference between authentic (true) and instrumentalized (institutionalized) upbringing/education. This differentiation contrasts upbringing/education as an anthropological category on one hand, and institutionalized education as a political category on the other. Authentic upbringing stems from the values of life, from objectively (universally) well-founded values. Those are the values which are not changed over time and which cannot be “spent”. Neglecting ethno-pedagogic approach while interpreting interculturalism opens the door to antagonistic acculturation and social exclusion of immigrant groups.

**Key words:** *ethno-pedagogy, intercultural education, acculturation, integration, antagonistic acculturation*